



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024

No. 78

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 3 p.m.

House of Representatives

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 6, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY K. WEBER, Sr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2024, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

BAILING OUT ART STUDENTS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Biden

unilaterally made the decision to cancel more than \$6.1 billion in debt for 300,000 art students across our country.

This is a bailout. This bailout is an insult to the tens of millions of Americans who either paid off their student loans or who never attended college in the first place.

Instead of using taxpayer dollars in an attempt to win votes, President Biden should be turning his attention to the runaway inflation that has impacted every man, woman, and child in America. Parents shouldn't have to choose between buying gas or buying groceries for their families. Parents should not have to dip into their savings or into their retirement accounts to afford basic goods.

Sadly, under President Biden, these decisions have become all too common. It is time to stop wasting taxpayer dollars on student bailouts and Green New Deal initiatives. It is time to return to fiscal restraint. It is time to put a stop to the runaway inflation that has become the trademark of the Biden administration.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S SECRET FLIGHTS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, the House Homeland Security Committee released documents that identified over 45 airport locations that were used by President Biden to secretly fly over 400,000 illegal immigrants into our country.

These documents, which the Biden administration only turned over under subpoena, show that Secretary Mayorkas and President Biden have been transporting illegal immigrants

into communities across the United States.

It is clear that President Biden is using our regional airports to spread this crisis and effectively make each and every State a border State.

The American people cannot afford to have a Homeland Security Secretary that fails to keep America safe, and Pennsylvania families cannot afford a President who cares more about illegal immigrants than about the American people.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR JOHN CRUZ

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Mayor John Cruz as he serves his final term representing the village of Hagatna after almost two decades.

Before becoming the mayor of Guam's capital, Cruz faithfully served the government of Guam for 25 years. His tenure shows his commitment to the people of Guam has been unwavering since the beginning. He has been a strong advocate for the island and a champion of public service.

Present day, Cruz is known by many of his constituents for his beautification efforts in his village, ensuring Guam's special capital remains a cultural and historical hub.

Most importantly, Cruz is a family man, devoted Catholic, and reliable mayor who puts his constituents first.

□ 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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H2837

I thank Mayor Cruz for his dedication to the people of Hagatna. His leadership has been instrumental in making the village what it is today. I wish him the very best in retirement, and I am certain his legacy will be an inspiration to all future leaders to come.

HONORING DR. VINCENT DUENAS

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor a remarkable individual who has made significant contributions to the field of medicine, Dr. Vincent Duenas. His deep passion for healing and his tireless dedication to patient care has made a profound impact on the lives of countless individuals in my community, the island of Guam.

As he retires from his position, I thank him for 45 years of service at the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.

In addition to his distinguished career as an internal medicine doctor, he has also held the titles of GMH's associate hospital administrator of medical services and medical director of respiratory therapy, among many other positions.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Dr. Duenas' career is his exceptional ability to provide compassionate care. He has fostered an environment where patients can feel heard, understood, and supported.

Aside from his time in the medical field, Dr. Duenas also served our Nation in uniform for 20 years. He was a member of the Guam Army National Guard, ultimately retiring with the rank of colonel.

Dr. Duenas' accomplishments and contributions to medicine are truly inspiring. His dedication, expertise, and passion have made a positive impact on countless lives in Guam.

Today, we honor Dr. Duenas and wish him the very best in his retirement. I am certain his legacy will continue to inspire future doctors to come.

HONORING CARL PARKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. D'ESPOSITO). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER of Texas) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one Senator Carl Allen Parker, a true southeast Texas giant.

Born in Port Arthur during the Great Depression, Senator Parker dedicated decades to serving the people of southeast Texas. He was a distinguished lawyer, statesman, and beloved native son of Port Arthur.

Senator Parker leaves behind a legacy of unwavering dedication to public service and tireless advocacy for the people of our great State. He will be remembered for his 34 years as a member of the Texas Legislature, starting with his election to the House of Representatives in 1962 and then later to the Texas Senate, where he served until 1995.

As we mourn the passing of this remarkable man, let us also celebrate his extraordinary life and the lasting im-

pact he had on our State. May his legacy inspire future generations of public servants to follow in his footsteps and continue the work of building a better Texas for us all.

HONORING JUDGE RANDALL HUFSTETLER

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the extraordinary life of the Honorable Kenneth Randall Hufstetler, State district judge of the 300th District Court of Brazoria County. For his relentless dedication to public service and remarkable contributions to our community, he will always be remembered as a Brazoria County icon.

Randy was a Texan whose life exemplified faith, family, and service. His tenure as a judge was marked by his steadfast commitment to upholding our United States Constitution. With integrity and diligence, he interpreted and applied the law to ensure fairness and justice in every single case that crossed his bench.

Despite losing his battle with cancer too soon, Randy's legacy of courage and strength will endure, inspiring us all. Though he may no longer walk among us, Randy's impact will continue to be felt in the lives he touched and the values he instilled.

To his beautiful family, Danette and kids, Randy was the epitome of love, strength, and devotion, cherishing each moment with them as the greatest gift of his life.

To Judge Kenneth Randall Hufstetler, we say farewell with gratitude and admiration.

HONORING GERALD SULLIVAN

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished Texan, Gerald Sullivan, who has been selected as the 2024 Buck N' Ball honoree.

Gerald's story is nothing but a pure Lone Star legend, showcasing grit, guts, and a whole lot of Texas-sized success.

From Galveston County to the halls of Texas A&M, Gerald's entrepreneurial spirit has left an indelible mark. As chairman of the Port of Galveston, he steered us through Hurricane Ike's wrath, ensuring our ports and Galveston's resilience.

His dedication to education and sharing insights with students reflects his commitment to the next generation, not to mention the Sullivan family's century-long legacy in the beef cattle industry, grazing cattle in salt grass pastures along the Coastal Bend and then shipping them from the Port of Galveston to Caribbean nations like Haiti and Cuba.

I congratulate Gerald and Susanne, his lovely bride, on Gerald receiving the Buck' N Ball award from the Bryan Museum in Galveston, where they are preserving Texas history. Gerald's commitment and dedication are inspiring to southeast Texas, and I am glad and proud to call him a friend.

DETERIORATING CONDITIONS IN NIGER

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD part II of the interim report that I have prepared for the House of Representatives titled: "Unwelcome in Niger."

[From the Office of Congressman Matt Gaetz]

PART II INTERIM REPORT—UNWELCOME IN NIGER SUMMARY

More than 1,000 U.S. service members currently stationed in Niger, Africa, at Air Base 101 and Air Base 201 are in danger. They are currently being treated as pawns by both the U.S. government and the government of Niger (Conseil national pour la sauvegarde de la patrie or the National Council for the Safeguard of the Fatherland) as a diplomatic negotiation regarding the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Niger is ongoing.

Currently, U.S. troops are being denied fresh rotations and needed medications for chronic illnesses as diplomatic overflights are stalled.

On information and belief, the Biden administration, and particularly the U.S. State Department, are concealing the dangerous conditions for U.S. troops in Niger to avoid the embarrassing reveal that their Africa strategy has failed. It has led to little more than collapsed governments, coups, and orders to leave countries we once deemed a "model" for U.S. cooperation, as Russia and China continue to advance their interests.

BACKGROUND

On April 17, 2024, this office filed with the House an initial report on troop conditions in Niger, Africa. A copy of this report is attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

The report detailed an unfolding scandal, risking troop welfare to avoid the diplomatic embarrassment as the Biden administration has deployed an Africa strategy rife with coups, failures, and functionally abandoned U.S. service members. All with little to show for the billions of dollars of U.S. taxpayer funds wasted in the continent.

The Report detailed specific concerns expressed by troops in Niger, Africa, their belief that intelligence regarding their condition was being suppressed by U.S. Embassy Niger, and the Department of State's inability to negotiate diplomatic overflights to achieve troop rotations and deliver life-sustaining supplies, such as clean water and medicine for chronic conditions.

The report further illuminated the presence of Russian troops at Air Base 101, behind the wire. This is unprecedented.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES

WITHDRAWAL

On April 20, 2024, the Biden administration fessed up that U.S. troops would be leaving Niger following the embarrassing demand to do so by the government of Niger. Unfortunately, this announcement has neither eased tensions nor facilitated better well-being for U.S. troops. During the negotiations surrounding the withdrawal, the U.S. government has not successfully obtained permissions to resupply U.S. installations in Niger, leaving our troops stuck and functionally abandoned, unable to return home.

DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT, NIGER EMBASSY, WASHINGTON

On April 29, 2024, Congressman Matt Gaetz met with Chargé d'Affaires Idi Hassane at the Washington, D.C.-based Niger Embassy.

Mr. Hassane assured Congressman Gaetz that all overflights requested by the U.S.

government for troop rotations and medicine would be approved. Congressman Gaetz memorialized this attestation by letter, attached hereto as Exhibit "B."

Unfortunately, the Chargé d'Affaires representations have proven false. This office continued to receive reports from service members and their families that overflights were not occurring, that medicine was not being delivered, and that negotiations were stalling. This induced subsequent demands from this office to the government of Niger, through their Chargé d'Affaires, attached hereto as Exhibit "C."

CURRENT CONDITIONS OF U.S. TROOPS IN NIGER—LACK OF MEDICINE

The initial report detailed statements by several of the USAF public-health leaders at Air Base 101. We reported then that if additional supplies were not provided by May, several key medicines would be unavailable. This has now come to fruition. On May 2, 2024, one active-duty spouse wrote ["My husband specifically is on cholesterol medication for his heart and at this point in time he has run out of medication. I mailed him a medication refill . . . that is currently sitting in Germany because Niger still will not approve flights."] A copy of this spouse's correspondence is attached hereto as Exhibit "D." Lacking medicine has also been a concern expressed by other family members, with specificity (see below).

As stated by another service member in Niger:

Since two weeks ago we still have not received supplies, AB 101 is still short on blood and medications, here at 201 we are mission parts that should have been here months ago. They are struggling getting even MEdevac planes in for people that need to be seen at a higher level of care . . . Why are we still here?" (See Exhibit "E")

And another:

"The situation here at Air Base 101 and 201 (I'm here at 201) is a failure on the United States Government." We keep getting told "talks are good" well if they are going good, why have no planes come in for our replacements? . . . We have not a resupply mission here since March. The morale here is terrible and it needs to be fixed ASAP!" (Exhibit "F")

EXTORTION TO LEAVE

An FL-01 constituent and father of an active-duty service member in Niger relayed to this office that local officials are "extorting passengers in order for them to bring luggage through the airport." This account is confirmed by the spouse of a military contractor currently stationed in Niger, whose correspondence is attached as Exhibit "G."

RUSSIANS ON BASE

The initial report alleged that Russian troops were allowed onto U.S. installations in Niger. This is unprecedented and dangerous. Reuters has now confirmed this claim, see Exhibit "H." This continues to be a source of safety concern for our troops and their families.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Biden Administration must immediately resupply U.S. troops in Niger. Our service members, contractors and their families must not be allowed to be used as leverage by the government of Niger or anyone else during a military retrograde. Moreover, the Biden administration should not spasm into a hasty retrograde which would leave hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. military material in the hands of terrorists, militants, or Russians. The Biden administration must fly in the needed water, medication supplies and troop rotations, under fighter escort if necessary. If this does not occur, the Biden administration has rendered

these brave Americans hostages of a hostile foreign regime.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, the link to the full report can be found here: <https://gaetz.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/gaetz.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/Part%20II%20Interim%20Report%20-%20Unwelcome%20in%20Niger.pdf>.

I rise to warn this body of the deteriorating conditions in the African country of Niger and to give rise to the concern of servicemembers and contractors.

More than a thousand of them right now are functionally being held hostage in Niger. They are being used as pawns during a negotiation that has left America at the bended knee of Third World criminals and thugs as our troops seek medicine, freshwater, and troop rotations.

How did we get here, with more than 1,100 Americans endangered right now in Niger? It started back in March 2023. Secretary of State Antony Blinken went to Niger and proclaimed that it was a model of resilience, a platform for great democracy. It would be where America would execute its Africa strategy.

One year later, almost to the day, there was a coup in Niger. Guess who overthrew the government that we said was the great model of resilience? The people we trained. We trained the coup leaders to go throw out the democratically elected Government of Niger.

I know this will surprise you, but after that occurred, they say they want our bases, which U.S. taxpayers have poured more than a billion dollars into, gone. They want our servicemembers gone.

I came to this floor after hearing from some of my constituents who are stationed in Niger. After the overthrow of the government, there weren't resupply flights. They said: Congressman, we are going to be out of medicine in May if we don't get this sorted out.

□ 1215

Three days after I filed part I of the report that I am supplementing today, the Biden administration announced that we will be leaving Niger—a welcome sign, I am sure—but the leaving didn't actually happen. We have people who are now more than 200 days into a 180-day rotation.

While the negotiation regarding retrograde and withdrawal are ongoing, the government in Niger is using the well-being and health of our servicemembers as leverage to get what they want out of our government. Our troops aren't getting medicine for malaria, cholesterol, blood pressure, and other chronic conditions.

I have received letters from the wives and fathers of the people who are in Niger now, and they say: We know that our family members are being extorted by the local governments. When they try to leave, it is hundreds of dollars to even bring a bag through the airport.

We know that Russians are behind the wire.

Do you know what a real U.S. President would do? They would say that C-130s are on their way to Niger today with the water, medicine, and food that our troops need, that they will have a full fighter pilot escort there.

If the Government of Niger or any other third-world thug tries to even turn on their air defense systems, we should show those leaders and those thugs what the target package looks like on their houses and their family members.

It should not be Americans who are suffering because President Biden and Secretary Blinken are so embarrassed that their strategy in Africa failed that they are willing to let Americans' conditions deteriorate.

They are willing to let our military spouses and family members wonder what is going to happen to their loved ones with their blood pressure rising and no blood pressure medication or be concerned about what will happen now that we are in May and there is not sufficient malaria medication. We should always keep our people's well-being at the forefront of our minds.

Today, we should be resupplying our troops in Niger, Africa, and we should dare these thugs and criminals to mess with us while we are doing that. This is a total embarrassment, and saving politicians and people like Biden and Blinken from embarrassment is not worth putting U.S. troops at risk.

I will stay on this. I will stay on our government and the Government of Niger to ensure that our military members and their families are appropriately treated, and their concerns are elevated to the highest levels of this House.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Lord of the universe, look down upon Your people and grant us Your peace. From generation to generation, we have found ways to disparage and destroy one another, allowing racism, prejudice, and discrimination to color our judgment and enrage our worst selves.

You have warned us that there will be wars and rumors of wars, nation will rise against nation. Earthquakes, famines, pestilence, and persecution will threaten our freedoms and dismantle our security.

On this day of Holocaust remembrance, remind us that the insidious malice that crept into our culture and led to the horrific deaths of tens of millions, including Jews, Roma, Jehovah's Witnesses, gays, and the disabled, is an evil that is still at work today, pervading our communities.

The present turmoil reveals a pivotal moment where You call us to bear testimony to our faithfulness to You and to You alone. In the words of Elie Wiesel: "For the dead and the living, we must bear witness."

Grant us courage, and unite us under the values of dignity, respect, justice, and righteousness that when we reflect on history's extermination of entire peoples, we would affirm that never again means now.

In the strength of Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CARL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARL 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 3, 2024.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 3, 2024, at 9:35 a.m.

That the Senate passed S. 2181.

That the Senate passed S. 3126.

That the Senate passed S. 3249.

That the Senate passed S. 3285.

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 34.

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 35.

That the Senate agreed to Relative to the death of the Honorable Daniel Robert Graham, former United States Senator from the State of Florida S. Res. 668.

That the Senate agreed to Relative to the death of the Honorable David Hampton Pryor, former United States Senator from the State of Arkansas S. Res. 673.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 593.

That the Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 89. With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 3, 2024.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on May 3, 2024, at 12:28 p.m., said to contain a message from the President on his objections to H.J. Res. 98 which he returns without his signature.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk of the House.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD RELATING TO "STANDARD FOR DETERMINING JOINT EMPLOYER STATUS"—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-135)

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following veto message from the President of the United States:

To the House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith without my approval H.J. Res. 98, a resolution that would disapprove of the National Labor Relations Board's (NLRB) rule entitled "Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status."

Since day one, my Administration has fought to strengthen workers' right to organize and bargain for higher wages, better benefits, and safer working conditions. The NLRB's rule would prevent companies from evading their bargaining obligations or liability when they control a worker's working condition—even if they reserve such control or exercise it indirectly through a subcontractor or other intermediary. If multiple companies control the terms and conditions of employment, then the right to organize is rendered futile whenever the workers cannot bargain collectively with each of those employers.

Without the NLRB's rule, companies could more easily avoid liability simply by manipulating their corporate structure, like hiding behind subcontractors or staffing agencies. By

hampering the NLRB's efforts to promote the practice and procedure of collective bargaining, Republicans are siding with union-busting corporations over the needs of workers and their unions. I am proud to be the most pro-union, pro-worker President in American history. I make no apologies for my Administration protecting the right to organize and bargain collectively.

Therefore, I am vetoing this resolution.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 3, 2024.

The SPEAKER. The objections of the President will be spread at large upon the Journal and the veto message and the joint resolution will be printed as a House document.

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that further consideration of the veto message and the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 98, be postponed until the legislative day of May 7, 2024.

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

There was no objection.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CLOUD) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

SECURING CHAIN OF COMMAND CONTINUITY ACT

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6972) to amend title 5, United States Code, to require an Executive agency whose head is a member of the National Security Council to notify the Executive Office of the President, the Comptroller General of the United States, and congressional leadership of such head becoming medically incapacitated within 24 hours, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6972

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 “Securing Chain of Command Continuity Act”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEDICAL INCAPACITY NOTIFICATION ENHANCEMENT.

Section 3349 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c)(1) Not later than 24 hours after the head of an Executive agency who is a member of the National Security Council becomes medically incapacitated or 24 hours in advance of a planned medical procedure where incapacitation is known or may be reasonably assumed, the person serving or who will be serving in an acting capacity as such head or, if no person is or will be so acting, the first assistant to the office of such head, shall submit to the appropriate Federal officials a notification that such head is or will be medically incapacitated.

“(2) If the notification required by paragraph (1) with respect to a head of an Executive agency becoming medically incapacitated is not submitted in accordance with the requirements of such paragraph, not later than 72 hours after such head became subject to such medical incapacity the person serving in an acting capacity as such head or, if no person is so acting, the first assistant to the office of such head, shall submit to the appropriate Federal officials a report including—

“(A) the name of each individual who served in an acting capacity as such head pursuant to such medical incapacity and, for each such individual—

“(i) the dates of such service;

“(ii) whether such individual was authorized to serve in such acting capacity; and

“(iii) a comprehensive list of resources and authorities allocated to such individual while serving in such acting capacity to ensure that such individual could perform the functions and duties of the office of such head;

“(B) an explanation why the notification required by paragraph (1) was not submitted in accordance with the requirements of such paragraph;

“(C) the dates of such head’s medical incapacitation, and if such head has resumed performing the functions and duties of the office, the date such head so resumed performing such functions and duties; and

“(D) an explanation why such head was medically incapacitated.

“(3) In the event the head of an Executive agency remains medically incapacitated on the date the report is submitted under paragraph (2), the person serving in an acting capacity as such head or, if no person is so acting, the first assistant to the office of such head, shall submit periodic updates, as such person or first assistant considers appropriate, to such report to the appropriate Federal officials.

“(4) In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘appropriate Federal officials’ means the Executive Office of the President, the Comptroller General of the United States, the Majority Leader of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;

“(B) the terms ‘medical incapacity’ and ‘medically incapacitated’ mean, with respect to the head of an Executive agency, that such head is unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of such head due to sickness, injury, or other medical condition

and such inability to perform the functions and duties of the office of such head constitutes a vacancy of the office of such head to which this section and sections 3345, 3346, 3347, 3348, 3349a, 3349b, 3349c, and 3349d apply; and

“(C) the term ‘National Security Council’ means the council established under section 101 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021).”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATURNER. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, like many of you, I was shocked this past February when Congress learned that Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin was medically incapacitated for days before the President or congressional leaders were made aware.

The lack of transparency set off alarm bells on both sides of the aisle and across the national security community.

We are experiencing crises across the world, crises that require our defense leadership to be alert and ready.

Unfortunately, our defense leadership was not ready earlier this year. Secretary Austin was incapacitated, and no one knew.

In these times, we cannot afford to be caught so unprepared. That is why this bill is an important measure to ensure military readiness.

The Securing the Chain of Command Continuity Act requires congressional and Presidential notification when someone who is a member of the National Security Council and is the head of an executive agency becomes medically incapacitated.

Under the bill, the person filling in for the incapacitated official must send the proper notifications within 24 hours of the official’s medical incapacitation.

If the proper notifications are not provided, a report detailing why the notification rules were not followed must be sent to Congress, the President, and the Comptroller General within 72 hours. This is a measured and balanced solution to this national security issue.

I thank my colleagues, Representative KIGGANS of Virginia and Representative DAVIS of North Carolina, for their bipartisan work on this important and timely legislation.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LATURNER for his excellent introduction. I rise also in support of H.R. 6927, which would amend the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 to require any agency head who is a member of the National Security Council to notify the executive office of the President, GAO, and congressional leadership within 24 hours in the event of medical incapacity.

This bill was brought forth after the hospitalization several months ago of Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin to treat complications from cancer surgery.

Secretary Austin has taken responsibility for the lack of notification to the President during his hospitalization and has assured the American people that “there were no gaps in authorities and no risks to the Department’s command and control” during his absence.

A congressional hearing on the topic in February confirmed as much, and a classified review found no “ill intent” by the Secretary’s staff.

I commend the Biden administration for the swift action it took to conduct a thorough review of current protocols and to ensure that the Office of the President receives all proper notifications. This bill aligns with the Biden administration’s efforts in the field.

Consistent with the spirit of transparency embodied in the 25th Amendment to the Constitution, which requires congressional leadership to be notified if the President is unable to discharge the duties of his or her office, I agree that Congress should be notified if an agency head who is a member of the NSC is similarly incapacitated.

I support this legislation, I congratulate Secretary Austin on his recovery, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. RASKIN for his comments.

I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. KIGGANS).

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to speak in support of my legislation, the Securing the Chain of Command Continuity Act.

At a time when our Nation is facing threats around the world, we cannot afford for those who are critical to America’s national security to disappear without explanation and a clear delegation of their responsibilities.

As someone who served in the Armed Forces for nearly 10 years, I was alarmed by reports back in January that those at the highest levels in the chain of command were not informed when Secretary of Defense Austin required an unexpected leave of absence due to health challenges.

For days, essential members of the National Security Council, including the President, were left in the dark regarding his status, causing a serious breach of command and control that is the bedrock of America’s defense supremacy.

I am concerned for Secretary Austin's health and wish him well. However, the Department of Defense's lack of transparency surrounding his absence is very concerning.

Critical communication breakdowns like these could have disastrous results and put our men and women in uniform at risk.

To ensure America remains capable of combating threats wherever and whenever they occur, we not only need an unparalleled fighting force but also a strong chain of command among our military's leadership that cannot be compromised.

That is why I introduced the Securing the Chain of Command Continuity Act alongside my colleague on the other side of the aisle, Congressman DAVIS of North Carolina, to prevent any similar chain of command breakdowns in the future and preserve the integrity of our national security.

My bipartisan legislation would amend existing law to require all members of the National Security Council to notify the executive office of the President, the Comptroller General of the United States, and to each Chamber of Congress within 24 hours of any planned or emergent medical incapacitation.

In the event this notification does not occur, a comprehensive report must be submitted providing transparency surrounding the incapacitation and related notification failure within 30 days.

At a time when our servicemembers are facing lethal attacks from our adversaries overseas, my bill will help ensure continuous chain of command so that our military and national defense systems can operate seamlessly in case of an emergency and achieve mission success.

It is my goal in Congress to advance legislation that protects our country, our citizens, and our men and women in uniform.

That is why I drafted this national security bill in a way that all commonsense Members can support, no matter which side of the aisle they are on.

I was pleased when the Securing the Chain of Command Continuity Act was passed unanimously out of the House Oversight Committee in February, proving just how nonpartisan this effort is. I thank Congressman DAVIS of North Carolina for his partnership with me on this critical issue.

The world is a dangerous place. We can't afford a lack of transparency from our senior military leaders. We must preserve the integrity of our national security, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this commonsense, bipartisan legislation that will keep our country and our military men and women safe.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member RASKIN for yielding time.

I rise in support of H.R. 6972, the Securing Chain of Command Continuity Act. As a proud United States Air Force veteran, I join my colleague, Representative KIGGANS of Virginia, who also served our country in uniform, to introduce this bipartisan bill.

