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No. 100

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
June 13, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFFERSON VAN DREW 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 11:50 a.m.

### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALLIED D-DAY INVASION OF FRANCE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th anniversary of the Allied D-Day invasion of France.

Last week, we recognized the solemn anniversary and honored the bravery of our Armed Forces who served in that operation. On June 6, 80 years ago,

thousands of America's bravest soldiers fought to protect the freedoms, liberties, and rights of those back home.

Sadly, the United States lost more than 6,000 soldiers that day. Ultimately, we would lose thousands of brave servicemembers in the coming weeks and months liberating the rest of Western Europe from German control. Marking a crucial turning point in World War II, the Allied forces joined together to storm the beaches of Normandy. These patriots conquered their fears of what lie ahead in battle, showcasing sheer bravery while facing the dangerous unknown.

In an operation that would quickly turn the tide of the war and rally men across nations, American soldiers made sacrifices, leaving permanent marks on the war-torn terrain, on their families, and on our hearts.

Mr. Speaker, in 2018, I had the privilege of attending the wreath-laying ceremony at Normandy American Cemetery in France. I am forever humbled and grateful for the opportunity to travel to those beaches that our brave men stormed so many years ago. Looking out and seeing the white crosses, brothers buried next to brothers, fathers buried next to sons, it is a reminder that our freedom isn't free.

The memorial serves as a constant reminder that the United States will fight and die to protect the freedoms of not just American citizens, but for those around the globe. We are eternally grateful for this devotion to duty and devotion to country.

I recognize members of the Pennsylvania 15th Congressional District who stormed the beaches of Normandy. Our community has a long history of strong military service across many years of service, and, today, I name just a few.

From Bradford, McKean County, Elmer DeLucia, who served in the 81st Chemical Mortar Battalion. He landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6,

1944, and was involved in four more battles in northern France, the Battle of the Bulge, the Rhineland, and Central Europe.

Mr. DeLucia passed away at the age of 99 in 2022. He spent the years after returning home speaking often about his service, wanting to share his firsthand knowledge, especially with school children.

Mr. Speaker, I also recognize the members of our community who gave their lives during the D-Day battle. There were 347 Pennsylvanians who were killed in action. They gave their lives defending our freedoms. Of those men, 31 grew up across the 15th Congressional District. May we always remember their sacrifices.

Mr. Speaker, let us take a moment to remember and honor those who sacrificed so much for so many and celebrate the heroism of the servicemembers nationwide.

For the good of the many, so gave the few. It is these few we acknowledge today, and let us honor their heroism. Let us always speak with pride of D-Day, of our troops, and of our victory.

God bless America.

### ENDURING COMMITMENT TO OUR BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the House and to revise and extend my remarks.

First, I thank Chair ROGERS and Representatives SMITH and BACON for the opportunity to work on this really important piece of legislation, which is the National Defense Authorization Act.

Unlike any other piece of legislation that we have passed in Congress, we have passed this bill every single year

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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for over six decades. It is a testament to our enduring commitment to our brave men and women in uniform, and it is proof that Republicans and Democrats can indeed continue to find common ground and provide for our collective defense.

Since I arrived in 2019 in Congress, I have had the privilege of serving on the Armed Services Committee, which oversees this defense bill, and it is truly one of the highlights of my career to serve on such a bipartisan committee. This idea of bipartisanship, putting country before party, is not new to me. It is indeed how I was raised.

As the daughter and granddaughter of naval aviators, it is not an exaggeration to say that my very earliest memories are on a military base. I was born at Patuxent River Naval Air Station just a few hours from here. When it was my turn to fulfill our commitment to our Nation, I served in the Air Force, but that, of course, did not come without challenges.

Now, as a member of the Armed Services Committee, I have shared not only my own challenges and those of my family who have been in uniform, but also those of my mother and my grandmother and countless other Pennsylvanians and Americans I have been able to talk to along the way. Sharing these stories helps make our military the greatest on Earth and make it even stronger.

For nearly a year, I have now had the privilege of serving as ranking member on our Military Quality of Life Panel alongside my very dear friend, Republican colleague Representative DON BACON from Nebraska. From inadequate pay to substandard housing conditions and to long wait times for essential services, it is very clear that we have enormous work to do to ensure that our military families have the support and resources that they need to thrive. That is why we proposed 31 different recommendations, and I will highlight just a few of them.