If we have learned anything from the past several months, it is, indeed, we are in a more dangerous world. As tensions and threats rise across the globe, timely responses are vital to safeguarding the American people and saving lives.

Congress must require National Security Council agencies to provide a notice of the incapacitation of their agency heads within 24 hours. That is reasonable.

This requirement for our Nation's leaders is a minimum expectation to ensure transparency and accountability. The American people deserve nothing less, and I support the legislation.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for his eloquent remarks, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN), my friend.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Speaker, I spent over 25 years in the United States military. I designed elements from as large as a SEAL team down to a small tactical unit.

The first thing that you establish is something called CCIRs, Commander's Critical Information Requirements, and the first one is: Where is the commander? Is the commander in place and able to make decisions?

Unfortunately, the most powerful Department of Defense in the history of the world, led by Lloyd Austin, failed to do the most simple task that is required of any commander, and that is to inform the Commander in Chief of his presence.

This, to me, is another sign of an incredibly incompetent Department of Defense and the Biden administration's inability to lead and protect this Nation.

I am so thankful that my colleagues across the aisle have identified this also, and they know that the Biden administration must be held accountable for their lack of leadership in protecting the United States of America.

It is unquestionable that the world is a much more dangerous place under the Biden administration and under Secretary Austin's leadership of the Department of Defense.

Again, I thank my colleagues from across the aisle for this bipartisan effort to hold the Biden administration accountable and to make sure that any member of the National Security Council who is incapable of performing their duties is informing the President in a timely manner.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, we had such a nice bipartisan spirit going. I almost want to

bite my tongue, but I do have to respond to the last speaker who took a gratuitous shot at President Biden and the Biden administration, which has moved very quickly to get behind this legislation and to address this gap in the law.

We do need to always establish the chain of command, and we need to know, as the gentleman from Wisconsin was saying, where is the Commander in Chief? Where is the leader?

That was the question everybody was asking on January 6 when this institution, this body, came under brutal, merciless attack by a mob incited by the former President.

Nearly 150 of our police officers were wounded, brutalized, and hospitalized in that attack, and everybody was asking this very question the gentleman from Wisconsin was asking, which is: Where is the Commander in Chief? Where is the leader? Where is the National Guard?

I am sorry to have to make that refutation of the last interjection by the gentleman from Wisconsin. Again, I thank Mr. LATURNER for the bipartisan spirit with which he brings this legislation forward, and I strongly support it.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. We were so close, Mr. Speaker. So close.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my House colleagues to support this commonsense government transparency bill to address a relevant national security concern.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6972, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INFORMATION QUALITY ASSURANCE ACT

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7219) to ensure that Federal agencies rely on the best reasonably available scientific, technical, demographic, economic, and statistical information and evidence to develop, issue or inform the public of the nature and bases of Federal agency rules and guidance, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7219

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 "Information Quality Assurance Act".

SEC. 2. INFORMATION QUALITY ASSURANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter 1 of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 3522. Information Quality Assurance.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Information Quality Assurance Act, the Director shall—

“(1) with public and Federal agency involvement, update the guidelines issued under subsection (a) of the Information Quality Act—

“(A) to provide policy and procedural guidance to the heads of Federal agencies for better ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of influential information or evidence—

“(i) used by the heads of Federal agencies to develop or issue rules and guidance; or

“(ii) disseminated to the public to inform the public about the nature and bases of such rules and guidance; and

“(B) in a manner consistent with—

“(i) this chapter; and

“(ii) the amendments made by the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–435); and

“(2) make the guidelines updated under paragraph (1) available on the website of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(b) CONTENT OF GUIDELINES.—In updating the guidelines under subsection (a), the Director shall require that the head of each Federal agency to which the guidelines apply, not later than 1 year after the Director updates such guidelines—

“(1) update any guidelines issued by the head of the Federal agency under the Information Quality Act to ensure that, in the case of influential information or evidence, the best reasonably available information and evidence is relied on in developing, issuing, or informing the public about the rules and guidance of the Federal agency;

“(2) publish the guidelines updated by the head of the Federal agency under paragraph (1) on the website of the Federal agency;

“(3) ensure the administrative mechanisms established under subparagraph (B) of section (b)(2) of the Information Quality Act are available with respect to seeking and obtaining the correction of any influential information or evidence that the Federal agency uses to develop or issue a rule or guideline, or disseminates to the public to inform the public of the nature and basis of any rule or guidance of the Federal agency, that does not comply with the guidelines issued under paragraph (1); and

“(4) include in the report required under subparagraph (C) of subsection (b)(2) of the Information Quality Act the information described under that subparagraph with respect to any complaints received by the Federal agency related to the accuracy of influential information or evidence the Federal agency uses to develop, issue, or inform the public of the nature and bases of rules or guidance.

“(c) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.—

“(1) AVAILABILITY.—Except as provided under paragraph (2), the head of the Federal agency shall make available in the docket for the rulemaking of any rule of the Federal agency, or in the administrative record for any guidance, in a timely manner before the promulgation of the rule or issuance of the guidance document—

“(A) any model, methodology, or source of scientific, technical, demographic, economic, or statistical information or evidence upon which the head of the Federal agency—

“(i) relied on in developing or issuing such rule or guidance; or

“(ii) proposes to rely on in developing or issuing such rule or guidance; and

“(B) an identification of whether each such model, methodology, or source constitutes, or may constitute, influential information or evidence.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of the Federal agency—

“(i) shall implement paragraph (1) in a manner consistent with this chapter and section 552a of title 5; and

“(ii) may not make available in the docket for the rulemaking of any rule of the Federal agency, or in the administrative record for any guidance, information that is prohibited from being disclosed to the public under any statute.

“(B) EXPLANATION TO BE INCLUDED IN DOCKET OR ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD.—If the head of the Federal agency does not make a model, methodology, or source available under paragraph (1)(A) pursuant to paragraph (2)(A), the head of the Federal agency shall include in the docket for the rulemaking or the administrative record for the guidance document—

“(i) an explanation as to why such information cannot be made publicly available, including a citation to the applicable law and policy; and

“(ii) a description of any steps being taken to increase access to such information, even if the information cannot be made public.

“(3) FORMAT OF SOURCE.—The head of each Federal agency shall make any model, methodology, or source required to be made available under paragraph (1)(A) available as an open Government data asset.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) EVIDENCE.—The term ‘evidence’ has the meaning given that term in section 3561.

“(2) INFLUENTIAL INFORMATION OR EVIDENCE.—The term ‘influential information or evidence’ means information or evidence (including scientific, technical, demographic, economic, financial, and statistical information or evidence) that the head of the Federal agency can reasonably determine will have or does have a clear or substantial impact on—

“(A) developing or issuing a proposed or final rule of the Federal agency; or

“(B) informing the public of the nature and basis of any rule or guidance of the Federal agency.

“(3) INFORMATION QUALITY ACT.—The term ‘Information Quality Act’ means section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106–554).”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to section 3521 the following:

“3522. Information Quality Assurance.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

□ 1615

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATURNER. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, the Information Quality Assur-

ance Act. Each year, thousands of regulations are imposed as an added burden on the American public. The Code of Federal Regulations, in which these rules are housed, spans 243 volumes that contain over 180,000 single-spaced pages. Agency guidance explaining these regulations to the public likely spans millions more pages.

If we must have rules imposed by Federal regulatory agencies, we should, at the very least, ensure that regulatory agencies rely on the best available information. Unfortunately, agencies frequently do not rely on the best available information to create their regulations.

Year after year, the Federal courts are clogged with litigation brought by regulated parties who point out that Federal agencies have acted based on flawed information. Over the years, Congress has tried to improve the situation.

In 2000, Congress enacted the Information Quality Act, which charged the Office of Management and Budget and each Federal agency to adopt guidelines to ensure agencies rely on high-quality information.

In 2015, Congress enacted the Foundations of Evidence-Based Policymaking Act, expanding on the Information Quality Act to further ensure agencies use high-quality information.

Still, disputes continue to arise over whether regulators are basing their decisions on the best quality information available. Every year, courts strike down agency rules that do not rely on adequate information. Every year, agency guidance that does not rely on the best information forces regulated parties down pathways that do not make sense.

The Information Quality Assurance Act takes several major but straightforward steps to solve that problem. For the first time, it requires that the information on which agencies rest their rules and guidance be the best reasonably available information. It also includes several additional terms to make sure agencies are finally held to that standard.

This legislation will improve the quality of agency decisionmaking, improve the acceptability of new rules and guidance, and avoid the need for many disputes over agencies’ use of information to go to court.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I thank Representative McCLAIN and Representative PORTER for their work on this important bipartisan legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Comment Integrity and Management Act.

Technological advances have expanded access to Federal agencies’ online rulemaking dockets and have made it easier for the public to comment on proposed rules. That is a very

good thing from the standpoint of transparency, accountability, and deliberation.

At the same time, in some recent high-profile rulemakings, agencies have received an extraordinarily high volume of completely duplicative comments, which has created some challenges for agencies in processing them and managing their online rulemaking dockets.

I am sure Members are familiar with receiving a standardized message hundreds or even thousands of times from constituents or people across the country.

This bill is designed to help agencies manage such mass comments and computer-generated comments submitted in response to proposed rules. It is not intended in any way to discourage mass comments, which are indeed a vital part of the regulatory process. The bill would simply allow agencies to post a representative sample of mass comments. If they choose to do that, they would also be required to post the number—hold that thought, if you would, Mr. Speaker. I was describing the next bill. Forgive me. We got our papers confused here. Keep that in mind. I like that one, too.

The Information Quality Assurance Act is bipartisan legislation introduced by Representatives PORTER and MCCLAIN. I commend them for their work on it.

It would require the Director of OMB to update guidance issued under the Information Quality Act. That guidance is more than 20 years old, and much work has been done by Congress and the executive branch on these issues in the interim. The Evidence-Based Policymaking Act, the DATA Act, and the OPEN Government Act are just a few new laws requiring updated guidance.

Updated guidance would enable agencies to better ensure the quality of information and evidence used in promulgating regulations. The new guidance would ensure that the best reasonably available scientific, demographic, economic, financial, and statistical information is relied on during the regulatory process.

The bill also continues the practices of the Information Quality Act that allow for public input on the information submitted and mechanisms for OMB to report any complaints to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority for working closely with us and the administration in crafting this bill. The result is strong, and I fully support it.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for making that mistake so that when I make it here in a few bills, it will be easier for me.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MCCLAIN).

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be the sponsor of H.R. 7219, the Information Quality Assurance

Act. I also thank Representative KATIE PORTER for partnering with me on this important piece of legislation.

From my time in business, I can tell you that American employers and workers cannot afford for the Federal Government to impose new regulations and guidance on them that are misinformed, misconceived, and, quite frankly, backed by bad data.

Regulations like that only harm the American people. They needlessly drain employers' resources, kill jobs, and cede economic victory to America's other competitors, like China.

The same can be said of ill-informed and ill-conceived agency guidance. When an agency's guidance rests on flawed information, it risks sending regulated parties and their resources down rabbit holes just to avoid the threat of misguided agency enforcement actions.

One of the most important ways we can make sure the Federal Government does not issue ill-informed regulations and guidance is also, quite frankly, one of the simplest. It is to require that Federal regulators base new regulations and guidance on the best reasonably available information.

My Information Quality Assurance Act does just that. It requires three simple things.

First and foremost, it requires agencies to use the best data possible in drafting regulations. This includes data on the impacts the regulation will have on the American people.

Second, it requires the agency to make public, in a timely fashion, any model, methodology, or source of scientific, technical, demographic, economic, or statistical information which it intends to utilize in its rulemaking.

Third, it makes sure the public has a chance to question whether that information is the best that is reasonably available.

With these three simple common-sense reforms, we can make sure the Federal regulatory system avoids a mountain of mistakes that would unfairly burden the American people. That is what our job in Congress truly is: making the government more efficient so that we can help the most people.

By making these three simple changes to how agencies utilize data, we can achieve that simple goal and make life better for people in this country.

It is clear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle agree. This bill passed through the Oversight Committee—be careful to listen for it—with unanimous bipartisan support. That is the kind of thing this country needs right now.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to lead this bipartisan bill to improve the way our government works for generations to come, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

Despite the fact that I didn't know we were on this bill originally, we are in very strong and unanimous support on our side of the aisle for this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill to ensure that agencies rely on the best reasonably available information to create their regulations.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7219, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

COMMENT INTEGRITY AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2024

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7528) to amend section 206 of the E-Government Act of 2002 to improve the integrity and management of mass comments and computer-generated comments in the regulatory review process, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7528

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 "Comment Integrity and Management Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to help Federal agencies manage mass and computer-generated comments in the Federal regulatory process. This should in no way be understood to discourage mass comments, which are a vital part of the regulatory process.

SEC. 3. IMPROVING INTEGRITY AND MANAGEMENT OF MASS COMMENTS AND COMPUTER-GENERATED COMMENTS IN THE REGULATORY REVIEW PROCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 206 of the E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-347; 44 U.S.C. 3501 note) is amended by—

(1) redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(2) inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) INFORMATION INTEGRITY.—

“(1) VERIFICATION OF ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS.—With respect to each comment accepted by electronic means under subsection (c), in accordance with the guidance established by Director in paragraph (3), the head of an agency shall verify, to the greatest extent possible, at the time the comment is submitted, whether the comment has been submitted by a human being.

“(2) IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MASS COMMENTS.—

“(A) IDENTIFICATION OF MASS COMMENTS.—With respect to each comment accepted by electronic means under subsection (c) by the head of an agency, the head of the agency shall—

“(i) to the extent practicable, reasonably determine whether such comment is a mass comment; and

“(ii) in the case that the agency has made a reasonable determination that the comment is a mass comment, indicate on any publicly available copy of the comment, or comment variations, (through a label or indicator, and in a machine and human readable format) that the comment is part of a mass comment submission; and

“(B) HANDLING OF MASS COMMENTS.—Notwithstanding subsection (d)(2)(A), instead of making available through the electronic docket of the agency each comment identified as a mass comment under paragraph (2), the head of an agency may—

“(i) make available through such docket only a single representative sample of each such mass comment; or

“(ii) in the case where mass comments take the form of variations on certain standardized but not identical language the agency make available through such docket a single copy of one of the variations of the mass comment.

“(C) NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS.—In case in which the head of an agency makes available through such docket a single representative sample or a single copy of one of the variations of a mass comment under subparagraph (B), the head of the agency shall indicate (through a label or indicator, and in a machine and human readable format), on the sample or copy made available, the number of submissions that were determined to be identical, or substantively identical to the sample or copy made available on such docket.

“(3) OMB GUIDANCE.—

“(A) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 240 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Director, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, shall issue guidance to the heads of each agency on the implementation of the requirements of this subsection.

“(B) CONTENTS OF GUIDANCE.—The guidance issued pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall include recommendations for agencies on how to best manage comments accepted by electronic means, including recommendations on how to do the following:

“(i) Use technology tools and procedures that verify, to the greatest extent possible, whether a comment is being submitted by a human being.

“(ii) Identify mass comments, including how to leverage software tools to identify whether a comment is a mass comment.

“(iii) Indicate (through a label or indicator, and in a machine- and human-readable format), that a comment is a mass comment.

“(iv) Use new technology to offer new opportunities for public participation in the rulemaking process.

“(C) UPDATES.—The Director, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, may update the guidance issued pursuant to subparagraph (A), as determined necessary by the Director.

“(4) POLICIES CONCERNING POSTING AND CONSIDERATION OF COMPUTER-GENERATED COMMENTS AND MASS COMMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the head of each agency shall establish a policy with respect to the posting and consideration of computer-generated comments and mass-comments during the rulemaking process of the agency that is consistent with—

“(i) the requirements of paragraph (2); and

“(ii) the guidance issued under paragraph (3).

“(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the head of an agency establishes a policy pursuant to subparagraph (A), the head of the agency shall, to the extent practicable, post the policy on the website through which an agency makes comments available pursuant to subsection (d)(2)(A).

“(C) UPDATE TO POLICY.—The policy established pursuant to subparagraph (A)—

“(i) shall be updated as necessary to make such guidance consistent with any updates to the guidance issued under paragraph (3); and

“(ii) may be updated by the head of the agency, in consultation with the Director, as the head of the agency determines appropriate.

“(5) EXCEPTION TO TIME LIMITATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—The requirement described under subsection (f) shall not apply to this subsection.

“(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) COMMENT.—The term ‘comment’ means a submission under section 553(c) of title 5, United States Code.

“(B) COMPUTER-GENERATED COMMENT.—The term ‘computer-generated comment’ means a comment the substance of which is primarily generated by computer software, including through the use of artificial intelligence, rather than by a human being.

“(C) MASS COMMENT.—The term ‘mass comment’ means a comment submitted as part of an organized submission of a large volume of identical, or substantively identical, comments submitted by different signatories or entities.”

(b) UPDATE TO WEBSITES, INFORMATION SYSTEMS OF AGENCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of each agency subject to the requirements of section 206(e) of the E-Government Act, as added by subsection (a), shall update any website of the agency, and any information system of the agency, as necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of such section.

(2) REGULATIONS.GOV.—The Administrator of General Services, acting through the eRulemaking Program Management Office, shall update Regulations.gov as necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of section 206(e) of the E-Government Act, as added by subsection (a).

(3) ERULEMAKING SYSTEM.—The Administrator of General Services shall update the shared eRulemaking system on behalf of participating agencies.

(c) GAO REPORT ON COMPUTER-GENERATED COMMENTS.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the identification of computer-generated comments under section 206(e) of the E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-347; 44 U.S.C. 3501 note), that includes the following:

(A) Recommendations on how to identify if a submission under that section is a computer-generated comment.

(B) Any effect that computer-generated comments have on the rulemaking process.

(C) The extent to which the public uses computer-generated comments to participate in the rulemaking process at the time the report is submitted.

(D) How prevalent computer-generated comments are at the time the report is submitted.

(E) How prevalent the Comptroller General anticipates computer-generated comments will be 5 years after the date on which the report is submitted.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, may be construed as affecting the consideration of a mass comment by the head of an agency during the rulemaking process.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMENT.—The term ‘comment’ means a submission under section 553(c) of title 5, United States Code.

(2) COMPUTER-GENERATED COMMENTS.—The term ‘computer-generated comment’ means a comment the substance of which is primarily generated by computer software, including through the use of artificial intelligence, rather than by a human being.

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(4) MASS COMMENT.—The term ‘mass comment’ means a comment submitted as part of an organized submission of a large volume of identical, or substantively identical, comments submitted by different signatories or entities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATURNER. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Every American deserves the opportunity to participate in our political system, which includes sharing their views on agency rulemaking.

Agencies are required to provide an opportunity to participate in rulemaking by submitting written views or data on draft rules.

Recent advances have expanded the ability for the public to comment on proposed rules electronically. However, agencies may struggle to manage computer-generated or mass comments.

H.R. 7528, the Comment Integrity and Management Act, provides additional support to agencies navigating these new challenges by allowing them the flexibility necessary to manage electronic comments.

The bill requires agencies to verify that any comment submitted electronically has been submitted by an actual human. The bill also provides agencies with additional authorities to assist in processing and analyzing mass comments submitted electronically.

It requires agencies to identify, to the extent practicable, if the comment is a mass comment and indicate this identification on any publicly available copy of the comment.

This bill also requires agencies to establish and make public any policies

they have regarding how they will handle computer-generated and mass comments in the rulemaking process.

Further, this legislation requires the Office of Management and Budget to issue implementing guidance to agencies and requires the Government Accountability Office to submit a report to Congress.

It is time that our Federal agencies adapt their processes to accommodate the latest technologies.

I thank Representative CLAY HIGGINS for his idea and work in developing this forward-thinking legislation.

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

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

I rise in support of the Comment Integrity and Management Act again, as I was saying. I was very eager to support my friend Mr. HIGGINS' legislation here.

The basic issue is that it has gotten easier for people to post comments online in a rulemaking. That is a really good thing because it means that the process of implementing regulations is more accessible, more transparent, more open, and more participatory, but a number of the agencies have found, I think, what Members of Congress have found. Sometimes you get the same paragraph 100 times, 1,000 times, or 3,000 times.

This bill would simply allow agencies to post a representative sample of mass comments like this. If they choose to do that, they still are required to post the number of such comments received so that the volume of public sentiment is still fairly and effectively registered.

The bill would also require agencies, within 1 year, to establish policies for handling computer-generated comments, which is a growing concern to manage with the recent remarkable advances in artificial intelligence.

I am eager to hear from Mr. HIGGINS because I view his legislation as one that supports the administrative rulemaking process, which is so much under attack these days. There are people who say that we shouldn't have rules and regulations. Of course, the way our system works is that, in Congress, we pass laws like the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, but we don't get into all the fine details. That is left to the executive branch to do a rulemaking. That, too, is an open process where people can register their concerns and send comments in.

We want to make sure that that process continues to operate effectively and is not overwhelmed and overburdened by AI and computer-duplicated comments.

□ 1630

So I thank Mr. HIGGINS, and I thank Chairman COMER and his staff for working with our side to address some of the concerns we had with the original language.

I understand the administration and some outside groups have also reg-

istered some concerns about the legislation that have been addressed. We have worked with them and our majority counterparts to incorporate their feedback into this revised version of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the bill at this time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kansas for yielding. I appreciate the commentary of my friend and colleague, the ranking member of the Oversight and Accountability Committee, Representative RASKIN.

It may interest you to know, Mr. Speaker, that Representative RASKIN and I have worked in the spirit of mutual respect and camaraderie for 8 years now. We have enjoyed many vigorous debates in this body, and I find it encouraging that he has risen enthusiastically now twice in support of my bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7528, the Comment Integrity and Management Act. This bill is essential in the digital age where our constituents engage with us more and more through electronic means. It seeks to safeguard citizens' First Amendment right to participate in the Federal rulemaking process.

This participation includes the invaluable process of submitting public comments on proposed Federal rules and regulations, comments that help shape the very fabric of our government.

With the advent of digital technology and the rise of artificial intelligence being of increasing import, the channels for such participation have expanded providing broader access but also introducing new challenges. These challenges include computer-generated comments which can obscure genuine public input and hinder our agencies' ability to gauge public sentiment effectively.

The cornerstone of this bill is its commitment to ensuring that every comment submitted by electronic means comes from a real person, not an automated program. By requiring human verification, we are taking a significant step towards preserving the authenticity of public input.

Furthermore, the Comment Integrity and Management Act equips our agencies with the flexibility and tools necessary to efficiently manage the comments they receive. This includes the authority to identify and process computer-generated and mass comments, ensuring that they are handled transparently and effectively.

Additionally, the legislation directs the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance on best practices for managing electronic comments and mandates a report for the United States Government Accountability Office on the prevalence and impact of computer-generated comments.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to recognize the importance of adapting our processes to the realities of the 21st century. It is imperative that we ensure every American is heard and that genuine public input is not drowned out by the noise of automation.

This bill represents a good government approach to embracing technological advancements while safeguarding the principles of public participation and transparency in the rulemaking process.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to salute the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana for making the administrative rulemaking process up-to-date, rapid, transparent, and effective for all of us so we can keep it going.

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

Mr. LATURNER. In closing, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 7528 helps ensure every American is heard and not drowned out by an influx of computer-generated comments.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this necessary legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7528, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MAIL TRAFFIC DEATHS REPORTING ACT OF 2024

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7527), to direct the United States Postal Service to issue regulations requiring Postal Service employees and contractors to report to the Postal Service traffic crashes involving vehicles carrying mail that result in injury or death, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7527

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 "Mail Traffic Deaths Reporting Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. REGULATIONS ON TRAFFIC CRASH DEATHS AND INJURIES INVOLVING VEHICLES TRANSPORTING MAIL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Postmaster General of the Postal Service shall issue regulations to require the collection, tracking, and public reporting of information related to deaths and injuries resulting from traffic crashes involving vehicles transporting mail. Such regulations shall establish appropriate mechanisms to monitor

and enforce compliance with the reporting requirements of this Act and may utilize existing reporting mechanisms in use at the time of enactment of this Act.

(b) REPORTS ON CRASHES.—

(1) EMPLOYEES.—Any employee of the Postal Service engaged in the transportation of mail shall report to the Postal Service any traffic crash involving the vehicle the employee was operating during such transportation that resulted in injury or death not later than three days after such crash.

(2) CONTRACTORS.—Any contractor (of any tier) of the Postal Service engaged in the transportation of mail shall report to the Postal Service any traffic crash involving the vehicle the contractor was operating during such transportation that resulted in injury or death not later than three days after such crash.

(3) CONTENTS.—Any report submitted under paragraph (1) or (2) shall include detailed information describing, at a minimum, the crash, including the date, time, location, nature of the crash, information identifying the contractor, number of injuries, fatalities, and any contributing factors to the crash. An employee or contractor (as the case may be) shall update the report, in such form and manner as the Postal Service deems appropriate, to reflect any change in crash-caused injuries or fatalities.

(4) ACCOMMODATIONS IN EVENT OF INJURY.—The Postal Service shall provide for procedures under which reports may be submitted under this subsection under an alternative deadline in the event a Postal Service employee or contractor is unable to submit a report due to serious injury resulting from the applicable crash.

(5) STANDARD FORM.—The Postmaster General shall create a standard form available to Postal Service employees and contractors for the purposes of submitting reports under this subsection.

(c) DATABASE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Postal Service shall maintain a continuously updated internal digital database that includes comprehensive information related to deaths and injuries from traffic crashes involving vehicles transporting mail.

(2) CONTENTS.—The database shall include any information provided by Postal Service employees and contractors under subsection (b).

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Postal Service shall make available to the public an annual report summarizing information related to deaths and injuries from traffic crashes involving vehicles transporting mail.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report shall include aggregated statistics, trends, and analysis to enhance transparency and accountability.

(3) PRIVACY.—Information in the report shall be made available to the public in a manner that does not personally identify any Postal Service employee, contractor, or any other individual.

(e) PENALTIES.—Any Postal Service contractor who fails to report a traffic crash within the deadline prescribed under subsection (b) shall be subject to appropriate penalties as determined appropriate by the Postal Service, including fines, suspension of contracts, or termination of contracts. The Postal Service may take into account the severity of the applicable traffic crash and the frequency of noncompliance with the requirements of this Act by the applicable Postal Service contractor when determining which penalty to apply (if any).

(f) CRASH DEFINED.—In this Act, the term “crash” —

(1) means an occurrence involving a commercial motor vehicle operating on a high-

way in interstate or intrastate commerce which results in—

(A) a fatality;

(B) bodily injury to a person who, as a result of the injury, immediately receives medical treatment away from the scene of the accident; or

(C) one or more motor vehicles incurring disabling damage as a result of the accident, requiring at least one of the motor vehicle to be transported away from the scene by a tow truck or other motor vehicle; and

(2) does not include—

(A) an occurrence involving only boarding and alighting from a stationary motor vehicle; or

(B) an occurrence involving only the loading or unloading of cargo.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7527, which requires U.S. Postal Service employees and contractors to report traffic crashes that result in injury or death to the Postal Service.

Last year, The Wall Street Journal published an article alleging that the Postal Service contracted with low-cost trucking companies that did not follow highway safety regulations. They also reported that postal contractors have been involved in car crashes that have killed 79 people in the last 3 years.

To conduct oversight of this important topic, Congress needs to be informed. The Mail Traffic Deaths Reporting Act requires the Postal Service to report to Congress any traffic crashes that result in injury or death.

Under the bill, Postal Service employees and contractors will have 3 days to report a traffic accident to the Postal Service. These reports will include, at minimum, the date, time, location, nature of the crash, information identifying the contractor, and number of injuries and fatalities. The Postal Service will maintain a comprehensive internal digital database of this information.

The Postal Service is also required to compile a publicly available report summarizing annual stats related to injuries and deaths from traffic accidents.

I thank Representative CONNOLLY and House Oversight and Accountability Committee Chairman JAMES COMER for bringing this necessary legislation to the consideration of the House.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation introduced by Mr. CONNOLLY.

Between 2021 and 2023, truck drivers contracted by the Postal Service were involved in at least 68 different traffic accidents, and 79 people were killed in them.

On February 27, 2024, the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General found that the Postal Service failed to record all mail transport accidents in a central database, including accidents involving truck driver contractors. As a result, the Postal Service failed to have a complete understanding of traffic accidents and the comprehensive safety performance of its mail transport drivers.

With this new information from the inspector general, it is clear that the level of fatalities across this period could even have been higher.

The Mail Traffic Deaths Reporting Act, the excellent bill brought forward by Mr. CONNOLLY, would resolve these serious oversight deficiencies by increasing transparency, comprehension, and understanding of the full scale of mail transport accidents and ultimately improve safety for postal transport drivers and for the public. The bill would require all Postal Service mail transport drivers, including 4,600 postal trucking contractors, to adhere to a range of reporting, tracking, and accountability measures.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Subcommittee Ranking Member GERRY CONNOLLY from Virginia for his great leadership in strengthening Postal Service mail transport safety, and I am pleased to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Maryland, the distinguished ranking member, for yielding, and the Republican manager from Kansas.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bill, the Mail Traffic Deaths Reporting Act. This necessary bill which I am co-leading with my distinguished colleague, the chairman of the Oversight and Accountability Committee, Mr. COMER, has strong, bipartisan support. It passed through our committee 40-0.

I am thrilled that the chairman and I could partner, write, and introduce the Mail Traffic Deaths Reporting Act, which requires the United States Postal Service to collect, track, and report on serious crashes and fatalities involving vehicles transporting U.S. postal mail.

The chairman and I have both met with the families of truck crash victims. We have heard their painful stories and are committed to stopping preventable tragedies involving mail transport. These families-turned-advocates welcome this legislation which is

endorsed by the Truck Safety Coalition.

In June of 2022, the Godines family was traveling back to their home in Gillette, Wyoming. Traveling behind the family on I-25 as they passed Greeley, Colorado, was a contract freight truck carrying U.S. mail on a U.S. Postal Service contract.

The truck's brakes were out of alignment, it was uninsured, and its driver had no commercial driver's license. When that truck carrying U.S. delivery material slammed into the back of the Godines' family vehicle, in an instant, Mr. Speaker, three generations of Godines were killed. They lost their lives, including a 3-month old baby, Tessa Leigh. Safety concerns about the freight contract trucking practices at the Postal Service have been increasing ever since.

Between 2020 and 2023, as has been noted, at least 79 people have been killed in crashes involving trucks contracted by the Postal Service. The true number is higher because just last year we learned that the Postal Service did not report serious crashes involving its trucking contractors.

That revelation raised serious questions about safety oversight by the USPS involving their contracted vehicles, including the troubling allegation that the Postal Service is managing truck freight operations which do not adhere to legal and commonsense safety standards.

The Postal Service has, for example, set delivery schedules requiring drivers to exceed hours of service requirements and has selected carriers with extensive records of safety violations. It looks like there is no vetting of these contractors at all.

Between December of 2020 and December of 2022, the Department of Transportation identified a frightening 466 Postal Service trucking contractors that had high rates of violations related to driving hours. In 2021 and 2022, 39 percent of trucking companies carrying U.S. mail by contract violated rules meant to prevent driver exhaustion and did so repeatedly. Between 2017 and 2022, one single trucking group contracted by USPS had broken those rules 200 times-plus.

When I asked the Postal Service for the number of deaths involved in the contracted transport of mail, the Postal Service said that they didn't have that information because they did not collect, monitor, or report such information.

Imagine that comfort to grieving families.

That was until, of course, May of 2023 when I asked the Inspector General of the U.S. Postal Service to look into this issue and, all of a sudden, the Postal Service responded by establishing an ad hoc centralized reporting mechanism for serious and deadly crashes involving postal freight contractors.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the "Contract Trucking Safety and Compliance Report."

FINDINGS SUMMARY

We found that the Postal Service's highway trucking contract safety controls, contract compliance, and screening oversight were not always effective. First, the Postal Service did not track contractor accidents and fatalities. Second, the Postal Service did not always develop appropriate safety requirements, provide adequate oversight, or enforce the terms and conditions of the contracts or freight auction Ordering Agreements.

Lastly, the Postal Service's screening processes did not always include a contract trucker's driving history. These collective deficiencies hindered visibility into safety performance and could compromise the safety and security of the mail and motorists.

FINDING #1: THE POSTAL SERVICE DOES NOT TRACK TRUCKING ACCIDENTS AND FATALITIES BY CONTRACTORS

The Postal Service did not track trucking contractor accidents and fatalities and therefore, we could not determine the total number of occurrences. We analyzed incident data between October 2018 and December 2022 tracked on the DOT's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) website to help assess Postal Service contract trucker safety performance. This list does not contain all contractors utilized by the Postal Service as FMCSA does not track company safety data separately. However, we were able to identify at least 373 accidents resulting in 89 fatalities that were directly related to 43 on-duty contractors servicing Postal Service truck contracts. These 43 contractors were associated with Postal Service contracts totaling about \$1.34 billion between October 2018 and December 2022. We determined that the Postal Service had not terminated any contracts with trucking companies involved in accidents or fatalities prior to March 2023.

The Postal Service was unable to provide statistics and information on incidents (e.g., frequency, location, time, or involved parties) as it did not monitor FMCSA or have a system for recording or tracking related contractor data. However, when accidents or fatalities occur on trucking routes contracted with the Postal Service, contractors are required to report incident data to Postal Service contracting personnel. As stated earlier, Postal Service policy also requires AOs to report accident information to the Postal Inspection Service. Despite these reporting requirements, there is no centralized collection of information concerning these incidents. Postal Service officials acknowledged the lack of such a system, noting that tracking this data was not previously required by Postal Service policy or procedures.

The Postal Service has recently started to track this information. In March 2023, the Vice President, Transportation Strategy, stated that all traffic accidents involving contract trucking drivers be reported directly to him and the appropriate CO. This directive; however, was not recorded in written policy. In June 2023, the Postal Service stated they have an existing platform that could be used for storing contract trucking safety data. However, as of November 2023, the Postal Service has not created corresponding policies governing the use of this system (including related roles, responsibilities, and procedures) to record contract trucking safety data.

The Postal Service is however, taking other actions to monitor, assess, and potentially act on contractor safety data. First, it hired outside experts to review changes in the suppliers' safety ratings, create a list of suppliers to avoid, and determine suppliers' insurance coverage risk. Second, it is working to establish new contract trucking proc-

esses and procedures to improve the quality of contractors, including the removal of contractors with a conditional safety rating. Collectively, these actions would better inform the Postal Service when making decisions to either (a) choose a contractor based on their safety performance or (b) take appropriate termination or other corrective actions in instances of poor safety performance.

However even with these actions, the lack of a finalized method and established policies to track and monitor contractor accident and fatality data in the existing safety database limits the Postal Service's visibility into contractor safety performance. This deficiency could allow unsafe drivers to transport mail and put other motorists at risk.

Recommendation #1:

We recommend the Vice President, Transportation Strategy, finalize the method for tracking contractor accident and fatality data and establish corresponding written policies and procedures, including related roles and responsibilities.

FINDING #2: LACK OF SUBCONTRACTOR AND TEAM DRIVER OVERSIGHT

The Postal Service lacked requirements and clear policies or did not always enforce the terms and conditions of the contracts or freight auction Ordering Agreements to promote safe highway trucking practices. We found the following deficiencies:

Lack of Visibility in Subcontractor Use. The Postal Service did not always know who was authorized to transport the mail on its behalf. Freight auction brokers were not required to obtain prior written approval or inform the Postal Service of the specific contractors being utilized. Instead, the Postal Service relied on the broker to complete subcontractor authorization and vet the subcontractor, but those results are not required to be reported to the Postal Service. The onus is on the broker to ensure the subcontractor is in compliance with Postal Service policies.

Specific to HCR contracts, per the procurement handbook, contractors should specify their intent to subcontract route operations during contract award and disclose any subsequent subcontractor additions. Further, if a contractor wants to use additional subcontractors, Postal Service policy states this is an exceptional action and should be approved only when the contractor can offer sufficient reasons for the change. HCR contract terms and conditions also require the contractor to fully disclose subcontractor relationships as part of its proposal.

However, of the 15 COs and AOs interviewed, 14 (93 percent) did not know when HeR contractors utilized a subcontractor. Furthermore, HCR contractors must obtain prior written approval from the CO to employ subcontractors. However, six of the seven COs we interviewed were not aware of this requirement and therefore did not have the required documentation. Instead, the Postal Service relied on the HCR contractor to determine when to use a subcontractor and to ensure the subcontractor adhered to the terms and conditions including safety requirements. Using subcontractors without the prior written approval of the CO is a major irregularity for which the contractor may be terminated without notice or warning. However, while the SPs and Ps require approval from the CO before subcontracting, it does not state that approval needs to be written.

Mr. CONNOLLY. As the USPS OIG stated in a report released this past March, while it is a welcome step, the Postal Service still does not have a single written policy requiring the tracking of trucking contractor accidents and fatalities.

The OIG's number one recommendation was that the Postal Service fix this serious safety oversight immediately, and that is what we are doing today.

Our legislation would codify the number one recommendation of the OIG, to begin to improve USPS freight trucking safety and provide accountability.

This bill will maintain an internal database, and I hope it will lead to reforms by the Postal Service and save lives.

□ 1645

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for the purposes of a colloquy.

Mr. CONNOLLY, is it the case that rules that would clearly apply to USPS trucks carrying postal mail have not been applied to the contractors?

Mr. CONNOLLY. I think that is a fair conclusion.

Mr. RASKIN. In other words, the postal truck drivers who are working for the Postal Service have to have all the proper licensure and all the proper certification and training. Presumably the brakes are checked on their trucks, but because of the contracting out, they somehow have been able to escape all the rules we have with respect to road safety?

Mr. CONNOLLY. I think, again, that is a fair conclusion, Mr. RASKIN.

Mr. RASKIN. Well, again, I commend the gentleman for bringing this to public attention. That is an extraordinary number of people to lose their lives on the road to private contractors, who seem to have completely escaped the grasp of the rules that have been adopted under the Postal Service. Additionally, we know that the Postal Service traditionally has taken far more serious interest in public safety and public welfare.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I say to Mr. RASKIN, what is so troubling is these are 100 percent preventable tragedies. Not one of these lives had to be lost but for the callousness and lack of regard at the Postal Service in vetting freight contractors.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is excellent bipartisan legislation with Congress acting just as it should to address a serious public policy problem, and let's hope that we pass this quickly, the President signs it quickly, and we don't lose any more Americans or Postal Service workers on the road.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Postal Service is tasked with the challenging job of providing fast, reliable mail service nationwide. While they do so, their safety should be prioritized.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this common-

sense bill that increases transparency into the Postal Service's safety record to improve public safety throughout our Nation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7527, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL DISTRICT GRANT ACCESSIBILITY ACT

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7525) to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance to agencies requiring special districts to be recognized as local government for the purpose of Federal financial assistance determinations.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7525

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 "Special District Grant Accessibility Act".

SEC. 2. AGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GUIDANCE ON SPECIAL DISTRICTS.

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR AGENCY ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SPECIAL DISTRICTS AS GRANT RECIPIENTS.—

(1) OMB GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue guidance that clarifies how an agency recognizes a special district as a unit of local government for the purpose of being eligible to receive Federal financial assistance.

(2) AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the guidance is issued pursuant to paragraph (1), the head of each agency shall implement the requirements of such guidance and conform any policy, principle, practice, procedure, or guideline relating to the administration of the Federal financial assistance programs of the agency.

(3) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that evaluates agency implementation of and conformity to the guidance issued pursuant to paragraph (1).

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY.—The term "agency" has the meaning given the term in section 552 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(3) FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The term "Federal financial assistance"—

(A) means assistance that a non-Federal entity receives or administers in the form of a grant, loan, loan guarantee, property, co-

operative agreement, interest subsidy, insurance, food commodity, direct appropriation, or other assistance; and

(B) does not include an amount received as reimbursement for services rendered to an individual in accordance with guidance issued by the Director.

(4) SPECIAL DISTRICT.—The term "special district" means a political subdivision of a State, with specified boundaries and significant budgetary autonomy or control, created by or pursuant to the laws of the State, for the purpose of performing limited and specific governmental or proprietary functions that distinguish it as a significantly separate entity from the administrative governance structure of any other form of local government unit within a State.

(5) STATE.—The term "State" means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATURNER. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7525, which establishes a definition in law for special districts and clarifies that special districts are eligible to receive Federal financial assistance.

Many Americans receive essential services through special districts, units of local government authorized under State law to deliver specific services to communities. There are approximately 35,000 special districts across the country in every single State.

Some examples of special districts are ambulance service districts, drainage districts, emergency service boards, and flood control districts, to name a few. These special districts provide critical services to mostly rural communities across the Nation.

The Office of Management and Budget already recognizes special districts as units of local government, similar to townships or villages, yet special districts often struggle to compete for or access Federal funding.

The Special District Grant Accessibility Act works to solve this problem and ensures that special districts are on equal footing with other units of local government. This bill requires the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance to Federal agencies, emphasizing how special districts should be recognized as a unit of local government.

This legislation is supported by the National Special Districts Coalition.

I thank Representative FALLON and Representative PETERSEN for their work on this important bipartisan bill, which impacts nearly every congressional district in our Nation.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7525.

The Special District Grant Accessibility Act is a bipartisan measure that takes a positive step forward toward ensuring that Federal policy better reflects the complexities of local governments and how they work.

Congress confronted these complexities when it acted to send aid to local governments during the coronavirus pandemic. This included committee Democrats' historic work with the Biden-Harris administration to provide \$350 billion in direct financial assistance to more than 30,000 governments across the country, the vast majority of which were small local governments, and many of whom received significant assistance for the first time.

This bill would provide further clarity around special districts, a special unit of local government. According to the National Special Districts Coalition, there are roughly 35,000 such special districts across the Nation that play an important role in delivering essential government services, like wastewater treatment and fire protection, to millions of Americans.

Special districts have reported challenges when trying to access Federal funding opportunities and have indicated that a unified Federal definition of "special district" would help clarify how entities can best assist local communities through Federal assistance programs.

To address these concerns, H.R. 7525 would codify a definition of the term and direct OMB to clarify how Federal agencies can recognize special districts as units of local government for the purpose of being eligible for Federal grants and other Federal assistance.

Congress and the Federal Government must continually work to ensure Federal assistance programs are authorized, funded, and implemented to best address the needs of local communities. This should include careful consideration of the intricacies of local governments and a rigorous commitment to ensuring Federal assistance promotes equal opportunity for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate subcommittee Chairman PAT FALLON and Representative BRITTANY PETERSEN for their excellent bipartisan work and support of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FALLON), my friend.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER), my good friend, for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7525, the Special District Grant

Accessibility Act, introduced by myself and my colleague, Representative PETERSEN, from the Centennial State of Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, special districts are a type of local government authorized by State law, which deliver specialized services to specific communities that would otherwise not be provided. In rural areas, for instance, special districts may provide fire protection, mosquito control, ambulatory services, et cetera. Special districts also occur in urban areas and can provide airport, road, and transit services.

According to the National Special Districts Coalition, as my colleague from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) said, there are about 35,000 special districts in the country, and they are in every State.

In Texas, we have over 3,300 special districts providing all manner of government goods and services. Yet, as these lesser-known units of government, special districts have struggled to consistently access Federal financial assistance.

H.R. 7525 would remedy that and would emphasize that special districts are units of local government and are, therefore, eligible for Federal financial assistance by establishing a definition in law for special districts and requiring the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance to Federal agencies, as well as grant-issuing agencies.

This bill also requires an OMB report to Congress on the agency's implementation and conformity to the guidance.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative PETERSEN and the bipartisan coalition of Members who cosponsored this bill, and I encourage a "yes" vote.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. PETERSEN).

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Special District Grant Accessibility Act, and I thank my colleague, Representative FALLON, for his leadership and bipartisan collaboration on this bill. I also thank the advocates who raised this concern with our office and give a huge shout-out to my team for doing the work to get it to this point.

Special districts are local governments that are created by the people for a community to deliver specialized services. There are 35,000 special districts across the country, and this includes providing services ranging from drinking water and wastewater management to healthcare, transit, natural resource conservation, and much more.

This bipartisan bill will ensure Federal policies better reflect the complexities of local government by creating a Federal definition. I didn't realize that there were so many barriers at the local level to actually drawing down those Federal funds when it comes to community block grants, childcare

services, and even transportation needs.

We also saw significant barriers when it came to the pandemic and the ARPA funding that was going down to help support communities through that difficult time. We know that this is a very important and small step forward, but it is going to make a big difference for people across Colorado and the Nation.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 7525, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill to emphasize that special districts are eligible for Federal financial assistance.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7525.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1700

ELIMINATE USELESS REPORTS ACT OF 2024

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2073) to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2073

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 "Eliminate Useless Reports Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. SUNSETS FOR AGENCY REPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1125 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d);

(2) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) BUDGET JUSTIFICATION MATERIALS.—The term ‘budget justification materials’ has the meaning given the term in section 3(b)(2) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note; Public Law 109-282).

“(2) PLAN OR REPORT.—The term ‘plan or report’ means any plan or report submitted

to Congress, any committee of Congress, or subcommittee thereof, by not less than 1 agency—

“(A) in accordance with Federal law; or

“(B) at the direction or request of a congressional report.

“(3) RECURRING PLAN OR REPORT.—The term ‘recurring plan or report’ means a plan or report submitted on a recurring basis.

“(4) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE.—The term ‘relevant congressional committee’—

“(A) means a congressional committee to which a recurring plan or report is required to be submitted; and

“(B) does not include any plan or report that is required to be submitted solely to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives or the Senate.

“(b) AGENCY IDENTIFICATION OF UNNECESSARY REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of each agency shall include in the budget justification materials of the agency the following:

“(A) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the following:

“(i) A list of each recurring plan or report submitted by the agency.

“(ii) An identification of whether the recurring plan or report listed in clause (i) was included in the most recent report issued by the Clerk of the House of Representatives concerning the reports that any agency is required by law or directed or requested by a committee report to make to Congress, any committee of Congress, or subcommittee thereof.

“(iii) If applicable, the unique alphanumeric identifier for the recurring plan or report as required by section 7243(b)(1)(C)(vii) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263).

“(iv) The identification of any recurring plan or report the head of the agency determines to be outdated or duplicative.

“(B) With respect to each recurring plan or report identified in subparagraph (A)(iv), the following:

“(i) A recommendation on whether to sunset, modify, consolidate, or reduce the frequency of the submission of the recurring plan or report.

“(ii) A citation to each provision of law or directive or request in a congressional report that requires or requests the submission of the recurring plan or report.

“(iii) A list of the relevant congressional committees for the recurring plan or report.

“(C) A justification explaining, with respect to each recommendation described in subparagraph (B)(i) relating to a recurring plan or report—

“(i) why the head of the agency made the recommendation, which may include an estimate of the resources expended by the agency to prepare and submit the recurring plan or report; and

“(ii) the understanding of the head of the agency of the purpose of the recurring plan or report.

“(2) AGENCY CONSULTATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In preparing the list required under paragraph (1)(A), if, in submitting a recurring plan or report, an agency is required to coordinate or consult with another agency or entity, the head of the agency submitting the recurring plan or report shall consult with the head of each agency or entity with whom consultation or coordination is required.

“(B) INCLUSION IN LIST.—If, after a consultation under subparagraph (A), the head of each agency or entity consulted under that subparagraph agrees that a recurring plan or report is outdated or duplicative, the head of the agency required to submit the recurring plan or report shall—

“(i) include the recurring plan or report in the list described in paragraph (1)(A); and

“(ii) identify each agency or entity with which the head of the agency is required to coordinate or consult in submitting the recurring plan or report.

“(C) DISAGREEMENT.—If the head of any agency or entity consulted under subparagraph (A) does not agree that a recurring plan or report is outdated or duplicative, the head of the agency required to submit the recurring plan or report shall not include the recurring plan or report in the list described in paragraph (1)(A).

“(3) GOVERNMENT-WIDE OR MULTI-AGENCY PLAN AND REPORT SUBMISSIONS.—With respect to a recurring plan or report required to be submitted by not less than 2 agencies, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall—

“(A) determine whether the requirement to submit the recurring plan or report is outdated or duplicative; and

“(B) make recommendations to Congress accordingly.

“(4) PLAN AND REPORT SUBMISSIONS CONFORMITY TO THE ACCESS TO CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORTS ACT.—With respect to an agency recommendation, citation, or justification made under subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1) or a recommendation by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under paragraph (3), the agency or Director, as applicable, shall also provide this information to the Director of the Government Publishing Office in conformity with the agency submission requirements under section 7244(a) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263; chapter 41 of title 44 note) in conformity with guidance issued by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under section 7244(b) of such Act.

“(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION ON AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt the head of an agency from a requirement to submit a recurring plan or report.”; and

(3) in subsection (d), as so redesignated, by striking “in the budget of the United States Government, as provided by section 1105(a)(37)” and inserting “in the budget justification materials of each agency”.

(b) BUDGET CONTENTS.—Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (39).