First and foremost, pay. We want pay that is competitive with our civilian economy, including a significant additional pay raise for junior enlisted, E-1 through E-4.

Second, housing. Our recommendation is to reverse the 5 percent reduction in BAH that was passed nearly a decade ago. BAH would now cover 100 percent of the calculated rate for military housing.

In a similar vein, third, we recommended funding facility budget requests at 100 percent of the maintenance and modernization requirements so that we are able to fully fund them.

Next and finally, childcare. The bill that we passed out of committee would cover childcare expenses for those who worked in our childcare development centers for their first child at a minimum. This would get more staff on the books, more open and available childcare slots, and reduce wait times.

Finally, on healthcare. Servicemembers won't need referrals any longer for

physical therapy, for nutrition, for women's health, for audiology, for optometry, and podiatry specialties.

Next, spousal employment. We will be supporting military spouses by expanding childcare access for them from 90 to 100 days while they are able to look for a job, and we are permanently expanding our partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

We have the greatest military in the world because of the people that wear the uniform and the families that support them, so we must take care of them. At the very least, we owe our military community a bill that is free from political drama and theater.

Unfortunately, we here on the floor are now seeing some very upsetting amendments being offered to a very bipartisan bill and potentially adding to this bill many poison pills, poison pills that will make it difficult for even me to vote for the final passage of the bill, even though there is so much goodness in it.

Here are just a few ideas of what we will be voting on today:

Banning Pride flags in workplaces and public areas in the Department of Defense.

This one is particularly absurd: Banning content related to certain animals that change their sex, like clown fish, and a range of education materials.

Thirdly, prohibiting the Secretary of Defense from paying or reimbursing expenses related to reproductive care, such as abortion services.

Fourth, eliminating any DEI, or diversity, equity, and inclusion, within the military and laying off everyone who is in those offices.

Finally, prohibiting all assistance to Ukraine, which, of course, would be a gift to Russia, China, Iran, and all of our adversaries. These are just some of the very nonserious efforts that we are seeing here on the floor. It is enormously frustrating to see these being added to this bill, which was such a bipartisan bill, voted out of committee 57-1.

Regardless of which amendments are passed, these are attacks against women, against the LGBTQ community, against diversity initiatives, and more. They will have a chilling effect on military recruitment and retention at a time when we are facing historic challenges to fill our all-volunteer ranks.

We, the Congress, need to knock this off. I proudly served in uniform, as did generations of my family before me, and I will do everything in my power to send a truly bipartisan bill to the President for signature. I very much look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in the House and Senate to do just that.

□ 1015

HONORING MARTIN ESCALANTE  
ORTIZ

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Martin Escalante Ortiz on his 100th birthday.

Martin is part of America's Greatest Generation. Born in 1924, Mr. Ortiz served in our Nation's United States Army during World War II. For his service, he received several medals for his service, including the Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

After the war, Martin returned home and cared for his younger siblings before he married his wife, Maria, in 1955. Together, they raised 10 children and built a legacy that includes 21 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

In the late 1950s, Martin moved to Orange County and joined our community.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Martin a happy birthday, and I thank him for his service to our country and to our community.

HONORING ESPIRIDION "SPEED" CASTILLO

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Espiridion Castillo, known in our community as Speed.

Speed was an Air Force veteran, cherished father, dedicated educator, and esteemed community leader.

How did he get the nickname "Speed"? He ran the 400-meter in Flagstaff, Arizona, in 50 seconds and covered 800 meters in 2 minutes.

Speed dedicated over 30 years of his life to Anaheim Union High School District as a teacher, counselor, truant officer, principal, and director of Federal projects. He also spent almost 50 years as a high school sports referee.

Speed often helped those in need, including students who couldn't afford the graduation expenses.

He leaves behind a lasting legacy and is survived by son, Michael; daughters, Michelle and Lisa; and three grandchildren.

I thank Speed for his service. We love him, and we will never forget him.