(c) CONFORMITY TO THE ACCESS TO CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORTS ACT.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—Subsections (a) and (b) of section 7244 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263; chapter 41 of title 44, United States Code, note), are amended to read as follows:

“(a) SUBMISSION OF ELECTRONIC COPIES OF REPORTS.—Not earlier than 30 days or later than 60 days after the date on which a congressionally mandated report is submitted to either House of Congress or to any committee of Congress or subcommittee thereof, the head of the Federal agency submitting the congressionally mandated report shall submit to the Director the information required under subparagraphs (A) through (D) of section 7243(b)(1) with respect to the congressionally mandated report. Notwithstanding section 7246, nothing in this subtitle shall relieve a Federal agency of any other requirement to publish the congressionally mandated report on the online portal of the Federal agency or otherwise submit the congressionally mandated report to Congress or specific committees of Congress, or subcommittees thereof.

“(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection and periodically thereafter as appro-

priate, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Director, shall issue guidance to agencies on the implementation of this subtitle as well as the requirements of section 1125(b) of title 31, United States Code.”.

(2) UPDATED OMB GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue updated guidance to agencies to ensure that the requirements under subsections (a) and (b) of section 1125 of title 31, United States Code, as amended by this Act, for agency submissions of recommendations and justifications for plans and reports to sunset, modify, consolidate, or reduce the frequency of the submission of are also submitted as a separate attachment in conformity with the agency submission requirements of electronic copies of reports submitted by agencies under section 7244(a) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263; chapter 41 of title 44, United States Code, note) for publication on the online portal established under section 7243 of such Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATURNER. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, every year numerous laws require Federal agencies to produce thousands of reports, with a single report costing tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars.

While many reports help inform Congress and the public, some are outdated or duplicative.

With nearly 100 agencies issuing annual reports as required under law, there is a great opportunity for cost savings and improving government efficiency by addressing outdated reports.

Agencies are already required to compile lists of the reports they generate, but this information is not included in an agency’s annual budget document which Congress scrutinizes on an annual basis.

The Eliminate the Useless Reports Act requires each agency to identify and reduce the frequency of duplicative or outdated reports in its regular budget justification documents.

This bill would increase government efficiency and save taxpayer dollars by eliminating unnecessary reports.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives ROBERT GARCIA and GROTHMAN for their leadership on this issue and Budget Committee Chairman ARRINGTON for

his collaboration with the House Oversight Committee for advancing this bill today.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan commonsense bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise today in support of S. 2073. I thank my colleague from California, Ranking Member ROBERT GARCIA, for introducing the House companion to the Eliminate Useless Reports Act of 2023. I am proud to support this bipartisan legislation. The accumulation of outdated and redundant reports is something that the Oversight Committee has tried to deal with several times over the past few decades.

The Eliminate Useless Reports Act takes an innovative approach. It would establish clear procedures for Federal agencies to request the elimination or modification of duplicative or outdated reports in their annual budget justifications. This would ensure that the correct committee of jurisdiction with the appropriate expertise considers this request. This bill would better inform Congress and the executive branch and ensure that agencies are not wasting time or resources on redundant or archaic reports.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I will get this done in less than 5 minutes. As has been pointed out, anybody around here a while knows that frequently when a bill passes we include requirements that an agency provide reports.

Another way for a Congressman to pass a bill is just to pass a freestanding bill that requires another report. Obviously, these reports aren't cheap. There is a great deal of hours spent as the agencies compile the reports. It is time to have a look at these reports and see how many are necessary and how many we can do away with.

The President's most recent budget request identified 53 reports that were outdated or duplicative. Some examples: Department of Commerce report on business licensing activities in Iraq. This report was signed into law in 2003 during the start of the Iraq war. As our presence there diminished, the need for regular reporting on Iraq-bound business licenses has outlived its usefulness.

There is the Department of Labor report on a community college and career training grant. This is another report that is outdated. The authorization of the appropriations has expired, and no funds have been appropriated for this program since 2014; nevertheless, the requirement for the report lives on.

There is the annual FTC report on the market concentration of the ethanol industry. The FTC has submitted the report every year since 2005, but

each and every year the ethanol market has not been overly concentrated, entry into the market is easy, and the present circumstances do not justify a presumption that a single ethanol producer could set prices. In other words, the usefulness of the report is no longer in existence.

The Eliminate Useless Reports Act simply requires each agency to identify and recommend eliminating, modifying, or reducing the frequency of duplicative reports. Recommendations from agencies will be considered by the relevant committees so they can take appropriate legislative steps.

This bill would increase the efficiency of identifying outdated or duplicative reports.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to co-lead the House version in a nice bipartisan effort with my Oversight Subcommittee colleague, Congressman ROBERT GARCIA from California.

I am also thankful for the bipartisan Senate cosponsors to this bill, Senators OSSOFF and LANKFORD.

I urge adoption of Senate bill S. 2073, an important bipartisan step toward improving the efficiency of the Federal Government.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for S. 2073, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill that will increase government efficiency, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2073, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GSA TECHNOLOGY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7524) to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the submission of reports on certain information technology services funds to Congress before expenditures may be made, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7524

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 "GSA Technology Accountability Act".

SEC. 2. TRANSPARENCY OF GSA FUNDED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES.

(a) TRANSPARENCY ON USE OF THE FEDERAL CITIZEN SERVICES FUND.—Section 323 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than September 30 of each year, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that includes, at a minimum, a list of each program funded by expenditures during the previous fiscal year, or that have been funded by expenditures in the previous 5-year period, including the following:

"(1) An explanation of the program.

"(2) Information about how the program is funded, including the amount of expenditures the program received in the previous fiscal year and total amount.

"(3) The amount of reimbursements associated with or anticipated to be associated with the program from another source of funds or another agency, if applicable.

"(4) A description of projects or initiatives associated with the program, including—

"(A) information about when the projects or initiatives were initiated and completed; and

"(B) funding information, to the extent practicable.

"(5) Any additional information, data, or analysis used to determine the information estimated within the report, if applicable.

"(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of General Services.

"(2) EXPENDITURE.—The term 'expenditure' means any obligation of funds from the Fund."

(b) TRANSPARENCY ON USE OF THE ACQUISITION SERVICES FUND.—Section 321 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(h) REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than September 30 of each year, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that includes, at a minimum, a list of each program within the Technology Transformation Services funded by expenditures during the previous fiscal year, or that have been funded by expenditures in the previous 5-year period, including the following:

"(1) An explanation of the program.

"(2) Information about how the program is funded, including the amount of expenditures the program received in the previous fiscal year and total amount.

"(3) The amount of reimbursements associated with or anticipated to be associated with the program from another source of funds or another agency, if applicable.

"(4) A description of projects or initiatives associated with the program, including—

"(A) information about when the projects or initiatives were initiated and completed; and

"(B) funding information, to the extent practicable.

"(5) Any additional information, data, or analysis used to determine the information estimated within the report, if applicable.

"(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of General Services.

"(2) EXPENDITURE.—The term 'expenditure' means any obligation of funds from the Acquisition Services Fund for programs referenced in subsection (h)."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this Act shall take effect on the commencement of the first fiscal year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATURNER. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7524, the GSA Technology Accountability Act.

The General Services Administration's Technology and Transformation Services, or TTS, manages several Federal technology projects and initiatives.

These projects and initiatives are mostly funded through two funds—the Citizen Services Fund and the Acquisition Services Fund.

There is little transparency, however, into how money from these funds is allocated and what TTS is doing with its resources.

This bill requires the administrator of GSA to submit an annual report to Congress regarding each program funded by the Citizen Services Fund and some programs funded by the Acquisition Services Fund.

This annual report will include information about funded programs, projects and initiatives, and reimbursements associated with each program.

This bill provides much-needed transparency into TTS programs and technology-related projects.

I thank Representative PETE SESSIONS, chairman of the House Oversight Committee Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce, and Representative GERRY CONNOLLY for their work on this legislation.

I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense bill to increase transparency and provide additional oversight of taxpayer dollars, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the GSA Technology Accountability Act.

I thank my colleagues, Representative COMER and Chairman SESSIONS and their staffs, for their partnership and collaboration on this bill. I am pleased to support the updated form of this bill.

This bill would bring increased transparency to some of the General Services Administration's leading programs that are funded by the Federal Citizens Services Fund and the Federal Acquisition Fund.

As GSA continues to make the technological advancements that allow the

American people to securely access government services, this bill will allow Congress to fulfill its vital oversight responsibilities.

Once again, I thank my colleagues for working with us to address GSA's concerns about the original legislation and ensure that this bill allows for increased transparency without creating unnecessary administrative burdens.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), my friend.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman and friend from Kansas for yielding.

I also thank my colleague from the District of Columbia, representing the minority or the Democratic Party on the Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce, for her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill. It is a bill that we tried to make bipartisan and to include ideas from a number of people that were on the committee.

As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce, we worked together not only holding hearings, but discussing the need for transparency and better technology for projects from the General Services Administration.

As it stands now, the government's internal technology consultancy is mostly opaque in its operation, resulting in the lack of competition and a few instances of serious failures from the GSA's products. Those are products that were developed in-house.

Last year, the GSA Inspector General reported that Login.gov, a GSA product that was intended to be a single-sign-on solution for the Federal Government and government agencies, was intentionally misleading Federal agencies about its technical capabilities and ability to actually authenticate the users.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, as people came in to do business with the government agency, GSA had a front to it that would assuredly tell that agency wherever they were going and with great likelihood exactly who that person was.

This subversion left government websites exposed to fraudulent users and removed a critical barrier for criminals to improperly claim government benefits. In other words, they said that it contained certainty about who that person was that came to them for those agencies then did not need to do further investigation to make sure who was seeking government benefits.

While we do not currently know the total amount of fraud that was committed because Login.gov did not provide adequate system security as it was required and stated that it was prepared to do, we do know that the American taxpayer was on the hook for hundreds of billions of dollars—up to

\$400 billion—in fraud from various COVID relief programs; each of these agencies counting on the person that they were speaking to and in contact with were the correct person.

The central tactic used in this was identity theft. It was fraud.

In order to prevent such fraud in the future, Federal systems must have identity verification capabilities that work.

Instead, the GSA marketed, and Federal agencies paid for, an identity verification system that was either not present or did not work.

It left the door wide open for criminals pretending to be someone else, to steal benefits, to steal information, and otherwise compromise government systems with a false identity.

Last year, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight Subcommittees, which I chair, held a hearing and it was a bipartisan answer that we came up with. It is a problem.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleagues, including the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. CONNOLLY, for his support of this legislation, but certainly back in the committee as we brought this bill forward, it was a bipartisan answer that no matter whose fault it was, it needed to be fixed.

We looked at it, I think, the same way. I am very proud of this committee, and I am very proud of my colleagues, the Democrats, the minority party, for working with us just like it was a part of their responsibility, which it was. I totally support that.

With Login.gov, the Technology Transformation Service failed. Now, we are going to provide the transparency that is required in this bill. I am very proud of this work that was done on a bipartisan basis.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this bipartisan bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1715

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense bill to increase transparency and provide additional oversight of taxpayer dollars.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7524, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ASTRONAUT SAFE TEMPORARY RIDE OPTIONS ACT

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 272) to amend title 31, United

States Code, to authorize transportation for Government astronauts returning from space between their residence and various locations, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 272

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 "Astronaut Safe Temporary Ride Options Act" or the "ASTRO Act".

SEC. 2. TRANSPORTATION OF ASTRONAUTS RETURNING FROM SPACE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1344(a)(2) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "or" at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting "or" after the comma at the end; and

(3) by inserting before the matter following subparagraph (B) the following:

"(C) necessary for post-flight transportation of Government astronauts, and others subject to reimbursable arrangements, returning from space for the performance of medical research, monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment, or other official duties, prior to receiving post-flight medical clearance to operate a motor vehicle,".

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall submit an annual report to Congress on the use of the authority providing transportation under subparagraph (C) of section 1344(a)(2) of title 31, United States Code (as added by subsection (a) of this Act).

(2) CONTENTS.—Any such report shall include the name of any individual who received such transportation, the number of instances such transportation was provided, and the total cost of such transportation for the year preceding the date such report is submitted.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 272, the ASTRO Act.

First of all, let's give respect for the name ASTRO Act. As far as the names of bills go, that ranks way up there as far as the ones I have seen, so high compliments.

This will streamline a burdensome administrative process regarding government-provided transportation for

astronauts returning from space flight. When astronauts return from space travel, NASA provides them with home-to-work transportation so that the agency can monitor, evaluate, diagnose, and provide these brave men and women with medical treatment until they are medically cleared to drive.

Under existing statute, NASA's authorization of this transportation for the astronauts must include concurrent reports to Congress with details about the authorized transportation. Reporting in this manner can be challenging to NASA as it can make it difficult to maintain up-to-date authorizations as crewmembers are replaced or reassigned to different missions.

The ASTRO Act will amend current law to enable NASA to authorize the use of official transportation between residence and worksite without such unworkable reporting requirements. However, the bill maintains appropriate congressional transparency by requiring NASA to provide Congress with an annual report on its use of this new authorization.

I thank the sponsor of the bill, Congressman BABIN, for his work. I also thank the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology for its bipartisan support of this legislation.

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

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

The ASTRO Act would give the Administrator of NASA the authority to allow astronauts returning from space to receive home-to-work transportation from the agency. Such transportation is currently permitted only on a case-by-case basis, and it must be reported to Congress. This bill also requires NASA to report annually to Congress on the use of this authority.

These seem like reasonable changes to me, and I support this bill.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 272, the Astronaut Safe Temporary Ride Options Act, or, for short, the ASTRO Act. As the bill's sponsor, I thank Chairman COMER for his help in getting the bill to the floor.

One of the great honors of serving as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics is having the opportunity to meet our astronauts preparing to go to space and to hear from them after they return from their missions. The ASTRO Act is a result of these conversations and NASA's advocacy for increased astronaut safety.

The brave men and women who wear the iconic blue flight suit risk their lives to advance America's leadership in space. We owe it to them to ensure that when they return from long-duration space missions, their recovery and

health studies are not hampered by bureaucracy.

The space environment poses significant medical issues, such as osteoporosis, muscle atrophy, broken bones from reentry, vision and ocular changes, and disrupted equilibrium, which prevent astronauts from being able to drive when they come back home.

However, NASA astronauts' participation in physiological research and longitudinal studies upon their return from space informs future exploration efforts and how we treat future astronauts. It is imperative that they get these things checked.

The ASTRO Act streamlines the approval process for astronauts to receive transportation to and from their homes and the Johnson Space Center for doctor visits until they are medically cleared to resume driving. There are no costs associated with this bill but, rather, a significant paperwork reduction in the approval process.

Additionally, my bill provides transparency by requiring NASA to send an annual report to Congress on how this authority is used in the future.

Astronauts' health data acquired by the Johnson Space Center upon return from space is invaluable. This bill ensures hassle-free transportation to and from these important medical evaluations so that we can appropriately study the impacts of space exploration on the human body.

As we prepare to go to the Moon and farther to Mars and beyond, it is incumbent upon us to streamline operations to enable discovery and innovation. America has long been the leader in space exploration, and we must remain there. We will continue to push the bounds of our universe outward.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman JEFF JACKSON for cosponsoring this legislation bipartisanly as well as Chairman COMER and Chairman LUCAS for their support. I urge my colleagues to please support this bill.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, while it may sound like a mundane problem, the underlying need for this bill is anything but that. We owe it to these courageous men and women who leave behind families and friends to spend months in space to cut through the red tape and take care of them upon their return.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 272.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO USE MEDICAL ASSISTIVE COMMUNICATION DEVICE DURING CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3354

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XVII, during consideration of H.R. 3354, Representative WEXTON of Virginia be permitted to use a medical assistive communication device while under recognition.

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

There was no objection.

SECRETARY OF STATE MADELEINE ALBRIGHT POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3354) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 North Hatcher Avenue in Purcellville, Virginia, as the "Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3354

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

SECTION 1. SECRETARY OF STATE MADELEINE ALBRIGHT POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 North Hatcher Avenue in Purcellville, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the "Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Post Office Building".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATURNER. 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 measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would name a post office in Purcellville, Virginia, for former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Secretary Albright was born in Prague in 1937 and immigrated to the United States with her family in 1948.

In 1993, President Clinton appointed her Ambassador to the United Nations,

a position in which she served until her appointment as Secretary of State in 1996, the first woman to be appointed to that position and the highest ranking woman in the history of the U.S. Government at that time.

For 50 years, Secretary Albright resided in Loudoun County, where this post office is located.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3354 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 North Hatcher Avenue in Purcellville, Virginia, as the Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Post Office Building.

This legislation, introduced by my tremendous colleague, Representative JENNIFER WEXTON of Virginia, would designate a post office after former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Secretary Albright fled Communist rule under Czechoslovakia and immigrated to Denver, Colorado, in 1948. She committed herself to a life of public service, including working for the U.S. Senate under then-Senator Edmund Muskie, and later served the Carter administration as a White House staff member and a staffer of the National Security Council.

Secretary Albright was appointed by President Clinton as Ambassador to the United Nations in 1993 and was a critical force behind the expansion of NATO "to build, for the very first time, a peaceful, democratic, and undivided transatlantic community." She was committed to the democratization and security of European nations that escaped Soviet rule.

Secretary Albright is remembered as an important force behind the global fight against climate change, including by supporting the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, an international treaty to fight global climate change. This protocol was eventually adopted in 1997.

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

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, last year, I was diagnosed with progressive supranuclear palsy, or PSP. PSP makes it very difficult for me to speak, and I use an assistive app so that you and our colleagues can understand me.

I am proud to be here today speaking in support of my bill to rename the Purcellville, Virginia, post office in honor of my former constituent, the late Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who chose not to have her mail delivered to her rural western Loudoun County farm but instead became a fixture at the post office that will bear her name.

Secretary Albright was a fearless trailblazer for women and a devoted public servant who touched the lives of so many whom she taught, mentored, and worked with, including me. Her re-

lentless defense of democracy and advocacy for human rights, inspired by her own lived experience fleeing Nazi persecution, made her an icon here at home and around the globe.

It is my honor to lead this legislation to celebrate her historic life and legacy here in Virginia's 10th Congressional District, where her farm is located and where she spent as much time as she was able.

Secretary Albright once said the greatest honor of her life was representing the United States of America, a sentiment I am sure we all share as Members of the House of Representatives.

Throughout her life, Secretary Albright received numerous accolades and awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012. I am honored that the Virginia delegation and I can bestow this posthumous honor on Secretary Albright and her family and help ensure that her legacy continues to live on in Virginia for generations to come.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this measure.

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

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill honoring an American leader. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3354.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1730

LUKE LETLOW POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7423) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Benedette Street in Rayville, Louisiana, as the "Luke Letlow Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7423

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

SECTION 1. LUKE LETLOW POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Benedette Street in Rayville, Louisiana, shall be known and designated as the "Luke Letlow Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Luke Letlow Post Office Building”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATURNER. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would name a post office in Rayville, Louisiana, for Congressman-elect Luke Letlow.

Letlow was a native Louisianan who attended Louisiana Tech University, where he was a member of the Louisiana Tech College Republicans and the Louisiana Federation of College Republicans.

As a young college graduate, Letlow was a staff member for former Congressmen John Cooksey and Ralph Abraham as well as Governor Bobby Jindal.

In 2020, Letlow launched a successful bid for Louisiana’s Fifth Congressional District seat. He was set to be sworn in to the United States House of Representatives on January 3, 2021. Sadly, he passed away from complications due to COVID-19 on December 29, 2020.

I support naming a post office in memory of Congressman-elect Letlow, and I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

I would say on a personal note that I consider it a loss to me and to my colleagues to not have the opportunity to serve with Mr. Letlow. We would have been sworn in to Congress on the exact same day.

I am grateful, however, to get to serve alongside his wife, JULIA, and to get to experience him through her memories of him, and their two beautiful children, Jeremiah and Jacqueline.

I am honored to have the opportunity to manage the Republican time on this bill today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7423, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Benedette Street in Rayville, Louisiana, as the Luke Letlow Post Office Building.

Congressman-elect Luke Letlow was poised to represent Louisiana’s Fifth

Legislative District after winning the special election seat when he tragically passed away from complications of COVID on December 29, 2020.

He is remembered by his congressional colleagues for his staunch commitment to public service. I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Congressman-elect Letlow by naming the post office in Rayville, Louisiana, after him.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Louisiana (Ms. LETLOW).

Ms. LETLOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for this bill and also to express to the House the heartfelt gratitude of Luke’s family, his friends, and all who loved him.

My husband was someone I knew to be a truly exceptional and gifted individual. Luke’s purpose was always driven by people, and his passion was public service. Luke was the kind of person who would meet a stranger and just a few minutes later could walk away, having established an enduring friendship with them.

Mr. Speaker, I can’t even begin to count the number of people who called, texted, emailed, or wrote me letters in the days after we lost Luke telling me how he had touched their lives.

Throughout his career, I saw so many times when he would spend hours on the phone talking to local mayors and police jurors about the problems in their communities, showing them the same care and attention that he would give if it had been the Governor of Louisiana or the Speaker of the House on the other end of the line.

As I travel the Fifth District to this day, I still meet many of those same people who fondly remember those times that he helped them.

What was different about Luke and one of the incredible things that set him apart was the fact that his mind was like an atlas, encyclopedia, and historical narrative of our little corner of northeast Louisiana. He not only knew the people and their concerns, but he knew their stories.

He could drive through those little, small towns all over our region and show you where Ulysses Grant and his troops had prepared for the attack on Vicksburg, where Theodore Roosevelt had gone hunting for the famous black bear, and where Huey and Earl Long played as young brothers and later campaigned for votes as Governors.

There is no place that Luke loved more than his own Richland Parish, the home of the Letlow family for eight generations. His story was deeply rooted in the fertile soil of the delta, which gave name to his pet project, Richland Roots, a website he created to tell the stories of Richland Parish and its rich history.

He would spend countless hours researching the past of the towns and villages of the parish, the landmarks, the

churches and, yes, even the post offices. You see, Luke understood that all over Richland Parish there were these little pieces of the past that were left with us, containing both the stories and the lessons from those who came before us. Now he will receive his very own landmark, a little piece of Richland Parish to help tell his story.

It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that one day another history-loving kid from Richland Parish will see that post office and learn about Luke’s story.

I hope they will learn about how his journey took him from the back roads and small towns of northeast Louisiana to the corridors of the United States Capitol in Washington.

I hope they will learn about how he dedicated himself to the people of our region, working every single day to make their lives better.

I hope they will learn about the fact that even though he was never able to serve as a Member of this House, the men and women who served here thought so highly of him that they bestowed this high honor.

Mr. Speaker, when Luke’s light would shine on you, it was impossible to feel anything other than his warmth and love. He had a way of making you feel exceptional, and I know that to be true for every person in his life. It is what I miss the most.

Luke may be gone, but his light will never leave us. I see it every day in the faces of our children: our son, Jeremiah, and our daughter, Jacqueline. I see it every time I go home and drive those back roads in Richland Parish and see the places that he loved so much.

By bestowing this honor on him, you are ensuring that his name and his legacy will live on long after all of us are gone. I ask my colleagues to join our majority leader and our Louisiana delegation in supporting this bill on behalf of Luke’s family and his friends and all who loved him.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), our majority leader.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Kansas for yielding. Especially having JULIA LETLOW, our colleague, here, it is bittersweet for us in the Louisiana delegation, for all of us in Congress, those of us who knew Luke—I got to know him so well over so many years—and those who didn’t know him but were getting ready to serve with him. He literally passed away days before getting sworn in after being elected as a Member of Congress.

It is Luke’s journey. It is Luke’s story that we are here to celebrate today and ultimately which will live on at the Luke Letlow Post Office in Rayville, his hometown. He was born in Start, Louisiana, in Richland Parish, and it is there in Richland Parish that this post office that we are dedicating is, hopefully, going to be enjoying a

formal ceremony with all of us and the whole family.

When I think of how I first met Luke, it was when he was working for Bobby Jindal. As Julia said so eloquently, Luke's whole life was dedicated to public service. When he graduated, he immediately was an intern for Congressman Cooksey and came up here. I think that was when he probably got the bug a little bit.

He ultimately got the bug to serve other people. Luke did it so well. He served other people with joy in so many different roles. After he worked for Congressman Cooksey, he then worked for candidate Bobby Jindal. That is when I got to know him.

There was no harder worker than Luke Letlow, but also no happier person. He was always happy, always had a smile. He always just wanted to do the best he could. "Win the day" was Luke's term, and he would just work incredibly hard for whoever he worked for.

Bobby ultimately won that seat in Congress, and Luke became his district director. The district director is the person who covers the district, does so many of the unheralded things that those of us Members of Congress deal with and the people who call us. We just call our district director and say: Can you take care of this, and can you see if we can help that person out? That was really where Luke thrived the most.

Then, ultimately, he went into the private sector but was called back yet again when Ralph Abraham ran for Congress, and Luke served as his chief of staff. Ralph had set a term limit on himself, and when the term limit hit, Ralph stepped down from Congress. At that point, that is when Luke made the decision: Here is my moment. Do I do this? Ultimately, he decided to run.

I remember, he and I spoke when he chose to get into the race as a candidate. I knew he was going to do well. I could just tell because he was a natural. He was a natural with people. He actually cared about people. It is hard to be in this line of work without caring about people. He had done it in so many roles for so many other people. Finally, when it was time to run himself, he did it with the fervor that you would expect. He never slowed down. Every single day he worked so hard.

I know for those of us who have gotten to know Julia so well, the family is what always came first to Luke. He wanted to be known really first as a husband and a father, and he did both of those jobs incredibly well; exceeded, I am sure, what anybody would have expected.

The legacy that I think we all really remember of Luke here is that of a public servant. When you hear all of the things that he did in his life, he was somebody who just wanted to serve other people, and he did it so well.

I think the hardest part for me is after he had gotten elected, we talked a lot because he was so eager to get

ready for this new role, this new career, to come up to Congress and do something that he had thought about doing for so long, a role he had played helping so many other people who served in Congress, but now this was the time where he was going to start his new career.

He was talking about what committees he wanted to get on. In fact, you know, in the days before he passed, the last conversation I had with him was about him talking to me about what committees he wanted to be on and how he wanted to best serve that district and all of the parishes. It was a very large, sprawling district, and yet he couldn't wait to serve in that capacity. That was the conversation that we had.

You never thought someone so young and so vibrant could leave us so early. I tell you, for Julia, we are all so proud of her and just the strength that she has shown in these years since. We call Julia our steel magnolia because she has represented the family incredibly well. She has represented Luke's legacy incredibly well because while he never got the opportunity to serve as a Member of Congress, he served. He served the State of Louisiana, and he served the United States of America in so many different roles.

□ 1745

I consider him a colleague because we talked about what that would be like so much, and I just think this is one way we can pay tribute to Luke's legacy of service, to name this post office so that people, when they are carrying out their daily chores and going to check their mail or send an important note to somebody, they can just look up and think about what Luke meant and what they meant to Luke because he really did care about the people that ultimately he worked for and that he was going to represent in Congress.

I say this on behalf of the whole delegation, and I know others are going to be speaking as well, the legacy of Luke Letlow will shine on for a long, long time.

It is what he represented and that spirit, that strong, positive energy every single day to win the day, is what I will always remember about Luke Letlow.

I urge all of my colleagues to pass this bill and look forward to that ceremony where we get to truly be in front of the whole family, paying tribute to a man who lived a life of public service.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor and privilege to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON), the Speaker of the House.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today in support of H.R. 7423, a bill to designate the United States Post Office in Rayville, Louisiana, after our dear friend and our former

Louisiana Fifth District Congressman, Luke Letlow.

In December of 2020, Luke tragically passed away just days before taking his oath of office and serving here with us in Congress.

We were all devastated. He was in the prime of his life, 41 years old, with two beautiful children and a lovely wife, JULIA, who is one of Kelly's and my favorite people in the world.

He had spent his entire professional career serving the people of Louisiana in the Governor's office and our congressional delegation.

There was no greater ambassador of Louisiana culture and values, and I have no doubt he would have been a leading Member of our delegation and of Congress.

Luke was a native son of Start, Louisiana, a town of just a few hundred people nestled outside of Monroe in northeast Louisiana, and it was there that he developed what was truly a servant's heart.

He had a peaceful, easygoing nature. Everybody loved him. Whoever held his attention was the most important person in the world at that moment.

Luke listened first, and then he acted—a quality this town could use a lot more of. He was passionate about Louisiana, about our issues like agriculture and energy and, more than anything else, his beautiful family.

I don't remember having many conversations with Luke that did not involve his family because he was so proud of them.

I know he is smiling down upon his wife, JULIA, our extraordinary colleague who has been such a tremendous asset to this institution and a great champion for our State.

Their two beautiful children, Jeremiah and Jacqueline, who have become fixtures around here, are blessed to have incredible role models as parents.

I am grateful to our entire Louisiana delegation for joining together in this effort, and I am grateful for the idea that we have had here. I am grateful for the comfort of knowing where he is.

By passing this legislation, the Rayville community will continue to honor the life and legacy of a great American and a great Louisianian. I look forward to its swift passage.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding time. I had prepared remarks, but let me just speak from my heart.

It is a beautiful gesture that this body can name a post office after our friend and colleague, Luke Letlow, in honor of his service and his dedication to his State and his community and his country, to children of God across the world.

Luke was a very special man. It is a gesture to the American families from sea to shining sea, which has suffered loss, including my own.

Today, we stand in support of the love of family, and we extend the heart

of our Nation by naming one of our oldest institutions, a microcosm of what America is, the Postal Service.

To name a post office after Luke is to honor not just his family and his wife, our colleague, JULIA, but it is to honor all American families.

I thank my brothers and sisters of this august body for allowing this moment where we cherish what it is to be an American, to serve our country and our fellow man, to be part of a family, and to remember those that we have lost.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for his comments. I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I urge the passage of H.R. 7423, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, which rightly honors the life and legacy of a great man, Congressman-elect Luke Letlow.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7423.

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

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

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass: H.R. 7219, as amended; and H.R. 7525.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant

to clause 9 of rule XX, the second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

INFORMATION QUALITY ASSURANCE 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. 7219) to ensure that Federal agencies rely on the best reasonably available scientific, technical, demographic, economic, and statistical information and evidence to develop, issue or inform the public of the nature and bases of Federal agency rules and guidance, 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 Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 377, nays 4, not voting 48, as follows:

[Roll No. 177] YEAS—377

Adams	Cherfilus	Fletcher
Aderholt	McCormick	Flood
Aguilar	Chu	Foster
Alford	Ciscomani	Fox
Allen	Clark (MA)	Frankel, Lois
Allred	Clarke (NY)	Franklin, Scott
Amo	Cline	Frost
Amodei	Cloud	Fry
Armstrong	Clyburn	Fulcher
Arrington	Clyde	Gaetz
Auchincloss	Cohen	Garamendi
Babin	Cole	Garbarino
Bacon	Collins	Garcia (IL)
Balderson	Comer	Garcia, Mike
Balint	Connolly	Garcia, Robert
Barr	Correa	Gimenez
Barragán	Costa	Golden (ME)
Bean (FL)	Courtney	Gonzales, Tony
Beatty	Craig	Gonzalez,
Bentz	Crane	Vicente
Bera	Crawford	Good (VA)
Bergman	Crockett	Gooden (TX)
Beyer	Curtis	Gosar
Bice	D'Esposito	Gottheimer
Biggs	Dauids (KS)	Graves (MO)
Bilirakis	Davidson	Green (TN)
Bishop (GA)	Davis (NC)	Green, Al (TX)
Bishop (NC)	De La Cruz	Greene (GA)
Blumenauer	Dean (PA)	Griffith
Boebert	DeGette	Grothman
Bonamici	DeLauro	Guest
Bost	DelBene	Guthrie
Bowman	Deluzio	Harder (CA)
Boyle (PA)	DeSaulnier	Harshbarger
Brown	DesJarlais	Hayes
Brownley	Diaz-Balart	Hern
Bucshon	Dingell	Higgins (LA)
Budzinski	Doggett	Hill
Burchett	Donalds	Himes
Burgess	Duarte	Hinson
Burlison	Duncan	Horsford
Bush	Dunn (FL)	Houchin
Calvert	Edwards	Houlahan
Cammack	Ellzey	Hoyle (OR)
Caraveo	Emmer	Hudson
Carbajal	Escobar	Huffman
Cárdenas	Eshoo	Huizenga
Carey	Espallat	Issa
Carl	Evans	Ivey
Carter (GA)	Ezell	Jackson (IL)
Cartwright	Fallon	Jackson (NC)
Casar	Feenstra	Jackson (TX)
Case	Finstad	Jacobs
Casten	Fischbach	James
Castor (FL)	Fitzgerald	Jayapal
Castro (TX)	Fitzpatrick	Jeffries
Chavez-DeRemer	Fleischmann	Johnson (GA)

Johnson (LA)	Moore (UT)	Sherrill
Johnson (SD)	Moore (WI)	Simpson
Jordan	Moran	Slotkin
Joyce (OH)	Morelle	Smith (MO)
Joyce (PA)	Moskowitz	Smith (NE)
Kamlager-Dove	Mrvan	Smith (NJ)
Kaptur	Mullin	Smith (WA)
Kean (NJ)	Murphy	Smucker
Keating	Nadler	Sorensen
Kelly (IL)	Napolitano	Soto
Kelly (MS)	Neal	Spanberger
Kelly (PA)	Neguse	Stansbury
Khanna	Nehls	Stanton
Kiggans (VA)	Newhouse	Stauber
Kildee	Nickel	Steel
Kiley	Norcross	Stefanik
Kilmer	Norman	Steil
Kim (CA)	Nunn (IA)	Steube
Krishnamoorthi	Obenolte	Stevens
Kuster	Ocasio-Cortez	Strickland
Kustoff	Ogles	Strong
LaHood	Omar	Suozi
LaLota	Owens	Swalwell
Langworthy	Pallone	Sykes
Larsen (WA)	Palmer	Takano
Larson (CT)	Panetta	Tenney
Latta	Pappas	Thanedar
LaTurner	Pascrell	Thompson (MS)
Lawler	Pelosi	Thompson (PA)
Lee (FL)	Peltola	Tiffany
Lee (NV)	Perez	Timmons
Lee (PA)	Perry	Tlaib
Leger Fernandez	Peters	Tokuda
Lesko	Pettersen	Tonko
Letlow	Pfuger	Torres (CA)
Levin	Pingree	Torres (NY)
Lieu	Pocan	Trahan
Lofgren	Porter	Trone
Loudermilk	Posey	Turner
Lucas	Pressley	Underwood
Luetkemeyer	Quigley	Valadao
Luna	Ramirez	Van Drew
Mace	Raskin	Van Deyne
Malliotakis	Reschenthaler	Van Orden
Maloy	Rodgers (WA)	Vargas
Mann	Rogers (AL)	Vasquez
Manning	Rogers (KY)	Veasey
Massie	Rose	Velázquez
Mast	Ross	Wagner
Matsui	Rouzer	Walberg
McBath	Ruiz	Waltz
McCaul	Ruppersberger	Wasserman
McClain	Rutherford	Schultz
McClellan	Ryan	Waters
McClintock	Salazar	Watson Coleman
McCollum	Salinas	Weber (TX)
McCormick	Sánchez	Webster (FL)
McGarvey	Scalise	Wenstrup
McGovern	Scanlon	Westerman
Meeks	Schakowsky	Schneider
Menendez	Scholten	Wild
Meuser	Schrier	Williams (GA)
Miller (IL)	Schweikert	Williams (NY)
Miller (OH)	Scott (VA)	Williams (TX)
Miller (WV)	Scott, Austin	Wilson (FL)
Miller-Meeks	Scott, David	Wittman
Mills	Sessions	Womack
Molinaro	Sewell	Yakym
Moolenaar	Sherman	Zinke
Moore (AL)		

NAYS—4

Brecheen	Roy
Rosendale	Self

NOT VOTING—48

Baird	Garcia (TX)	Luttrell
Banks	Goldman (NY)	Lynch
Blunt Rochester	Gomez	Magaziner
Buchanan	Granger	McHenry
Carson	Graves (LA)	Meng
Carter (LA)	Grijalva	Mfume
Carter (TX)	Hageman	Mooney
Cleaver	Harris	Moulton
Crenshaw	Hoyer	Pence
Crow	Hunt	Phillips
Cuellar	Jackson Lee	Sarbanes
Davis (IL)	Kim (NJ)	Schiff
Estes	LaMalfa	Spartz
Ferguson	Lamborn	Thompson (CA)
Foushee	Landsman	Titus
Gallego	Lee (CA)	Wilson (SC)

□ 1859

Mr. BURLISON changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

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.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 1, 2024.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter received from Ms. Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky and Mr. Raymond J. Riley, III, Co-Executive Directors, New York State Board of Elections, indicating that, according to the unofficial results for the Special Election held on April 30, 2024, the Honorable Timothy M. Kennedy was elected for Representative to Congress for the Twenty-Sixth Congressional District of New York.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. McCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

Enclosure.

NEW YORK STATE
BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Albany, NY, May 1, 2024.

Hon. Kevin F. McCumber,
Acting Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC

DEAR MR. McCUMBER: This is to advise you that the unofficial results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, for Representative in Congress from the Twenty-Sixth Congressional District of New York, show that Timothy M. Kennedy received 46,527 or 68.04% of the total number of votes cast for that office.

It would appear from these unofficial results that Timothy M. Kennedy was elected as Representative in Congress from the Twenty-Sixth Congressional District of New York.

To the best of our knowledge and belief at this time, there is no contest to this election.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by the Erie County Board of Elections and the Niagara County Board of Elections, representing all jurisdictions involved, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Sincerely,

KRISTEN ZEBROWSKI
STAVISKY,
Co-Executive Director.
RAYMOND J. RILEY, III,
Co-Executive Director.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE
TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY, OF NEW
YORK, AS A MEMBER OF THE
HOUSE

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from New York, the Honorable TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

His certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the Representative-elect and the members of the New York delegation present themselves in the well.

All Members will rise and the Representative-elect will please raise his right hand.

Mr. KENNEDY appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 118th Congress.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE
TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY TO THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, as dean of the New York delegation, it is my distinct honor to rise today to introduce Congressman-elect TIM KENNEDY.

I can think of no better person to represent New York's 26th Congressional District and succeed our friend Brian Higgins than TIM KENNEDY. As a lifelong resident of Buffalo who grew up in a blue-collar family, TIM embodies the values of hard work, family, and fighting for the little guy that makes western New York so great.

As a New York State senator for over 13 years, TIM has been a formidable advocate for our region. As chair of the New York Senate Transportation Committee, he secured a historic \$100 million for the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, helped deliver record investment for our roads and transportation networks, and spearheaded legislation enhancing transportation safety and accountability.

Beyond transportation, TIM has been a long-time champion for western New York's workforce and economic development, which is evidenced through his support for the Northland Workforce Center and the revitalization of Buffalo's iconic Central Terminal.

As he steps into his new role, I speak on behalf of the entire New York congressional delegation, and we are confident that TIM KENNEDY will continue to fight tirelessly for the prosperity and safety of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY), our newest Member.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman NADLER, my colleagues in the New York delegation, Mr. Speaker, and Leader JEFFRIES.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you humbled by the opportunity God has given us to be together in this moment, this awesome and magnificent responsibility that has been granted to me by the people of western New York.

I am grateful to those who have entrusted me with their vote and their confidence to represent our beloved Buffalo-Niagara region in the United States Congress.

I want to take a moment to recognize my family, who is here with me, my wife, Katie, and our children, Connor, Eireann, and Padraic. I also want to recognize my parents, Martin and Mary Kennedy, and my in-laws, Dave and Jane Duerk. My brother, John, also made the visit down, along with many other family members and friends. I am grateful that they can all join us here today.

Looking down on us are our baby angel, Brigid, along with so many other family members and friends who have passed on and whose spirits remain with us here today on this auspicious occasion. They are no doubt toasting and celebrating in Heaven above.

Calling Buffalo, New York, and America home were the O'Briens and O'Donohues, Wilsons and Flynn, Dobmeirs and Stearns, McCarthys and Duffys. Mixed all together, the result is a Kennedy.

I hail from the City of Good Neighbors, the community of good neighbors; the original home of the Seneca Nation of Indians; the village of Buffalo, burned to the ground by the British in the War of 1812, and rebuilt and incorporated in 1832; the western terminus of the Erie Canal, helping to transform our Nation through improved commerce; a border community with our greatest ally, Canada, to the north; a region surrounded by Great Lakes; and, in between, one of the greatest wonders of the world, Niagara Falls. The grandeur of the falls is only surpassed by the people who have defined the region around us.

Today, we stand as a community of patriotic citizens who have always championed democracy and freedom, from the days of serving as a final stop on the Underground Railroad to the Niagara Movement, the precursor of the NAACP, which was formed in our community. The equality and justice these leaders strove for over a century ago has yet to be fully achieved, and there is still so much more work to be done.

In Buffalo-Niagara, we walk in the footsteps of Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mary Talbert, Shirley Chisholm, and so many other civil rights leaders. In their spirit, we march on.

It was Niagara Falls that made Buffalo the City of Light. While we have seen our share of darkness, Buffalo is seeing a resurgence that generations

only dreamt of, as a melting pot of ethnicities and cultures are helping to redefine our region and an economic renaissance has taken hold. We are a working-class community with a belief in achieving a better life and the American Dream through education; honest, hard work; and perseverance.

I believe the character traits that define us in the Buffalo-Niagara region are the same ideals held by all Americans. I believe the hope we hold as a western New York community in achieving our greatest potential is shared equally by all communities across our country.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to change our country for the better. I am hopeful that we in this Chamber can demonstrate leadership on a world stage that our fellow Americans can be proud of.

I wish to thank, once again, the people of western New York for having faith in me to lead our community and our country in the United States Congress.

God bless us all. God bless America.

□ 1915

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath of office to the gentleman from New York, the whole number of the House is 430.

SPECIAL DISTRICT GRANT ACCESSIBILITY ACT

The SPEAKER. 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. 7525) to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance to agencies requiring special districts to be recognized as local government for the purpose of Federal financial assistance determinations, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 352, nays 27, not voting 51, as follows:

[Roll No. 178]

YEAS—352

Adams	Balint	Bonamici
Aderholt	Barr	Bost
Aguilar	Barragán	Bowman
Alford	Bean (FL)	Boyle (PA)
Allen	Beatty	Brown
Allred	Bentz	Brownley
Amo	Bera	Bucshon
Amodei	Bergman	Budzinski
Armstrong	Beyer	Burgess
Arrington	Bice	Burlison
Auchincloss	Bilirakis	Bush
Babin	Bishop (GA)	Calvert
Bacon	Bishop (NC)	Caraveo
Balderson	Blumenauer	Carbajal

Cárdenas	Hudson	Palmer
Carey	Huffman	Panetta
Carl	Huizenga	Pappas
Cartter (GA)	Issa	Pascrell
Cartwright	Ivey	Pelosi
Casar	Jackson (IL)	Peltola
Case	Jackson (NC)	Perez
Casten	Jackson (TX)	Peters
Castor (FL)	Jacobs	Petterson
Castro (TX)	Jayapal	Pfluger
Chavez-DeRemer	Jeffries	Pingree
Cherfilus-	Johnson (GA)	Pocan
McCormick	Johnson (LA)	Porter
Chu	Johnson (SD)	Posey
Ciscomani	Joyce (OH)	Pressley
Clark (MA)	Joyce (PA)	Quigley
Clarke (NY)	Kamllager-Dove	Ramirez
Clyburn	Kaptur	Raskin
Cohen	Kean (NJ)	Reschenthaler
Cole	Keating	Rodgers (WA)
Comer	Kelly (IL)	Rogers (AL)
Connolly	Kelly (MS)	Rogers (KY)
Correa	Kelly (PA)	Rose
Costa	Kennedy	Ross
Courtney	Khanna	Rouzer
Craig	Kiggans (VA)	Ruiz
Crawford	Kildee	Ruppersberger
Crockett	Kiley	Rutherford
Curtis	Kilmer	Ryan
D'Esposito	Kim (CA)	Salazar
Davids (KS)	Krishnamoorthi	Salinas
Davis (NC)	Kuster	Sánchez
De La Cruz	Kustoff	Scalise
Dean (PA)	LaHood	Scanlon
DeGette	LaLota	Schakowsky
DeLauro	Langworthy	Schneider
DelBene	Larsen (WA)	Scholten
Deluzio	Larson (CT)	Schrier
DeSaulnier	Latta	Schweikert
DesJarlais	LaTurner	Scott (VA)
Diaz-Balart	Lawler	Scott, Austin
Dingell	Lee (FL)	Scott, David
Doggett	Lee (NV)	Self
Duarte	Lee (PA)	Sessions
Duncan	Leger Fernandez	Sewell
Dunn (FL)	Levin	Sherman
Edwards	Lieu	Sherrill
Ellzey	Lofgren	Simpson
Emmer	Loudermilk	Slotkin
Escobar	Lucas	Smith (MO)
Eshoo	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NE)
Españolat	Luna	Smith (NJ)
Evans	Mace	Smith (WA)
Ezell	Malliotakis	Smucker
Fallon	Maloy	Sorensen
Feenstra	Mann	Soto
Finstad	Manning	Spanberger
Fischbach	Mast	Stansbury
Fitzgerald	Matsui	Stanton
Fitzpatrick	McBath	Stauber
Fleischmann	McCaul	Steel
Fletcher	McClain	Stefanik
Flood	McClellan	Steil
Foster	McClintock	Steube
Fox	McCollum	Stevens
Frankel, Lois	McCormick	Strickland
Franklin, Scott	McGarvey	Strong
Frost	McGovern	Suozzi
Fry	Meeks	Swalwell
Fulcher	Menendez	Sykes
Garamendi	Meuser	Takano
Garbarino	Miller (IL)	Tenney
García (IL)	Miller (OH)	Thanedar
García, Mike	Miller (WV)	Thompson (MS)
García, Robert	Miller-Meeks	Thompson (PA)
Jimenez	Molinaro	Tiffany
Golden (ME)	Moolenaar	Timmons
Gonzales, Tony	Moore (UT)	Tlaib
Gonzalez,	Moore (WI)	Tokuda
Vicente	Moran	Tonko
Gottheimer	Morelle	Torres (CA)
Graves (MO)	Moskowitz	Torres (NY)
Green (TN)	Mrvan	Trahan
Green, Al (TX)	Mullin	Trone
Griffith	Murphy	Turner
Grothman	Nadler	Underwood
Guest	Napolitano	Valadao
Guthrie	Neal	Van Drew
Harder (CA)	Neguse	Van Deyne
Harshbarger	Nehls	Van Orden
Hayes	Newhouse	Vargas
Higgins (LA)	Nickel	Vasquez
Hill	Norcross	Veasey
Hines	Nunn (IA)	Velázquez
Hinson	Obermole	Wagner
Horsford	Ocasio-Cortez	Walberg
Houchin	Omar	Waltz
Houlihan	Owens	Wasserman
Hoyle (OR)	Pallone	Schultz

Waters	Wexton	Wittman
Watson Coleman	Wild	Womack
Weber (TX)	Williams (GA)	Yakym
Webster (FL)	Williams (NY)	Zinke
Wenstrup	Williams (TX)	
Westerman	Wilson (FL)	

NAYS—27

Biggs	Crane	Lesko
Boebert	Davidson	Massie
Brecheen	Donalds	Mills
Burchett	Gaetz	Moore (AL)
Cammack	Good (VA)	Norman
Cline	Gosar	Ogles
Cloud	Greene (GA)	Perry
Clyde	Hern	Rosendale
Collins	Jordan	Roy

NOT VOTING—51

Baird	Goldman (NY)	Letlow
Banks	Gomez	Luttrell
Blunt Rochester	Gooden (TX)	Lynch
Buchanan	Granger	Magaziner
Carson	Graves (LA)	McHenry
Carter (LA)	Grijalva	Meng
Carter (TX)	Hageman	Mfume
Cleaver	Harris	Mooney
Crenshaw	Hoyer	Moulton
Crow	Hunt	Pence
Cuellar	Jackson Lee	Phillips
Davis (IL)	James	Sarbanes
Estes	Kim (NJ)	Schiff
Ferguson	LaMalfa	Spartz
Foushee	Lamborn	Thompson (CA)
Gallego	Landsman	Titus
García (TX)	Lee (CA)	Wilson (SC)

□ 1919

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

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the floor and the roll call votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 177 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 7219, and YEA on Roll Call No. 178 on the Motion to suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 7525.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, due to events in California, I was unfortunately unable to cast my vote for legislation considered on the House floor today.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on roll call No. 177, H.R. 7219—Information Quality Assurance Act; and YEA on roll call No. 178, H.R. 7525—Special District Grant Accessibility Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, due to a district commitment, I was unable to cast two votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 177, suspend the rules and pass H.R. 7219—Information Quality Assurance Act; and YEA on Roll Call No. 178, suspend the rules and pass H.R. 7525—Special District Grant Accessibility Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, for personal reasons, I was unable to make votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 177 and YEA on Roll Call No. 178.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 177 and YEA on Roll Call No. 178.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I was unable to vote on the two bills considered under suspension of the rules today. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted YEA on roll call No. 177, H.R. 7219—Information Quality Assurance Act and YEA on roll call No. 178, H.R. 7525—Special District Grant Accessibility Act.

ESTABLISHING THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES FOR THE INAUGURATION OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT AND VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE UNITED STATES ON JANUARY 20, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 34) establishing the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies for the inauguration of the President-elect and Vice President-elect of the United States on January 20, 2025, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEAN of Florida). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 34

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT COMMITTEE.