RECOGNIZING DR. CHRISTOPHER DOWNING

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Anaheim Elementary School District Superintendent Dr. Chris Downing.

Dr. Downing dedicated the last 6 years of his career to leading the largest elementary school district in California, where he oversaw tremendous progress in science, arts, math, and music education.

Notably, Dr. Downing expanded learning opportunities and created after-school programs for our children. He made sure that our community was a leader in dual language programs, launching Spanish, Korean, and Mandarin programs for all of our students.

During Dr. Downing's tenure, our elementary school district won many Statewide recognitions, including the California Department of Education's Pivotal Practice Award for effectiveness during the pandemic.

Dr. Downing's 35 years as an educator have demonstrated his commitment to the education of our children.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Dr. Downing a happy retirement, and I congratulate and thank him.

REMEMBERING DOMINGA  
BUSTAMANTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of a remarkable and loving woman, Dominga Reyes Bustamante, who recently passed away on May 20, 2024, at the age of 89.

Dominga Reyes Bustamante led a life full of service and charity that touched so many lives and today is worthy of praise. Her story initiated in Dinuba, California, the place her family decided to migrate to and work in the Central Valley's agriculture fields. She was a proud alum of the local Dinuba schools.

It was at Dinuba High School where she met her husband, Cruz Bustamante, Jr. Their love and desire to start their family took them to San Joaquin, California, the place that saw Dominga blossom into a social and cultural icon.

Dominga was a public servant without having any official title. She saw the need in her community and was moved to action.

She was a member of the Volunteers in Service to America program, VISTA, where she helped low-income families obtain their Social Security benefits. As a CSO organizer, she spent her days driving her community's elderly to nearby Fresno for their appointments, as well as interacting with local, city, and county officials and boards to ensure that the citizens of San Joaquin and the surrounding communities were given the fair and equitable rights they deserved.

Dominga formed the San Joaquin Teen Club, where she served as an adviser and teen anxiety first responder. She was a law enforcement interdiction advocate, a bilingual instructional aide, a certificated healthcare provider, and a social and political activist.

A devout Catholic, Dominga wanted to share her faith with others, so she taught catechism for many years in San Joaquin and Fresno.

Dominga's kind spirit extended to newcomers as she served as the unofficial welcome host to new Hindu and Sikh families moving into her community.

Throughout her public service and acts of goodwill, she never demanded anything in return, but her community took notice of her works and honored her while she was with us. In 2001, Fresno State University celebrated Dominga and her husband, Cruz, during their 25th annual Latino commencement as they paid tribute to all parents who guide and encourage their children to succeed. In 2002, Dominga received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the California Latina Leaders in Action in recognition of her long-term involvement in community empowerment and advocacy.

The Diocese of Fresno recognized her for more than 30 years of service as a

faithful minister of God's Word and presented her with the Bishop's Catechist Appreciation Certificate.

All these accomplishments and accolades served as a perfect example for her six children as they, too, were inspired to a life of service.

Among them was Cruz Miguel Bustamante, who became the first Latino to serve as speaker of the California State Assembly and California's 45th Lieutenant Governor.

In her later years, Dominga stayed active and involved in the community by volunteering for the Fresno Food Bank and continuing as a catechism teacher for members of her congregation.

She took to caring for and maintaining her cactus garden, reading the latest Karen Kingsbury novel, and giving her time to friends and family. Her home served as the family gathering spot for holidays, birthdays, and tamale-making parties. She also became an accomplished seamstress and quilter and made sure each grandchild had their own special handmade blanket.

Although she is no longer with us, her kindness, love, faith, wisdom, and legacy will live on with the entire Bustamante family as she is survived by her six children, Cruz, Belinda, Dorothy, Ron, Andrew, and Naomi, her 13 grandchildren, and her 24 great-grandchildren.

With all my admiration, "rest in peace," "descanse en paz," Senora Dominga.

Dominga is a perfect example of a true American who gave of herself during her entire life and was selfless not only for her community but her country.

Once again, Dominga will live on forever in the hearts of many of us who she touched.

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Ms. Deirdre Kelly, one of his secretaries.

## CULTURE WARS IN THE NDAA

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

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, the annual National Defense Authorization Act is the Pentagon's budget. It is perhaps one of the most important tasks we fulfill here in Congress, protecting our national security and taking care of servicemembers, their families, and their housing.