There is established a Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (in this resolution referred to as the "joint committee") consisting of 3 Senators and 3 Members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively. The joint committee is authorized to make the necessary arrangements for the inauguration of the President-elect and Vice President-elect of the United States on January 20, 2025.

SEC. 2. SUPPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE.

The joint committee—

(1) is authorized to utilize appropriate equipment and the services of appropriate personnel of departments and agencies of the Federal Government, under arrangements between the joint committee and the heads of those departments and agencies, in connection with the inaugural proceedings and ceremonies; and

(2) may accept gifts and donations of goods and services to carry out its responsibilities.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA AND EMANCIPATION HALL OF THE CAPITOL BY THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROCEEDINGS AND CEREMONIES CONDUCTED FOR THE INAUGURATION OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT AND THE VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 35) authorizing the use of the rotunda and Emancipation Hall of the Capitol by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies conducted for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 35

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE ROTUNDA AND EMANCIPATION HALL OF THE CAPITOL.

The rotunda and Emancipation Hall of the Capitol are authorized to be used on January 20, 2025, by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies conducted for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF SERGEANT BILL HOOSER

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today with a heavy heart as I mourn the loss of a true American hero, Sergeant Bill Hooser.

In the line of duty, Sergeant Hooser demonstrated unparalleled courage and commitment to serving our community. His dedication to protecting and serving the people of Santaquin, Utah, was unwavering. Yet, his life was cut short in a senseless act of violence, a tragedy that took him from us far too soon.

Sergeant Hooser's sacrifice serves as a stark reminder of the dangers our law enforcement officers face each and every day. They put their lives on the line to keep us safe, to uphold justice, and to maintain law and order. Sergeant Hooser exemplified the very best of that high and noble calling.

Let's remember his bravery, integrity, and selflessness. We owe it to Sergeant Hooser, his family, and all those who wear the uniform to ensure that their sacrifices are never forgotten. We must stand together as Utahns and as Americans in support of our law enforcement officers.

May God bless Sergeant Hooser. May He comfort his family in their time of grief, and may He watch over all those who continue to serve on the front lines of law enforcement.

I ask that the House observe a moment of silence.

ONE MISSING PERSON IS TOO MANY

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, this May is National Missing Persons Month. Over 600,000 people go missing in the United States every year. Tens of thousands of these folks remain missing every year.

Law enforcement officers work hard to solve these cases as quickly as possible. I thank them for all they do to find these people and try to ensure their safety.

Congress should do everything it can, though, to help the men and women in law enforcement do their jobs and bring these people home.

That is why I joined Congressman JOE NEGUSE in leading a bipartisan bill to improve reporting requirements for individuals who go missing on public lands.

This bill, called the TRACE Act, enhances reporting requirements of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System so investigators across multiple agencies have access to all the important information to catch criminals behind people's disappearances.

No missing persons case should go unsolved just because investigators couldn't easily access the information they need. Improving the way our agencies record and share case details could save lives.

Mr. Speaker, 600,000 missing persons is too many. One missing person is too many. We should do all we can to find them and help them get home safely.

□ 1930

CONGRATULATING THE MONTEREY HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the Monterey High School Boys' Basketball Team for winning the 2024 Division 4 California State championship.

The Toreadors are the second basketball team ever from Monterey County

to win a State title, and, Mr. Speaker, this one was special.

Throughout their season, the Toreadors were determined to be victorious. However, after winning their league title, they actually lost in the sectional playoffs.

Nevertheless, due to their overall performance during the year, the Toreadors were given an at-large invitation to the State playoffs and the 14th seed. Although they weren't happy with that ranking, they were thrilled with the opportunity to show that they were better than that and played with a huge chip on their shoulders.

They beat the third seed. They beat the sixth seed. They beat the second seed. They beat the fourth seed, and, yes, eventually, the Monterey High Toreadors beat the number one seed to capture the State championship.

It is historic wins like that, it is teams like this, and it is the attitude that they had that defines determination.

Congratulations to Coach Daniels and the determined Toreadors for their historic victory and for making California's 19th Congressional District very proud.

HONORING DONALD M. LEEBERN, JR.

(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 honor the life of Donald Leebern, Jr.

Don, a native of Columbus, Georgia, graduated from Columbus High School and went on to attend the University of Georgia. Don played football for the Bulldogs, winning an SEC championship in 1959 and the Orange Bowl in 1960.

After his impressive career at Georgia, Don joined the family business, Georgia Crown Distributing Company. Don worked his way up to become the president of Georgia Crown where the company saw continued success under his leadership. In 1992, he became chairman of the board of the company.

Don also served five consecutive terms on the University System Board of Regents after he was appointed by former Georgia Governor Zell Miller. This included time as regents chairman from 1994 to 1995.

Outside of his professional career, Don was known as a generous and kind man. He was a founding member of the University System of Georgia Foundation, as well as a member of numerous professional, civic, and social organizations.

Don was larger than life. He positively impacted everyone he met, and he will be sorely missed by all.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL NURSES DAY

(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, on National Nurses Day, let us honor the unsung healthcare heroes. They hold hands, wipe tears, and offer comfort to our families during the most difficult times.

Nurses are the heart and soul of our healthcare system, dedicating themselves tirelessly to the well-being of others.

They work long hours, sacrificing time from their own families to ensure that ours are taken care of. Their commitment goes beyond the confines of the hospital walls.

Today, let us take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to these remarkable healthcare professionals. Nurses, you are the backbone of our communities, and on this National Nurses Day, we honor and celebrate you.

To the nurses of eastern North Carolina, thank you for your selflessness, courage, and unwavering commitment.

POLITICAL PRISONER

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to alert this House of the actions of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, which seem to be vindicating the claim made by Peter Navarro that he is being held as a political prisoner.

I have been trying for 5 weeks to be able to interview Mr. Navarro. There are provisions that ought to allow this, and I was informed directly by Director Peters, who runs the bureau, that that request would be denied.

The reason it is being denied is because Peter Navarro is too notorious to be interviewed by a Member of Congress.

John Gotti was interviewed when he was in prison. The QAnon Shaman was interviewed in prison. Director Peters herself brought NBC News through prisons to showcase the work of corrections that is being done.

I think there is something else afoot here. Mr. Navarro, I am being told, is not being allowed to access his attorney, and it is because it is shameful what has been done to Peter Navarro based on a sham January 6 committee and a sham indictment and a sham conviction that we ought to work to remediate immediately upon President Trump's rightful and righteous return to office.

HONORING BARRON LAMONT JONES

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Barron Lamont Jones of Albuquerque, New Mex-

ico, a cherished son, brother, friend, and determined advocate.

For those who knew Barron, they know his story and the unimaginable adversity and indomitable spirit and sense of humor that lit up a room and the life that he built committed to advocacy and lifting up the voices of those who were formerly incarcerated in our community.

Barron's work advancing the fight for justice and equality in the criminal justice system while working at the ACLU was instrumental in the passage of the New Mexico Civil Rights Act and the New Mexico Voting Rights Act, among many other legislative victories.

I join Barron's family, and especially Heather, his partner of 32 years, his many friends, ACLU New Mexico, and so many others who are grieving and celebrating his life.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the men and women in the nursing profession. This week is National Nurses Week, and every year from May 6 through May 12, we celebrate the work and contributions nurses make in the healthcare field. National Nurses Week ends on Florence Nightingale's birthday, the founder of modern-day nursing.

Prior to serving in Congress, I spent nearly three decades in the healthcare profession, and there I worked closely with nurses and saw firsthand the care and the compassion that they showed their patients.

Nursing is a science and an art, reserved for those who are the most caring, giving, and passionate about helping others. Nurses provide their patients and families with comfort, compassion, guidance, and care.

Mr. Speaker, we should always thank our nurses for their hard work and dedication, and please join me in recognizing the nursing community this week. We should all be grateful for their commitment to caring for others, especially during these trying times.

CONGRATULATING QUINYON MITCHELL

(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 rise to celebrate and recognize Quinyon Mitchell, a cornerback from the University of Toledo. Quinyon was recently selected by the Philadelphia Eagles with the 22nd overall pick in the 2024 NFL draft.

Northwest Ohio is undeniably proud of Mr. MITCHELL. He became the first

Toledo Rocket selected in the first round in 31 years.

Mr. MITCHELL was the first defensive back taken in this year's draft, and he also became the first UT player ever named as a semifinalist for the Chuck Bednarik Award given annually to the Nation's top defensive player.

His selection in the draft now marks three straight years that a Toledo player has been selected by an NFL franchise. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Quinyon Mitchell for his remarkable achievements.

He truly embodies the spirit of excellence that the University of Toledo and northwest Ohio strive to achieve.

We all know Quinyon will continue to make us proud as he shines on the national stage. Go Rockets, go Quinyon, go Birds.

VOTING ISSUES

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of question as to why President Biden—or a lot of people in my district wonder why President Biden continues to allow over a quarter million people in this country month after month after month.

One of the speculations is that by letting people in here, eventually Congress will make them citizens, or their children or grandchildren become citizens, and they will change the nature of America.

America is, of course, supposed to be a country built from moral and religious people and a freedom-loving people, people who do not want a big government, people who want to vote for limited government.

It was of great concern that this morning I read an article about what is going on in North Carolina where they found people who are here, not citizens, voting already.

This is not surprising, I suppose. In the first place, they give a lot of these people driver's licenses, and they give them other forms of identification.

It is not surprising that some would slip through the cracks and vote before they had a chance to be educated on the limited government that is supposed to be the hallmark of the United States of America.

I call on this body to crack down on people who are voting in our elections who are not yet legal citizens.

HONORING SAMMY MCDOWELL

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

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of Sammy McDowell, a community leader, restaurateur, and friend to all.

Sammy grew up in Minneapolis and was a fixture in the community

throughout his life. He worked in food service for many years before starting his own catering company and restaurant.

In 2012, he opened Sammy's Avenue Eatery on West Broadway Avenue in north Minneapolis and recently began operating a pop-up restaurant in St. Paul in a space which features Black-owned businesses.

Sammy's Avenue Eatery has become known for its delicious food that it serves. Over the past decade it has become an important gathering place for the community.

Sammy will be remembered for his generosity toward others. He always went the extra mile to check in on the wellness of his friends, as well as his customers.

His passion for community and the well-being of others was contagious. I know that the spaces he created will continue to be a source of friendship, inspiration, and comfort.

Sammy had an immeasurable impact on our community, and he will be dearly missed by those who knew and loved him.

CELEBRATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize economic development organizations across Michigan and our Nation by celebrating Economic Development Week.

Every May, we acknowledge the dedication of economic developers to job creation, financial health, and making our communities an even better place to call home.

The work done by these economic developers creates new opportunities and lasting impacts on townships, cities, and counties across southwest Michigan.

Organizations like Lakeshore Advantage, Cornerstone Alliance, Southwest Michigan First, Market Van Buren, and Battle Creek Unlimited are the standard for economic development in Michigan, thanks to their strong leadership.

As a small business owner myself, I understand the importance of creating a forward-looking plan that advances your community's goals and well-being.

Mr. Speaker, please join me by celebrating Economic Development Week as we recognize the important contributions of these organizations and individuals striving to make our communities a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Teachers Appreciation Week and recognize all the outstanding educators across Indiana's First Congressional District.

As we reflect on the impact that teachers have made in our lives and are continuing to make every day for all our students, I remain immensely grateful for all who have chosen to be teachers and involved in the school system.

Because of their selfless passion, their boundless energy, and commitment to inspiration, they are essential to ensuring our future leaders are able to harness their interests and reach their full potential.

Thank you to all of the teachers, aides, assistants, and all the professionals in schools throughout northwest Indiana and our Nation who have dedicated their time and talents to helping students succeed.

□ 1945

HONORING LIEUTENANT MICHAEL HOOSOCK AND OFFICER MICHAEL JENSEN

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, these are troubling times. The very fabric of our society is being pulled apart. Violent protests are spreading across college campuses in our own Nation. Crime marches unchecked in our cities. The numbers of fentanyl overdoses rise unabated.

Now this: the tragic deaths of two of central New York's finest, their lives taken in the line of duty as they stood in the gap between civil society and chaos.

That night, what was another routine traffic stop turned into an unspeakable tragedy. Today, two more families endure indescribable pain.

Only a few weeks ago, I was right here with my colleagues, in this very place, to speak in honor of another New York police officer who was killed in the line of duty. Now, we are here again after two more heroes have been laid to rest in my own district.

The names of the officers who were killed are Lieutenant Michael Hoosock and Officer Michael Jensen.

Lieutenant Hoosock, known to his friends as Hootch, was a husband and the father of three young children. He

was a great dad—fun, spontaneous, present, and supportive.

In 2020, Lieutenant Hoosock was recognized with the Medal of Valor for his actions confronting an active shooter in Syracuse. He was a decades-long firefighter and the bomb squad commander in Onondaga County.

Officer Jensen was a son and brother with a career of service still ahead of him. Friends and family remember his dedication and optimism. His mother, Michelle, called him her handsome son. Syracuse Police Chief Joseph Cecile observed that “you could tell he took his responsibility seriously,” that is, of course, in between hockey matches.

Officer Jensen joined the Syracuse Police Department in early 2022. He served honorably in the Patrol Division on the Third Platoon day in and day out. Last December, he was recognized as Officer of the Month.

Just 2 weeks ago, thousands upon thousands attended their funerals to weep together, to support one another, and to honor their service and sacrifice.

All decent Americans mourn with the families of these fallen officers.

A functioning civil society gives its law enforcement officers the support and tools they need to carry out their work, protecting innocent people and restraining those who do harm to others. I am proud to say that I am pro-police and anti-criminal. When our society loses sight of these basic truths, our worst days follow.

To any law enforcement officers watching today, let me say this to you: Don't lose hope. Keep the faith. You hold the fabric of our society together against criminality and chaos. You alone stand between innocent people and those who would seek to victimize them. We need you. Your vigilance and your tireless service is deeply appreciated. We weep with you today, and we stand with you every day.

This Congress, we have passed numerous bills to support law enforcement. Many, however, inexplicably languish in the Senate, where support for law enforcement has waned.

We will not stop until our elected officials are doing everything in their capacity to empower our law enforcement professionals and to support their critical work to protect all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sacred and solemn privilege to welcome and acknowledge Michael Hoosock's widow, Caitlin. Cait and their three beautiful children are with us in the gallery this evening.

Would you mind standing for just a moment? Thank you for being here with us. Thank you for blessing us.

To Mrs. Hoosock: Today, this Nation honors your brave husband.

To his children: This Nation is grateful for his noble service.

Humbly, I will tell you that we mourn with you and that we recognize your suffering and sacrifice. May God bless and keep you and watch over each one of you. You will not be forgotten.

Since these tragic events just a few short weeks ago, countless Members of

Congress have sought me out to express their shock, anger, and sorrow at the loss of our heroes. I have invited them to join me on this solemn occasion and will yield such time as necessary that they may stand with me.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO).

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WILLIAMS and my colleagues who join us here tonight to salute two fallen heroes.

Just weeks ago, we stood on the floor of this great House and saluted another member of law enforcement whose life was taken far too soon by a career-long criminal.

When Jonathan Diller's wife and widow spoke at his funeral, she pleaded with those in attendance and said that just a couple of years prior, she listened to the funeral of two other NYPD officers who had lost their lives to career criminals. She pleaded that it wouldn't happen again and asked the elected officials who were in that church to make changes so that criminals did not have the upper hand and so that law enforcement could actually use the tools in their gun belts to effect change and to keep communities safe.

I was joined by colleagues from all throughout the country again just weeks ago to salute Detective Jonathan Diller. Sadly, here we are again, paying tribute to Syracuse Police Officer Michael Jensen and Onondaga County Sheriff's Lieutenant Michael Hoosock, who paid and made that ultimate sacrifice, who legitimately were standing the line between good and evil and paid the price with their lives on April 14.

Just a couple of weeks later, in North Carolina, four more law enforcement officers paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty: Joshua Eyer of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, Thomas Weeks of the United States Marshals Service, Alden Elliott of the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction, and Sam Poloche of the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction.

What is happening is that police officers are dying in record numbers. More than 23,000 members of law enforcement have died in the line of duty since 1786, and 136 members of law enforcement died in 2023. In my home State of New York and in the department that I was proud to serve for 16 years as a detective, 5,363 of my brothers and sisters were injured on the job in 2023.

Our PBA president has called the assaults “a full-blown epidemic.” The total of 5,363 attacks in 2023 was 13 percent higher than the previous year.

People keep asking why and what the issue is. The issue is that in New York, we have a State legislature led by Democrats who have chosen to put criminals before law-abiding citizens, passing insane laws like cashless bail and criminal justice reform without ever once having a conversation with the men and women who actually fight

crime each and every day, who go out on that street, who put those uniforms on, who pin their shields to their chests and go out and wrestle career criminals, take guns off the street, close out murders, and dismantle gangs. There never once was a conversation with any of them.

What it has led to is a more dangerous New York. What it has led to is a New York where criminals feel emboldened.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, when you go into stores now in New York and across this country, there are everyday things that we want to buy that are locked up. Why? Criminals are emboldened because Democrats across this country, and specifically in New York, have failed the American people. They have made our State less safe.

To the family sitting in the gallery: Realize that you have elected officials not only in this body but across this country who will fight each and every day for our brothers and sisters in blue.

To Nicole, Samuel, and Gabriel: You may not have your father to walk you to that first hockey game, to that first day of school, to something important in your life, but realize that you have law enforcement officers from across this country who will walk by your side each and every day because that is exactly what we promised when we took our oath. We promised that we would never forget our fallen.

Mr. Speaker, next week, thousands upon thousands of law enforcement officers from around this country will come here to the Nation's Capital to pay tribute and homage to the men and women who have paid and made the ultimate sacrifice.

Just weeks ago, they started etching the names of hundreds of members of law enforcement who gave their lives in 2023. Etched in one of the statues at our National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is a quote. It says: “It is not how these officers died that made them heroes; it is how they lived.”

To the family of our heroes who are here tonight, realize it is not how they died that made them heroes. It is about how they lived. It is about the change they made. It is about the arrests of the criminals that they put behind bars. It is about how they went out there each and every day to make their community that much safer. Realize that we will carry on their legacy forever because that is our job.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues who are here this evening who haven't worn the uniform and who are speaking out on behalf of all of those who do. Law enforcement throughout this country needs to hear that they have people supporting them, who will pass legislation to keep them safe and to give them the resources they need to defend themselves and keep their communities safe.

I thank Mr. WILLIAMS for gathering us here this evening to make sure that we pay tribute to the fallen. I promise we will never forget.

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Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand with Mr. D'ESPOSITO. He has worn the badge and the uniform and knows of what he speaks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor all of America's fallen law enforcement heroes.

A few weeks ago, as was stated, upstate New York suffered a terrible loss when two law enforcement officers were fatally shot while pursuing a driver who fled a traffic stop.

In my home State of Minnesota, we are still mourning the deaths of two Burnsville police officers and a firefighter-paramedic who were killed responding to a domestic crisis. These men were not only law enforcement officers, they were husbands, fathers, friends, and beloved members of our communities.

These tragedies are real reminders of the dangers our law enforcement officers face every day. We can never take their sacrifice or service for granted.

As a former police officer with over 20 years of experience on the job, I have seen and experienced firsthand the violence committed against law enforcement. However, in the years since leaving law enforcement, I have noticed a dramatic rise in violent attacks against America's law enforcement. I am deeply concerned by this troubling trend of violence against those who protect and serve our communities.

A recent story published in the Minneapolis Star Tribune reported that assaults against police in Minnesota are up 160 percent from 10 years ago. While some are asking why this is the case, to me the answers are obvious.

The reckless defund the police movement and other antipolice rhetoric pushed by those on the far left has emboldened criminals, worsening the danger law enforcement faces when they put on that uniform.

This is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that one of the best ways to honor the law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifice is by defending the heroes who are still doing this dangerous and much-needed job.

As extreme politicians in Governor's mansions, district attorneys' offices, State legislatures, and even here in Congress, enact policies that make law enforcement less safe, it is up to the rest of us to utterly reject these ugly attacks on the American law enforcement officer.

As we honor those law enforcement officers who have given their lives in service to others, let us also recommit to standing in defense of their brothers and sisters in uniform now and forever.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. STAUBER for his experience.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative WILLIAMS from New York for yielding.

We are so grateful to the gentleman for doing this. I thank him for organizing this Special Order in tribute to Syracuse police officers Michael Jensen and Onondaga County Sheriff Lieutenant Michael Hoosock.

As colleagues before have mentioned, I, too, just want to thank my colleagues who are here who also answered the call to serve in this very dangerous job and who deserve our respect and our renewed support of them.

As we gather here today, just a few weeks since April 14, the fateful day that these valiant men paid the ultimate sacrifice, our community continues to mourn their lives and honor their unwavering dedication, selfless service, and their legacies.

Lieutenant Michael Hoosock of Clay, New York, exemplified courage and commitment throughout his two decades of service in the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office. As a testament to his unwavering bravery, his actions earned him the esteemed Medal of Valor in 2020.

As we remember him today, let us not only reflect on his achievements as a police officer, but also on the legacy of love and devotion to his family he leaves behind, survived by his beloved wife and three children.

Since Officer Michael Jensen joined the Syracuse Police Department just a few years ago on February 26, 2022, he had made an unforgettable impact on the force and our entire community. His dedication to duty and exemplary service earned him the distinguished title of Officer of the Month just recently in December of 2023.

While his time among us was tragically cut short, his memory will be forever in the hearts of his family, friends, fellow officers, and everyone in his hometown of Rome, New York, my former district now represented by Mr. WILLIAMS, but a very important part of upstate New York.

As we honor their memory, let us also reaffirm our own unwavering support for the brave men and women who continue to safeguard our communities each and every day, especially those of the Syracuse Police Department and the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office who continue to defend our community in the wake of such a tragedy.

May the memory of these courageous men inspire us all to strive for a future where our men and women in uniform are not taken for granted, where their sacrifices are honored, and where their dedication to protecting and serving our communities is met with the unwavering respect and the support they deserve.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am so honored to be joined by my New York colleagues. I welcome one more.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO).

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Congressman WILLIAMS, for reminding us of the unyielding sacrifice and tragic loss

that far too many in law enforcement and their families face far too often in this country.

Now to the families of Michael Hoosock and Michael Jensen, again, to honor the memory of their loved one, two heroic men in upstate New York who gave their lives in service to our community, is not only commendable, it is sadly becoming all too necessary.

Yet again, we rise on another night to recognize and to memorialize lives of two American heroes, in this case two officers in upstate New York who gave the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of their community.

Yet again, another city and county mourn the loss of two of their finest.

Yet again, another two police officer families suffer unspeakable loss.

These two men, Michael Hoosock and Michael Jensen, committed a lifetime of service to Onondaga County and the city of Syracuse in New York. They were routinely carrying out their obligations to a community when—yet again, the same headlines we have seen consistently over and over again throughout New York and throughout this country—they fell victim to an assailant who began shooting at and killing them both.

The loss of these brave young officers is a tragedy that those families, and sadly too many families across New York and across America, see. They will never forget their loved one who was patrolling the streets and keeping us safe when their lives ended too soon. It is still a tragedy that should never have occurred.

I have spent the last 30 years in service in upstate New York. When the State legislature, led by a single party and the Governor, embraced criminal justice reforms, they ignored the very fact that they were making our communities less safe. They ignored the fact that countless members of law enforcement, district attorneys, and those of us who have engaged in the criminal justice system for so long have said: that cashless bail would result in a more dangerous community, cashless bail would result in more victims being created, and cashless bail would end the lives of law enforcement because it would tie the hands of police officers. They ignored us.

Yet Democrats in Albany and the single-party rule in New York continues to pass reckless policies just like cashless bail, the HALT Act, the Clean Slate Act, and countless other policies that are making it more and more difficult for law enforcement to do their job.

Because of it, we have seen not only a rise in crime in our communities, but we have seen an increase in violence committed against police officers and the death of law enforcement officials all too often.

How much more would it take?

How many more children won't have their fathers to come home to and their moms to love?

How many more families have to have an empty chair at the dining room table?

How many more police organizations across New York must stand shoulder to shoulder in a somber line mourning the loss of one of their colleagues before the State of New York gets serious?

Of course we want a system that respects the right of a presumption of innocence, but we need a system of laws that provides the resources, support, and tools necessary for law enforcement to protect us and so that they may protect themselves as their jobs only get more and more dangerous.

I proudly represent communities in upstate New York just like my colleague, Mr. WILLIAMS, and my colleague, Ms. TENNEY, who want to remind the leaders in Albany, New York, and in Washington that the violence that we have seen and the loss of lives that we have experienced isn't only occurring in big cities. Nevertheless, it is, sadly, occurring in communities big and small like those we represent.