It has been one of the few places where we have bipartisan agreement despite what you see on TV. This year, the House Armed Services Committee again did their job and, on a bipartisan basis, passed the National Defense Authorization Act out of committee 57-1. That includes a bunch of investments for the quality of life of our military members and military families.

The bill was good to go when it left committee. Unfortunately, once it left committee, it was transformed into a document that my colleagues have turned into a culture war document.

Most disappointing is, despite my colleagues saying that they were good with overturning *Roe v. Wade* but then will leave it to the States to decide what to do beyond that, we are once again watching them try to strip away a basic right to provide reproductive healthcare to women in uniform. It is dividing us at a time when we should be coming together on national security challenges.

It says specifically that uniformed women do not have the right to get some time off to leave the State to get an abortion if they need it.

If you are forced to be based in Texas and get pregnant and don't want to be pregnant, they are trying to repeal that woman's right to take time off to travel to another State to get an abortion.

They also are trying to repeal the right for a servicewoman to take time off to help her daughter get an abortion in another State, not even a woman in uniform.

I am deeply disappointed in my colleagues' constant attempts to repeal a woman's right to choose. Again, in public they may say that they were good with *Roe*, that they are thrilled that *Roe* was overturned but now are leaving it alone. In this Congress alone, in the past year and a half, we have voted 15 times to strip a woman of the right to choose in some form or fashion. Sometimes it is the right to travel. Sometimes it is the right to medication. Sometimes it is the right to understand if a healthcare center is actually able to perform an abortion or not. It is misinformation. It is disinformation.

I am deeply disappointed that we are again in this place where my colleagues won't stop attacking a woman's right to choose, now including the rights of a woman in uniform, someone who is putting her life on the line to serve her country.

We have seen a ton of other divisive amendments come into the NDAA, something that should never be a place where we do culture wars. I am also very disappointed in the refusal of a very bipartisan amendment to be brought to the floor preserving our National Guard's tactical air capability that underwrites our national defense.

We asked, on a bipartisan basis, that the Pentagon show us their plan to recapitalize their aircraft as they bring down the number of planes that they have in the U.S. Air Force. We asked what their plan was.

If my colleagues are worried about conflicts with China, worried about issues abroad, for every two planes we are retiring, we are creating and initiating only one new plane to replace them.

Places like Selfridge Air National Guard Base, which are home to important fighter aircraft, don't know what

the plan is after the A-10s depart. We had a bipartisan agreement that would ask the Pentagon to tell us what their plan is. We would like to know what fighters are coming behind that.

Unfortunately, it was ruled out of order, and we weren't able to talk about it. Despite having 30 bipartisan cosponsors and a tremendous show of support from the Air National Guard, this will not receive a vote on the floor.

As a CIA officer and Pentagon official and someone who has spent my entire life looking at national security issues not through a political lens but through a national security lens exclusively, it is hard to watch my colleagues across aisle turn the Pentagon budget into a culture war buffet.

Particularly on the issue of choice, as we have the Supreme Court in real time making decisions about a woman's right to choose, do not believe my colleagues when they say that they now are done pursuing a woman's right to choose. Look at what they do, not what they say.

#### CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, Juneteenth is a day of joy, a celebration of freedom, and a reminder of the work that lies before us as we continue to fight for true equity and justice for our Black neighbors.

On Juneteenth and every day in our community, we honor the trauma and acknowledge the pain and hurt of our Black Americans who fought tirelessly for their freedom, and we still aren't done.

We celebrate this independence day with activists, organizers, and community leaders who uplift Black history and carry on the enduring struggle for justice for all.

In our country right now, which our own Black neighbors literally built, including this very building I am standing in, the Capitol, systemic racism and discrimination continue to plague our institutions and communities.

We see it in disparities in healthcare, education, housing, access to basic necessities, racism in our legal system and economic opportunities, and so much more. By providing reparations, the debt owed to our Black neighbors upon emancipation from centuries of enslavement and oppression, we can begin, Mr. Speaker, to address the injustices.