We have an obligation to the men and women who sacrifice for us to keep them safe, and now we have the families of Michael Hoosock and Michael Jensen to whom we owe reforms that make the jobs of the men and women they left behind even safer.

So I, again, commend my colleague, Mr. WILLIAMS, for reminding us of the loss of these two men, the sacrifice they made, and that we are indebted to their families who now live on with great loss.

I hope that their loss is not in vain and that the message that we get not only from tonight but from these tragedies that occur over and over again is that those who are entrusted in States like New York to make laws and keep us safe finally get serious about it.

Mr. Speaker, to those men and women who serve in law enforcement across America and across New York, may you truly, genuinely come home to a community that supports you and the families who love you.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MOLINARO for his comments.

I am, again, honored to be joined by another veteran of law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD).

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding. I really appreciate him hosting this Special Order hour so that we can recognize the sacrifice of these two men.

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind, to safeguard lives and property, to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression and intimidation, the peaceful against violence and disorder, and to respect the constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality, and justice.

Mr. Speaker, that is the code of ethics for every law enforcement officer across this great country. That is the code and the oath that binds us all together as law enforcement officers.

So as a former sheriff, I rise today with a truly heavy heart to honor the life of Lieutenant Michael Hoosock and of Michael Jensen.

Mr. Speaker, as you have heard, on Sunday, April 14, of 2024, Lieutenant Hoosock and Officer Jensen were killed in the line of duty while responding to a traffic stop that went awry. These officers' lives were suddenly and viciously taken while answering the call to protect and serve their community.

Lieutenant Hoosock was a brave servant leader and a devoted public servant, father, and husband. He served 17 years in the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office where he served wherever he was needed the most, I am told. Wherever they would send him, he gave his best.

He joined the sheriff's office in 2007, was promoted to lieutenant and was the commander of his unit's bomb squad.

According to those closest to him, Mr. Speaker, if you knew Lieutenant Hoosock, you felt like you were immediately his best friend.

□ 2015

He is survived by his wife, Caitlin, and their three children, and I cannot tell you how heartbroken we are for you.

Officer Michael Jensen was a lifelong athlete, who was also an accountant before joining the Syracuse Police Department. He graduated college with two business degrees and answered the call to serve his community less than 3 years ago.

However, just this past December, Officer Jensen was named Officer of the Month. That is the kind of officer he was. He is remembered for his infectious smile and his personal interactions with the residents throughout the Syracuse community.

My thoughts and prayers are with both officers' families and friends, the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office, the Syracuse Police Department, and the greater Syracuse community as they mourn this great loss.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said: "The purpose in life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you lived and lived well."

These fine officers laid down their lives protecting the community that they loved. They lived their lives honorably, with compassion, and dedicated to serving and making a positive difference in the lives of others. Simply stated, Lieutenant Hoosock and Officer Jensen truly lived well.

I pray that we may all live our lives worthy of their sacrifice. May their service and sacrifice never be forgotten. May God bless them, and may God bless their loved ones.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. EZELL), another veteran of law enforcement.

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WILLIAMS for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, this April, two families received that call that no law enforcement leader ever wants to make. Onondaga County Sheriff's Lieutenant Michael Hoosock and Syracuse Police Officer Michael Jensen were shot and killed in the line of duty.

I rise to honor and remember their legacies and to share my sympathies and my prayers with the loving families they leave behind. As a former sheriff and a 42-year law enforcement officer, I want to make it abundantly clear that the sacrifices made by Lieutenant Hoosock and Officer Jensen are not in vain. Like countless other officers from upstate New York to south Mississippi, they put on the badge and went out into their community to protect and serve, putting themselves in harm's way because they believed in right and wrong.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things you learn very quickly during a career in law enforcement is that the families of our officers serve alongside them. Parents, siblings, spouses, and children each make tremendous sacrifices because of their loved one's service to their community. None is as difficult as the sacrifice the families and friends of these two heroes have made.

My heart breaks for you and the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office and Syracuse Police Department and everyone who had the pleasure of knowing Lieutenant Hoosock and Officer Jensen. My prayers, as well as the prayers of this body and the entire Nation, are with those loved ones as you grieve.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for America to wake up. Wake up, America, and realize what is going on in this country. Our law enforcement officers are dying. Families are suffering. However, know that we are here with you and will always be as we pray God bless you and give you comfort.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his words.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Utah (Ms. MALOY).

Ms. MALOY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express gratitude and reverence for our law enforcement community. Self-governance, like what we have in this country, is a meaningless exercise without the enforcement of our laws. Enforcement of the law requires men and women who step forward, put their lives on the line, and serve as guardians over you, me, and our families. They do this never knowing when they might need to give their last measure of devotion for us.

I express my deepest condolences to those who loved Syracuse Police Officer Michael Jensen and Onondaga County Sheriff's Lieutenant Michael Hoosock, who died tragically in a shoot-out.

Over the weekend, as I prepared to rise in solidarity with my colleagues from New York and my colleagues who are veterans of law enforcement, I found out that we had a similar tragedy in Utah. Just yesterday, we lost one of our own officers.

Santaquin, Utah, Police Officer Sergeant Bill Hooser left behind a bride of 29 years, two daughters, a granddaughter, and a devastated Utah law enforcement community.

Sergeant Hooser's shift yesterday started like it did probably every day. He couldn't have known this was his last watch. He was tragically killed in the line of duty, the duty of protecting Utahns and our freedoms.

My deepest condolences and prayers to Sergeant Hooser's family. We are grateful for what he did in his life.

My good friend, Sheriff Curtis, of Sevier County, Utah, summed up some of my feelings. He said: When we lose someone who has made it their life's purpose to make a difference for good, we all lose a small piece of who we are as a community and as a Nation.

I rise today to make sure that families like the Hooser family in Utah, the family who is sitting in the gallery right now, know that America recognizes and appreciates their sacrifice. I thank you on behalf of Utah's Second Congressional District and make sure you know that you are not alone.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH).

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WILLIAMS for putting together this Special Order this evening, and I thank Cait Hoosock for being here today. I am so deeply sorry for your loss and the loss of Officer Jensen.

Every day, our law enforcement officers leave for work, and their families can never be certain if they will return home. Know that I am grieving with you and praying for you and your family.

The increase in violence we have seen against law enforcement in recent years is unacceptable. As Mr. STAUBER mentioned, this year in Minnesota, two officers and a firefighter were killed when a man they were negotiating with opened fire without warning.

Last year, in my district, Deputy Josh Owen was killed when responding to a domestic violence call. His name will be added to the memorial next week.

Mr. Speaker, the attack on law enforcement must stop. All of these officers gave their lives protecting their communities. Every time we hear another story like this, our hearts break all over again.

Our law enforcement deserves our gratitude and our respect. I am so disappointed to see many people, including some in this Chamber, trying to make our brave officers into villains. I stand in support of law enforcement, and my Republican colleagues, like you have seen this evening, are doing everything we can to pass legislation to protect and thank our officers.

I know that, because of this disgusting movement of hatred toward our officers, we must, but our voices

need to be strong. We must support law enforcement.

I have introduced legislation to encourage the recruitment of the next generation of law enforcement through a grant program. I have supported legislation to empower officers to do their jobs effectively, and I have asked the Judiciary Committee to investigate the weaponization of government against law enforcement.

I will continue to do everything in my power to support our police officers because they support all of us. God bless all of our law enforcement officers, and I thank them for the job that they do.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER).

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. WILLIAMS) for bringing us here today to recognize Lieutenant Michael Hoosock and Officer Michael Jensen, two heroes who gave of themselves in service to our community.

As the Bible teaches us: "Greater love has no man than this, than to lay down his life for his friends."

Lieutenant Hoosock and Officer Jensen laid down their life in defense of our community to ensure the safety and the well-being of our residents. They answered the call of duty and went above and beyond and made the ultimate sacrifice. It wasn't just a sacrifice they alone made. It was a sacrifice that their families made.

To Cait, Nicole, Samuel, and Gabriel, there are no words that will make this better. There are no words that will make this okay. We grieve with you. Our heart breaks for you, and we will be here to support you.

This morning, I spent time at the Brinks robbery memorial for slain Nyack Police Sergeant Edward O'Grady, Police Officer Waverly Brown, and Brinks guard Peter Paige. Nearly 43 years ago, they were killed in the 1981 Brinks robbery. Nine children were left fatherless.

Every year, we gather on October 20 to remember those two officers and security guard who died in that horrific robbery. Additionally, every year, one by one, their killers were released.

We have seen in New York, over the last 6 years, 37 cop killers released. The depraved indifference for law enforcement is unconscionable because the reality is, if we don't respect law enforcement, if we don't respect the rule of law, there is no society. The reason we have seen a rapid increase in crime in New York is precisely because there is no respect for the rule of law, and people do not believe there are consequences for actions.

Cashless bail will go down as the single stupidest policy that has ever been signed into law anywhere. Since that law took effect, over 40 percent of those that have been arrested for a felony offense and then released under

cashless bail have been rearrested for committing another offense.

□ 2030

You look at cashless bail, you look at Raise the Age, the HALT Act, Clean Slate, and the continued parole for unrepentant cop killers, and as a result we have a lawless society.

Last year, \$4 billion in retail theft. Why? Because quality of life crimes aren't prosecuted any more in New York. We let people walk right out of the store with whatever they want.

The lawlessness must come to an end. Respect for law enforcement, putting victims above criminals is essential. Without it, we will continue to be in this place where cops are murdered and taken away from their families.

It is why as a member of the State legislature I introduced a bill that would ensure life without the possibility of parole, pardon, or clemency for killing a law enforcement officer. If we cannot respect our law enforcement officers, if we cannot stand up for them and ensure their safety as they stand up for all of us and ensure ours, then we do not deserve a safe and just society.

To the family of Lieutenant Hoosock and Officer Jensen, we will continue to fight for justice for you and to ensure that other families don't have to endure this horrific tragedy.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, to the Hoosock family and to the Jensen family, I promised that those two would be honored by our Nation, that they would be honored in this esteemed place, and that you too would be recognized and honored. Mr. Speaker, I thank them for honoring us with their presence.

I am grateful to each Representative who spoke this evening. Somber times like these invite us to reflect and to take a closer look at many things that so often we take for granted.

There exists in this world profound evil, manifesting itself in many ways. What stands between that evil and innocent people? Every single day, the men and women serving in law enforcement across America stand courageously in that treacherous place.

As you go about your day in safety, in comfort, the vigilance of these men and women may fade into the background, but to them and to their families, the risk inherent in their line of work never fades. They clock in every day with the knowledge that they place themselves in heightened danger whenever they put on that uniform, and they do so for our sake.

We are privileged to forget, to enjoy the safety and comfort that are a direct result of their labor, but we are obliged to remember. Times like these remind us forcefully, tragically, that evil and danger are ever present, but that heroes still exist amongst us. They are heroes like Lieutenant Michael Hoosock, heroes like Officer Michael Jensen, heroes like every single man and woman behind the badge and

in front of all decent folks they protect and serve, and their families.

I thank them for joining us today.

To America, I would say, if you know any folks that serve in law enforcement, right now is a good time to thank them. Our police officers, firefighters, EMS, and their families dedicate their lives so that we may be safe. Recognizing the commitment and sacrifice they voluntarily make is something we all can and we should do. Words may only accomplish so much, but they do mean something. Convey it to those around you as you see them, that you recognize their sacrifice, and that they are not alone and not forgotten.

I will start by thanking Caitlin Hoosock and her children—Nikki, Gabe, Sam—who I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know today. I thank them for joining us. Once again, I humbly speak, for everyone here and for everyone watching, that you are not alone.

Mr. Speaker, I have concluded this Special Order, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

SHINING A LIGHT ON MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES AND SUICIDES AMONG BLACK YOUTH

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order hour.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I, too, acknowledge the tremendous loss that those families have incurred, and I thank them for their service.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to co-anchor this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour, along with my distinguished colleague, Representative SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.

For the next 60 minutes, members of the Congressional Black Caucus have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people on the topic of mental health, an issue of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congress and the constituents we represent, and all of America.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my privilege to yield to the gentlewoman from New Jersey, the honorable Congresswoman WATSON COLEMAN.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Illinois for yielding and organizing this

Special Order hour on what I think is a very important topic.

Five years ago, I founded and chaired the CBC's Emergency Task Force on Black Youth Suicide and Mental Health.

Mental health emergencies and suicides among young Black youth have been on the rise, but this troubling trend had gone mostly unnoticed outside of the mental health field. Steadily and quietly, our children were dying, succumbing to depression, anxiety, and loneliness.

So I and several of my colleagues, who will speak here tonight, came together to get to the bottom of this problem. We brought in experts, including psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, teachers, school administrators, and students to help us paint a picture of this problem.

The picture was grim.

Between 2007 and 2020, a Black child died by suicide every 3 days. The suicide rate among Black youth ages 10 to 17 increased by a staggering 144 percent. Among young children ages 5 to 12, Black youth were twice as likely to die by suicide, and the suicide rate for teenage girls increased by almost 7 percent each year.

These findings would make anyone sick to their stomach.

It inspired the task force members to write the Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act, which would surge funding to the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, and to develop an outreach and education plan to reduce the stigma associated with mental health conditions and substance abuse.

Flash forward 5 years and the devastating impact of COVID has brought this crisis to everyone's attention. The social isolation, the constant fear of getting sick, and watching loved ones die have taken an unparalleled toll on all of us.

Our Nation suffered a collective trauma made up of millions of individual crises.

However, the pandemic fell especially heavily on Black women. The expectation of Black women to be pillars of their families and communities, combined with the greater likelihood of being essential workers increased the vulnerability to both physical and mental health problems.

As a result, 50 percent of Black women experienced elevated levels of depression and 20 percent reported experiencing severe psychological distress. While other groups rebounded steadily after the pandemic, unemployment among Black women stayed high, even increasing at times when overall unemployment was falling. This persistent unemployment created additional stress on already struggling communities.

It is our responsibility to ensure that overburdened communities, especially in impoverished urban and rural areas of the country, have access to mental health care.

Since the task force was convened, we have addressed bits and pieces of this issue like improving and simplifying the process of accessing the suicide crisis hotline by calling 988, but so much more work needs to be done.

Our children have been given neither the tools to maintain their health nor the care that they need to cope.

It does not have to be this way. Children who have access to help can thrive. They have shown an ability to bounce back and become strong, happy, and resilient; to be active and productive in their communities. We have the capacity to create the conditions in which all of our children have a shot at happy, fulfilling lives.

No matter your race, your background, or your gender, each one of us wants—no, indeed, we pray—for our children to grow up healthy. We must have and we need our Black women to be mentally and physically equipped to provide that growth that is so necessary.

When we see them struggle, we struggle. When they are in pain, we feel that pain deeply. We know this to be true; Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, it doesn't matter what your party affiliation is.

Yet here we are. Fifty-two months after the introduction of the Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act and 7 months after the introduction of the Youth Mental Health Research Act, bipartisan bills to get our children the care they so desperately need, and we still can't come together.

Look around the country. People are fed up with this Congress, the least productive Congress in decades. Surely, we can come together for the sake of our children. I implore my colleagues to take this situation seriously, to put aside our differences, and to show our children that we care and get them the help that they need.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN, Congresswoman from the great State of New Jersey in the 12th District, for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my privilege to yield to the gentleman from the great State of Nevada, the honorable chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, STEVEN HORSFORD of the Fourth Congressional District.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, good evening. I thank JONATHAN JACKSON for co-anchoring this important discussion on tonight's Special Order hour for the Congressional Black Caucus and to Representative SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK for her tremendous leadership on all of our Special Order hours.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus to recognize the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

I thank Congresswoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN for her tremendous leadership on this very important issue, as well as each of our members for their work in addressing mental health, specifically in the Black community.

Today, it is estimated that one out of every five American adults experiences mental health illnesses each year.

In the United States, 21 percent of Black Americans reported having a mental illness, however, just 39 percent received mental health services.

In recent years, the suicide rate among Black youth has been found to be increasing faster than any other racial or ethnic group.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is now the third leading cause of death for Black male adolescents and young adults in our country.

Over the last 30 years, we have seen a 160 percent rise in the suicide rate for young Black men. The statistics regarding mental health in the Black community are alarming, yet it has received very little attention from this Congress.

So it is time for us to address mental health and, in fact, to focus on mental wellness, the same as in any other health issue. It is time to remove the stigma that too often surrounds mental health, especially for members of our community who are less likely to receive mental health care services to begin with.

□ 2045

This means addressing the systemic economic barriers our community faces to mental health care services, the lack of culturally competent care, and the root causes of declining mental health, including racism and implicit biases in daily life, high poverty rates, disparate economic participation, and low access to quality psychological and psychiatric services.

It also means addressing the lack of diversity in our healthcare system. Often, when Black patients seek mental health services, they prefer a same-race healthcare professional, who are vastly underrepresented in this space.

As legislators, we have a responsibility to the communities that we serve to find solutions to longstanding disparities that negatively impact our communities and to ensure that no one gets left out or left behind.

As we can see, the research is clear, and the crisis before us is urgent. There are solutions. My colleague, Representative WATSON COLEMAN, discussed just two that are bipartisan and have the support of Members on both sides.

I know that there are efforts to pass bills in days when the majority wants them to, and we are asking you to make mental health the priority, especially in this month.

In order to remedy these disparities, reverse these trends, and save lives, we have to address them head-on by providing access to better and more affordable healthcare, improving economic conditions in our communities, and moving toward more culturally competent and evidence-based care.

We have to take action now. Lives are on the line. It is possible. It can be

done by focusing on Mental Health and Wellness Month in a way that lifts up all communities and the services and support that they need.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable STEVEN HORSFORD from the Fourth Congressional District of the great State of Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOWMAN).

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative JACKSON for his leadership on this very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, prior to coming to Congress, I worked in education for 20 years. I started my career as an elementary school teacher in the South Bronx before becoming a high school dean of students and guidance counselor and before having the privilege of opening my own school and running it as a middle school principal for 10½ years.

The year before I decided to run for Congress, 34 children died within the K–12 school system in the Bronx, and 17 died via suicide. No one was making the connection between these horrible outcomes for our children and families with the historical neglect and trauma of their communities and the policies that come not just from local government or State government but also from the Federal Government.

As mentioned by Chairman HORSFORD, it is incredibly difficult to access mental health resources in historically marginalized communities because of historical underfunding and historical neglect.

It is tremendously urgent and incumbent upon us here in the House of Representatives to pass transformational, revolutionary legislation as it relates to supporting the mental health of every single person in our country. We need to make sure that we are not simply passing legislation but that we are also providing the resources and funding to build out the mental health ecosystem so that we can have more professionals working within the mental health system as professionals supporting the American people, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

A couple of weeks ago, we introduced the Improving Access to Mental Health Act, which seeks to invest many more resources into our minority-serving institutions, Hispanic-serving institutions, and historically Black colleges so that we can build out the mental health programs in these particular institutions.

We need more counselors. We need more psychologists. We need more psychiatrists. We need trauma specialists. We need many more mental health professionals in our schools and communities.

When we make these investments, what we see is a dramatic decrease in the number of people who are incarcerated in our communities because many of the people who are incarcerated suffer from mental health challenges that have gone untreated.

Many of the people who are incarcerated have experienced intense trauma, what professionals call toxic stress and chronic trauma, in their lives that needed to be responded to by a mental health professional, but it never was. As a result, they then commit harm in their communities. When they are going through harm within their own bodies and minds and spirits without receiving the care that they need, they are more likely to commit harm.

Investing in our mental health as part, I might add, of a universal healthcare system dramatically decreases the costs for our jail and prison system, decreases the costs for our overall healthcare system, and improves education and economic outcomes. It is a win-win-win-win when we pass legislation as it relates to mental health and invest in supporting our children and families with their mental health.

I will close with this. I mentioned toxic stress and chronic trauma. We have certain communities in our country—rural and urban, historically underserved, historically underfunded, historically marginalized, and historically neglected—because of lack of access and opportunity, many of those communities have been redlined on purpose by this very institution.

When children are born into those communities, they are much more likely to experience toxic stress and chronic trauma.

Mr. Speaker, when our babies from prenatal to age 3 experience toxic stress and chronic trauma, do you know that the prefrontal cortex of the brain doesn't develop accordingly? As a result, their regulatory skills, as well as their higher thinking skills, are compromised, which leaves them more likely to experience an adverse mental health event or to be diagnosed with a mental health condition. It also makes them more likely to be placed in special education in our school system and makes it more likely for them to be a part of the school-to-prison pipeline.

That is why it is not just about investing in mental health. It is about investing in universal childcare and universal pre-K because when we invest in universal childcare and universal pre-K, we are ensuring our kids are growing up and are nurtured in the most nurturing conditions imaginable, and they are less likely to experience the stress and trauma that I talked about.

When they don't experience the stress and trauma, their prefrontal cortex develops properly, which leads to better education and economic outcomes and keeps them off the school-to-prison pipeline.

Investing in our mental health is a matter of national security. If we really care about foreign countries and how they are maybe responding to us and spying on us and kicking our butts when it comes to technology, when we invest in all Americans, especially the most vulnerable ones, we are going to

have incredible economic, social, and health outcomes on the back end.

I thank Representative JACKSON for his leadership and for allowing me to say a few words.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable Congressman JAMAAL BOWMAN for those insightful words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. AMO).

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue that is critically important for Rhode Islanders and for all Americans: the need for greater investment in our mental health care system. The topic is timely, of course, especially as we recognize May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

Here in Congress, we have a duty and responsibility to act on mental health. We must reduce the stigma associated with mental health while ensuring that it is both taken seriously and seriously addressed.

That is why I am proud to join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus tonight as we shine a light on the current state of mental health in America. Together, we are committed to reducing disparities and access, expanding coverage for mental health care, and reversing trends that have worsened over the past few years.

First, we must be clear-eyed about the numbers. Right now, one out of every five Americans is struggling with mental illness. Think about that. These are our neighbors, friends, coworkers, and loved ones.

Yet, as we acknowledge that mental health conditions are far more common than we think, we must recognize that different communities have different levels of access to treatment. As I have said, one out of every five Americans lives with a mental illness, a number that remains roughly equal when broken down amongst race and ethnicity. However, despite Black communities reporting relatively equal rates of mental illness, the percentages of them receiving mental health services register far lower than their fellow Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that mental health is an issue that does not discriminate. It does not see color or background, and it affects struggling Americans the same. Yet, access to care is not the same for all Americans. Simply put, the barriers are higher for Black Americans, whether it is because of stigma for seeking help or lack of accessible and affordable providers.

It is clear that we must do more to bring down those barriers. After all, if we are to live up to the words of our founding document, "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," then we must close the racial disparities in coverage and treatment, particularly as Americans are experiencing rates of loneliness so high that the Surgeon General has declared it a public health crisis.

Congress must lead by example. To that end, I am proud to lift up legisla-

tion that would expand investments for mental health in schools and reduce racial gaps in treatment. I thank Congresswoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN for her leadership on the second point.

However, I would be remiss if I didn't mention my home State of Rhode Island as a model to be aware of. I am thankful for the work of committed nonprofits like the Mental Health Association of Rhode Island and the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Rhode Island.

Our State was recently named the fifth best State for mental health care in America, but that is not enough.

Over the past year, we have seen enormous progress on this front due to increased State-level advocacy and initiatives that ensure and increase access.

Yet, as we highlight these protections being codified into law, we must keep up our efforts to close the equity gaps in our system.

Every American, no matter the color of their skin or the background that they come from, deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

Every patient, regardless of what they are struggling with, deserves the support and services they need to live their best lives. By asking and listening to each other, by arming ourselves with the facts, and by using them to push for greater access to care, we can make a real difference in the mental health of Americans all across our country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, again, for their leadership and for hosting this critical Special Order tonight.

□ 2100

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable Congressman from the great State of Rhode Island, Congressman GABE AMO, for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight because in the midst of the sound and fury of our current political climate, there remains a profoundly unaddressed and underestimated crisis raging in the hearts and homes of this country's African-American citizens.

It is a melancholy truth that too often what ails the hearts and minds of Black people in this Nation goes unnoticed. Thankfully, May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and we are therefore afforded the rare opportunity to acknowledge and address the mental health of African Americans as we would any other health crisis that threatens our quality of life.

While it is true that the mental health of any community must be of grave importance, since none of this Nation's social or economic benefits can truly be appreciated apart from peace of mind, in the case of African Americans, however, the effects of the long history of systemic and outright political terror must be of singular importance.

It must be of singular importance because life has become more com-

plicated, alienation has become more common, and political violence has become more threatening. The times in which we live necessitate a greater emphasis and consideration of the mental health of this country's most vulnerable citizens.

At a time when social media proliferates our lives with doomscrolling and mean world syndrome, we would be foolish to underestimate the impact and influence of what living in the digital age happens to be doing to our minds.

I rise tonight because it is time for us to raise greater awareness about the confluence of mental health issues stalking two generations of African Americans like never before.

I rise tonight because we must henceforth remove the stigma of openly dealing with a public health issue we cannot avoid. The time for our accommodating silence must come to an end. The time for us to assign shame is over.

The time for us to portray Black people as super-human protagonists who move through the American drama unbothered and unaffected must be challenged in every way. Black people are as human as everybody else. We suffer from death, dread, disease, and despair like every other community. We may be strong and we may be resilient, but we are not without the scars and stripes that any community with our history would have to bear.

Perhaps there was a time when we were unaware of what the effects of mental health were doing to our very lives and our bodies, but now we know that one out of every five American adults are now suffering from some mental health crisis or concern.

We know that in the United States of America, 21 percent of African Americans reported struggling with mental illness, and we also know that just 39 percent of them received the mental health services that they deserve.

Subsequently, it should not surprise us that in recent years the suicide rate among African-American young people has increased faster than other racial or ethnic groups. It should not surprise us that young people across racial lines are suffering with anxiety, various forms of dysmorphia, and other issues at rates never seen before in the long history of this great country.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services minority office, African-American adults are more likely than White adults to report persistent symptoms of emotional distress, such as sadness and feeling like everything is an effort. In fact, according to the same findings, Black adults living below the poverty line are more than twice as likely to report serious psychological distress than those with more financial security.

What this shows us is that the negative mental health of Black people in this country is often the result of a devious and devastating confluence of issues. That is to say, members of the

Black community, in addition to dealing with social media, the human predicament, and a history of repression, must also face the kind of structural racism that creates barriers to being able to access the care and treatment they both need and deserve.

It is no wonder, then, that only one of every three African Americans living with a mental illness receive any kind of treatment at all. Only one in three. Additionally, in 2020, it was reported that 10 percent of African Americans still do not have health insurance and are among the chronically uninsured. Even with the Affordable Care Act firmly in place—and thank God that we have it—we must do more to get members of the Black community insured. They need both access and the affordability of care.

It should not be the case that just a little over 10 percent of the Black community still cannot get the medical services they require. The overall survival of Black people in this country is far too contingent and tenuous for them not to have this one area of certainty in their life, access to care and mental health care.

Needless to say, without insurance, treatment for mental illness is as unlikely as it is statistically uncommon. These are some of the unique challenges Black people face in an effort to live beyond the choking grip of mental illness, and that is why this month of awareness is so important.

The victims of mental illness should not have to fight this battle alone. They should not have to struggle in the shadows of American life, and Black people in this country who struggle with mental illness should not have to bear this cross with crowns of thorns while all the world goes free.

If every community is susceptible to the vicissitudes of mental illness, then certainly every community should have equal access to the things that make for peace.

The current disparity in access to care is as unacceptable as it is un-American. I say to every African American suffering from mental illness, you have nothing to be ashamed of. You have done nothing wrong. You are not guilty of anything, and you need not be shamed into greater levels of unnecessary suffering.

Let the word go forth from this moment forward, mental illness is a health concern compounded by social factors and not the result of a deficiency in character or personal responsibility. People are not suffering from mental illness because they are bad people. And to be sure, people are not suffering from mental illness because they are somehow ethically weak or deficient in their capacity to try harder, as it were.

We have to stop assigning responsibility to the victim when it comes to mental illness the way we used to do with drug addiction and the like. Mental illness could care less about how emotionally strong or morally con-

sistent you are. There is a reason why we call it an illness, and we call it an illness because all of us are potentially susceptible to falling victim to it under the right set of tragic conditions and circumstances.

To the millions of people in America, and particularly to the millions of African Americans, who are suffering from mental illness, I see you, I hear you, I honor your courage, I value your life.

Perhaps, most of all, I stand in solidarity with the possibility of your healing. You are not alone in this time. Your struggle and your sacrifices have not gone unnoticed, and we stand in this solemn place to affirm the dignity of your persistent efforts to be heard and recognized by your government.

I want you to know that your labor has not been in vain. Today, we ask faith leaders in the Black community to help us remove the stigma that prevents people from getting therapy and treatment. Church leaders, mosque leaders, and synagogue leaders are essential elements for the successful recovery of someone getting the help they need.

Prayer and spirituality can help in the effort to eradicate isolation and give victims access to communities of healing, but these benefits must be supported by proven treatments.

There is no reason the Black church and Black mental health professionals cannot work together to bring relief and restoration to the millions of Black people who need it.

□ 2110

Today we call upon the formation of a broad and interdisciplinary approach to mental illness that will not only address the problem but also leave the dignity of the person intact because struggling people are still people, citizens of this country.

Men and women who, in spite of the difficulties they face, are no less worthy of our love and our devotion because this country is only as strong as the weakest among us.

A country that cannot secure the health and well-being of the weak will never be able to protect and sustain the longevity of the strong.

I am convinced that we must do everything in our power to support the expansion of culturally competent care.

In fact, this government should incentivize the practice of creating an army of Black mental health professionals who work on the front lines in this emerging war because whether we know it or not, the future of this Nation and our communities might well depend upon it.

This is not a crisis in the making. This is a crisis already amongst us, and what we do about this issue might well determine the direction of this meandering Republic in days and years to come.

Let us gather the best of the American spirit to accomplish this work.

Let us summon the proverbial angels of our better nature.

Let us join hands and lock arms and dedicate our resources so we might preserve all notions of domestic tranquility and let the oppressed go free.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard from my distinguished colleagues about the topic of mental health and all issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, our constituents, Congress, and all Americans tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your kindness, and I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. JEFFRIES) for today on account of airport delays.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

“I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.”

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 118th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

Timothy M. Kennedy, Twenty-Sixth District of New York.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-4030. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant

Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Use of Electronic Identification Eartags as Official Identification in Cattle and Bison [Docket No.: APHIS-2021-0020] (RIN: 0579-AE64) received April 26, 2024, 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-4031. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's Major final rule — Fair Lending, Fair Housing, and Equitable Housing Finance Plans (RIN: 2590-AB29) received April 30, 2024, 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-4032. A letter from the Acting Director, DRLI, Wage and House Division, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Defining and Delimiting the Exemptions for Executive, Administrative, Professional, Outside Sales, and Computer Employees (RIN: 1235-AA39) received April 29, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-4033. A letter from the Senior Regulatory and Policy Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CCMO, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Clarifying the Eligibility of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Recipients and Certain Other Noncitizens for a Qualified Health Plan through an Exchange, Advance Payments of the Premium Tax Credit, Cost-Sharing Reductions, and a Basic Health Program [CMS-9894-F] (RIN: 0938-AV23) received April 30, 2024, 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-4034. A letter from the Regulatory Policy Analyst, Regulations Policy Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Additives: Food Contact Substance Notification That Is No Longer Effective [Docket No.: FDA-2021-N-0403] (RIN: 0910-AI01) received April 16, 2024, 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-4035. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Updated Residential Soil Lead Guidance for CERCLA Sites and RCRA Corrective Action Facilities received April 12, 2024, 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-4036. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's interim final rule — Interim Guidance on the Destruction and Disposal of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and Materials Containing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances — Version 2 (2024) received April 12, 2024, 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-4037. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fiscal Year 2024 Allotments for the State Revolving Fund Provisions of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Base Program Funding received April 12, 2024, 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-4038. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Formula Grants for Planning. Program Guidance for Federally Recognized Tribes, Tribal Consortia, and U.S. Territories received April 12, 2024, 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-4039. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Formula Grants for Planning. Program Guidance for States, Municipalities, and Air Pollution Control Agencies received April 12, 2024, 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-4040. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Guidance for Vessel Sewage No-Discharge Zone Applications (Clean Water Act Section 312(f)) received April 12, 2024, 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-4041. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — 340B Drug Pricing Program; Administrative Dispute Resolution Regulation [Docket No.: 2021-0004] (RIN: 0906-AB28) received April 17, 2024, 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-4042. A letter from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to Existing Controls on Russia and Belarus Under the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) Adding New License Exception Medical Devices (MED); Corrections [Docket No.: 240423-0115] (RIN: 0694-AJ59) received April 29, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4043. A letter from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Addition of Entities to and Revision of Entry on the Entity List [Docket No.: 240405-0101] (RIN: 0694-AJ57) received April 29, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4044. A letter from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Export Control Revisions for Australia, United Kingdom, United States (AUKUS) Enhanced Trilateral Security Partnership [Docket No.: 240415-0109] (RIN: 0694-AJ58) received April 24, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4045. A letter from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Zimbabwe Sanctions Regulations received April 17, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4046. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Secretariat Division, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administra-

tion, transmitting the Administration's final rule — General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation; Reformulating Clause for Direct 8(a) Contracting [GSAR Case 2022-G505; Docket No.: 2023-0020; Sequence No. 1] (RIN: 3090-AK56) received April 16, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4047. A letter from the Division Chief, Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Rights-of-Way, Leasing, and Operations for Renewable Energy [BLM—HQ—FRN—MO# 4500177145] (RIN: 1004-AE78) received May 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4048. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Renewable Energy Modernization Rule [Docket No.: BOEM-2023-0005] (RIN: 1010-AE04) received April 30, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4049. A letter from the Biologist, Branch of Domestic Listing, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status With Section 4(d) Rule for North American Wolverine [Docket No.: FWS-R6-ES-2023-0216; FF09E21000 FXES11110900000 245] (RIN: 1018-BH27) received April 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4050. A letter from the Biologist, Branch of Domestic Listing, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Lassic Lupine and Designation of Critical Habitat [Docket No.: FWS-R8-ES-2022-0083; FF09E21000 FXES1111090FEDR 234] (RIN: 1018-BF84) received April 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4051. A letter from the Biologist, Branch of Domestic Listing, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Black-Capped Petrel [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2018-0043; FF09E21000 FXES1111090FEDR 245] (RIN: 1018-BD13) received April 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4052. A letter from the Manager, Branch of Delisting and Foreign Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing Golden Paintbrush From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Plants [Docket No.: FWS-R1-ES-2020-0060; FF09E22000 FXES11130900000 234] (RIN: 1018-BE72) received April 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4053. A letter from the Biologist, Branch of Domestic Listing, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Endangered Florida Bonneted Bat [Docket

No.: FWS-R4-ES-2019-0106; FXES1111090FEDR-245-FF09E21000] (RIN: 1018-BE10) received April 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4054. A letter from the Biologist, Branch of Domestic Listing, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for 12 Species of Hawai'i Island [Docket No.: FWS-R1-ES-2023-0017; FXES1111090FEDR-245-FF09E21000] (RIN: 1018-BG65) received April 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4055. A letter from the Biologist, Branch of Domestic Listing, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status With Section 4(d) Rule for the Silverspot Butterfly [Docket No.: FWS-R6-ES-2021-0134; FF09E21000 FXES1111090FEDR 245] (RIN: 1018-BE98) received April 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4056. A letter from the Regulations Lead, International Affairs, International Affairs Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Service's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision to the Section 4(d) Rule for the African Elephant [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-IA-2021-0099; FXIA1671090000-234-FF09A30000] (RIN: 1018-BG66) received April 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4057. A letter from the Manager, Branch of Delisting and Foreign Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of 21 Species From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife [FF08E22000 FXES111309FEDR 234] (RIN: 1018-BC98) received April 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4058. A letter from the Manager, Branch of Delisting and Foreign Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reclassification of the Relict Darter From Endangered to Threatened With a Section 4(d) Rule [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2021-0093; FF09E22000 FXES1113090FEDR 234] (RIN: 1018-BF56) received April 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4059. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Pacific Island Fisheries; Hawaii Shallow-Set Pelagic Longline Fishery; Court Order [Docket No.: 180810748-8814-01] (RIN: 0648-BI43) received April 24, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4060. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Guidance for Developing and Maintaining a Service Line Inventory [EPA-816-B-22-001] received April 12, 2024,

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-4061. A letter from the Regulations Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Loan Guaranty: Servicic Regulation Changes (RIN: 2900-AR97) received April 24, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4062. A letter from the Senior Regulatory and Policy Coordinator, Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Foster Care Legal Representation (RIN: 0970-AC89) received April 30, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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. JORDAN: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 3325. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize law enforcement agencies to use COPS grants for recruitment activities, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-481). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. JORDAN: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 8146. A bill to require a report by the Attorney General on the impact the border crisis is having on law enforcement at the Federal, State, local, and Tribal level; with an amendment (Rept. 118-482). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. LUCAS: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 272. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to authorize transportation for Government astronauts returning from space between their residence and various locations, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-483 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania: Committee on Agriculture. H.R. 4763. A bill to provide for a system of regulation of digital assets by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-484 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4763. A bill to provide for a system of regulation of digital assets by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-484 Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2969. A bill to establish an Independent Financial Technology Working Group to Combat Terrorism and Illicit Financing, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-485). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1747. A bill to provide a safe harbor from licensing and registration for certain non-controlling blockchain developers and providers of blockchain services; with an amendment (Rept. 118-486). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. HOUCHIN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1194. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6192) to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing any new or amended energy conservation standard for a product that is not technologically feasible and economically justified, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7109) to require a citizenship question on the decennial census, to require reporting on certain census statistics, and to modify apportionment of Representatives to be based on United States citizens instead of all persons; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 109) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to "Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 121"; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2925) to amend the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 to provide for security of tenure for use of mining claims for ancillary activities, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-487). Referred to the House Calendar.

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. SESSIONS:

H.R. 8243. A bill to establish that a State-based education loan program is excluded from certain requirements relating to a preferred lender arrangement; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ESTES (for himself and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 8244. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act ensure appropriate approval for certain skilled nursing facility and nursing facility nursing aide training and competency evaluation programs under the Medicare and Medicaid 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. FEENSTRA:

H.R. 8245. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish the Rural Hospital Stabilization Pilot Program to provide grants to rural hospitals for purposes of ensuring local access to services; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 8246. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify the criteria for designation of rural emergency hospitals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BROWN (for herself, Ms.

CLARKE of New York, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. HAYES, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. LIEU, Mr. FROST, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CASAR, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. BUDZINSKI):

H.R. 8247. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to increase early detection of and intervention for uterine fibroids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 8248. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalty enhancements for committing certain offenses while in disguise, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK (for herself and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois):

H.R. 8249. A bill to strengthen the African Continental Free Trade Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 8250. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to implement the recommendations described in a GAO report relating to replacing legacy air quality data systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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

H.R. 8251. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to streamline regulatory oversight of human cell and tissue products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas:

H.R. 8252. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act and the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 to establish language access requirements for creditors and servicers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California (for himself, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. BUSH, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. POCAN, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. COHEN, and Mrs. RAMIREZ):

H.R. 8253. A bill to establish a green transportation infrastructure grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mrs. STEEL):

H.R. 8254. A bill to direct the Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to develop a curriculum for the study of modern-day antisemitism surrounding Hamas' October 7, 2023, terrorist attacks against Israel for use in secondary schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 8255. A bill to establish a minimum public comment period with respect to proposed rules issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MCCAUL:

H.R. 8256. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish the Border Secu-

rity and Enforcement Block Grant Program; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, 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. NORTON:

H.R. 8257. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Army from implementing a withdrawn rule relating to restricted access to the Washington Channel in Washington, DC, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 8258. A bill to redesignate the Cottonwood Visitor Center at Joshua Tree National Park as the "Senator Dianne Feinstein Visitor Center"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 8259. A bill to amend the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 to expand the boundary of Joshua Tree National Park; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. WENSTRUP (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 8260. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend acute hospital care at home waiver flexibilities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. EZELL (for himself and Mr. RUTHERFORD):

H. Con. Res. 106. Concurrent resolution expressing support for local law enforcement officers and condemning efforts to defund local law enforcement agencies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. PELTOLA:

H. Con. Res. 107. Concurrent resolution designating Northwest Coast Art as a rare and valuable national treasure; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mrs. KIM of California (for herself, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTH, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. LETLOW, and Ms. WILD):

H. Res. 1193. A resolution recognizing Maternal Mental Health Awareness Week to raise awareness about maternal mental health and its effects on maternal-child health; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. CAMMACK (for herself and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana):

H. Res. 1195. A resolution expressing support for the goals and ideals of National Speech-Language-Hearing Month; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H. Res. 1196. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States during Public Service Recognition Week; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. WILD, Mr. TURNER, Ms. PORTER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Mr. ALLRED):

H. Res. 1197. A resolution recognizing the roles and contributions of elementary and secondary school teachers in building and enhancing the civic, cultural, and economic well-being of the United States; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. TURNER):

H. Res. 1198. A resolution commemorating the 105th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Poland and the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS (for herself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. PAPPAS):

H. Res. 1199. A resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Turkish invasion and occupation of northern Cyprus; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. BEAN of Florida):

H. Res. 1200. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of May 5, 2024, through May 11, 2024, as "Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STEIL (for himself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. MEUSER, Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Mr. HARDER of California):

H. Res. 1201. A resolution supporting the designation of May 9, 2024, as "National Scam Survivor Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. TORRES of California (for herself, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. JACOBS):

H. Res. 1202. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of May 5 through May 11, 2024, as Wildfire Preparedness Week, the national event educating the public on fire safety and preparedness, and supporting the goals of a Wildfire Preparedness Week; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas (for himself, Mr. MAST, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS):

H. Res. 1203. A resolution expressing support for the designation of July 17, 2024, as "Glioblastoma Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

ML-100. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Tennessee, relative to Senate Resolution No. 195, urging the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to refrain from reducing appropriations to the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victims Fund for Fiscal Year 2024 and instead restore full funding to Fiscal Year 2021 levels; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ML-101. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Maine, relative to Joint Resolution S.P. 998, requesting the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to provide access to medical care and assistance to members of the Maine National Guard who trained at the military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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. MAST:

H.R. 8234.

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:

Would authorize the Secretary of State to designate additional persons eligible to serve as passport acceptance agents, and for other purposes.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 8243.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would enable Institutions of Higher Education to make students aware of non-profit state agencies which offer lower-cost education loans.

By Mr. ESTES:

H.R. 8244.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is;

This bill ensures that only penalties cited for direct deficiency related to resident care maybe considered toward triggering the nursing aide training prohibition.

By Mr. FEENSTRA:

H.R. 8245.

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

Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Authorizes the Rural Hospital Stabilization Program for each fiscal years 2026-2029

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 8246.

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

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Providing a lookback for rural emergency hospital designations.

By Ms. BROWN:

H.R. 8247.

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

Article I Section VIII

The single subject of this legislation is:

To improve the livelihoods of women diagnosed with uterine fibrosis through detection, intervention, and treatment

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 8248.

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 amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalty enhancements for committing certain offenses while in disguise, and for other purposes.

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK:

H.R. 8249.

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

Article I Section VIII

The single subject of this legislation is:

Trade

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 8250.

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:

Encourages EPA to update their IT systems for storing air quality data

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 8251.

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:

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to streamline regulatory oversight of human cell and tissue products, and for other purposes.

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas:

H.R. 8252.

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.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Finance and Financial Sector

By Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California:

H.R. 8253.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Green New Deal

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 8254.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to develop a curriculum for the study of modern-day antisemitism surrounding Hamas' October 7, 2023, terrorist attacks against Israel for use in secondary schools, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 8255.

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:

Securities and Exchange Commission rule-making

By Mr. MCCAUL:

H.R. 8256.

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

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Clause 4 of Section 8 in Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Provides grant funding for qualified states to construct, maintain, improve, or repair physical barriers along the Southwest border of the United States.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 8257.

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

Clause 18 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill would prohibit the Secretary of the Army from implementing a rule that restricts public access to the Washington Channel in the District of Columbia.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 8258.

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

Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To redesignate the Cottonwood Visitor Center at Joshua Tree National Park as the "Senator Dianne Feinstein Visitor Center".

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 8259.

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

Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 to expand the boundary of Joshua Tree National Park.

By Mr. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 8260.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Health

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 79: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.

H.R. 195: Mr. BURCHETT.

H.R. 435: Mr. MURPHY.

H.R. 537: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 607: Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 756: Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 797: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 798: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 807: Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 830: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 932: Ms. NORTON, Mr. PALLONE, and Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 987: Mr. EDWARDS and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.

H.R. 1087: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 1088: Ms. TOKUDA and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 1235: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 1321: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 1425: Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. MOONEY, and Mr. FINSTAD.

H.R. 1493: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 1582: Ms. PORTER and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 1619: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 1781: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 1787: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 1831: Mr. CROW, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 2370: Mr. BACON and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 2400: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 2413: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 2422: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 2537: Mr. CASTEN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 2548: Mr. OGLES.

H.R. 2584: Mr. DELUZZO and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 2630: Mr. AMO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr.

LAHOOD, and Ms. BROWNLEY.

H.R. 2667: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H.R. 2713: Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 2803: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 2864: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. ALFORD.

H.R. 2891: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 2904: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 2923: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.

H.R. 3005: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 3018: Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. MOSKOWITZ.

H.R. 3019: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 3074: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 3179: Ms. NORTON and Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 3325: Mr. CORREA.

H.R. 3366: Mr. STAUBER.

H.R. 3392: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 3503: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BALINT, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 3548: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.

H.R. 3596: Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 3619: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 3620: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 3621: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 3622: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 3686: Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 3714: Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 3787: Ms. SEWELL.

H.R. 3982: Ms. HAGEMAN.

H.R. 4040: Ms. TOKUDA and Ms. WILD.

H.R. 4148: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.

H.R. 4157: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 4277: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 4307: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 4315: Mr. MANN.

H.R. 4335: Mr. FALLON.

- H.R. 4439: Mrs. PELTOLA.
H.R. 4541: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 4663: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 4721: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 4766: Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 4818: Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 4898: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.
H.R. 4978: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 5155: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 5247: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 5281: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 5342: Mr. NEHLS.
H.R. 5403: Mr. ROY and Mr. McCAUL.
H.R. 5488: Mr. YAKYM and Mr. NEHLS.
H.R. 5502: Ms. BARRAGAN.
H.R. 5562: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 5568: Mr. CARSON and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 5601: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 5603: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 5625: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 5816: Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 5818: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 5976: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.
H.R. 5992: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 5995: Mr. TRONE, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 6020: Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 6049: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 6373: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 6394: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 6452: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 6455: Ms. BROWNLEY and Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 6524: Mr. LUTTRELL and Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 6600: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 6664: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 6744: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 6780: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 6802: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 6860: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 6951: Mr. EMMER, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. MCHENRY, and Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 7002: Ms. BARRAGAN.
H.R. 7059: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 7082: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 7101: Mr. BALDERSON.
H.R. 7108: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 7158: Mr. KILEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. BERA.
H.R. 7218: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 7220: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 7227: Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SOTO, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. BACON, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 7280: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
H.R. 7297: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 7438: Mr. McCAUL.
H.R. 7442: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 7525: Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. KILEY.
H.R. 7539: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 7564: Mrs. WAGNER and Mr. DUNN of Florida.
H.R. 7577: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. VASEY.
H.R. 7584: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 7618: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 7629: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 7634: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. NEGUSE, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 7661: Mr. LaLOTA.
H.R. 7681: Mrs. STEEL.
H.R. 7698: Mr. MOORE of Utah.
H.R. 7731: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.
H.R. 7746: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
H.R. 7755: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 7764: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 7770: Mrs. STEEL.
H.R. 7802: Mr. WALTZ.
H.R. 7808: Mr. STEIL.
H.R. 7862: Mr. TRONE, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. BALINT, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 7873: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 7914: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 7921: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ and Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 7945: Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 7972: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 7991: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 7998: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 8013: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 8018: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 8041: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 8051: Mr. CRANE.
H.R. 8075: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 8114: Ms. VAN DUYN.
H.R. 8119: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.
H.R. 8127: Ms. BROWN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 8144: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 8147: Ms. VAN DUYN.
H.R. 8182: Mr. BOST.
H.R. 8184: Ms. VAN DUYN and Mr. FEENSTRA.
H.R. 8185: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 8196: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 8198: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 8202: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.
H.R. 8208: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas and Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 8217: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 8225: Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 8238: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. TIFFANY.
H.J. Res. 33: Mr. CARTER of Texas.
H.J. Res. 134: Mr. HUIZENGA and Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.J. Res. 135: Mr. POSEY, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. AMODEI.
H. Con. Res. 33: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.
H. Con. Res. 101: Ms. TOKUDA.
H. Res. 376: Ms. BARRAGAN.
H. Res. 620: Mr. LAWLER, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H. Res. 1131: Mr. FERGUSON and Mr. FALLON.
H. Res. 1180: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK and Ms. BALINT.
H. Res. 1186: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H. Res. 1188: Mr. BURCHETT and Mr. MOORE of Alabama.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. WESTERMAN

The provisions that warranted a referral to the committee on National Resources in H.R. 2925, the "Mining Regulatory Clarity Act 2024," do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.