I know the 12th Congressional District knows that reparations are a debt that our Nation owes, a true acknowledgement of the pain and harm inflicted on generations of our Black families.

Juneteenth is a reminder of how far we have come, but also how far we still need to go. This Juneteenth, please join me in honoring our Black neighbors as we commit to fighting for rep-

arations, voting rights, ending police brutality, investing in Black maternal health, HBCUs, and so much more.

□ 1030

#### THE U.S. SUPREME COURT IS FACING A CORRUPTION CRISIS

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court is not facing an ethics crisis; it is a corruption crisis. It seems like every single day there are new headlines about more corruption coming out of our U.S. Supreme Court.

I know we need urgent action to hold these unhinged, corrupt extremists accountable. It is extremely disturbing that the United States Supreme Court, the highest Court of our land, is the only Court that does not have an enforceable code of conduct.

Mr. Speaker, Justice Thomas, which my residents call "Corruption Clarence," has received over \$4 million and 193 gifts, including multiple vacations, flights on private jets, helicopter rides, and yacht trips from Republican billionaire mega-donors like Harlan Crow, who actually have cases before the Court. We are supposed to expect this Court to hold itself accountable? Give me a break.

One of these luxury trips actually cost \$500,000. It is not just corrupt Clarence. Justice Alito has also been hit with numerous scandals recently, including accepting luxury trips and flying insurrectionists around, hanging stop the steal flags outside of his home after the attack on our U.S. Capitol. Yet, the American people are supposed to trust him to decide the cases around January 6th.

These unelected Justices, serving lifetime appointments, Mr. Speaker, continue to strip us of our rights, shred our voting rights, gut our environmental protections, our right to breathe clean air and drink clean water, and sell our democracy to the highest bidder.

It is time to expand the Supreme Court. It is time for reforms. I know our residents in the 12th Congressional District are demanding that I move with urgency on this issue. We need to enact term limits for Supreme Court Justices, enforce binding a code of conduct, real reforms, and expedite impeachment proceedings.

These reforms are long overdue. I know Justice Thomas should have never been confirmed in the first place. We should have listened to Anita Hill.

Let me be clear: Thomas and Alito need to be impeached and removed from the bench now. Our country deserves a Supreme Court that is acting in the best interests of the American people, not a Court that is accepting bribes and doing the bidding of right-wing extremists.

#### RECOGNIZING CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I recognize Caribbean American Heritage Month as we celebrate the contributions of our Caribbean Americans in Michigan's 12th Congressional District and across our Nation.

I know Caribbean American Heritage Month was first recognized in 2005, and this was a combination of tireless efforts of organizers that highlight the amazing contributions of our Caribbean Americans.

I also uplift in our backyard the Caribbean Community Service Center, an organization based right in our district that is proudly uplifting the history and continuing to celebrate that culture and our neighbors in southeastern Michigan beyond this month.

Please join me in recognizing Caribbean American Heritage Month and the contributions of our Caribbean Americans across our Nation and in the 12th Congressional District.

#### HONORING THE LEGENDARY BILL WALTON

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the loss of one of San Diego's most accomplished native sons and one of our most devoted citizens. On May 27, Bill Walton passed away from colon cancer at just 71 years of age.

Most people know Bill Walton as a successful basketball player, and that he certainly was.

After winning titles at Helix High, he enrolled at UCLA where he was a three-time college player of the year, and he led the Bruins to two national championships in 3 years.

In the NBA, despite a series of injuries, he won titles with the Portland Trail Blazers and the Boston Celtics, and he had an all-around game.

His college coach, the great John Wooden, said: "Walton is the type of player who wouldn't have to score at all, yet he'll dominate the game."

Magic Johnson called Bill "one of the smartest basketball players to ever live."

Most count Bill as one of the two greatest college players ever, along with Lew Alcindor, later known as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Bill was inducted into the National Basketball Hall of Fame in 1993 and included in ESPN's ranking of the 50 greatest basketball players of all time.

Bill retired from basketball almost 40 years ago, so his most famous accomplishments, those on the basketball court, have been history for a long time now. However, his generosity, his gratitude, and his determination, which set an example for me and so many, were present to the very end, and we will miss those qualities very much at home.

I understand when he was young, Bill may have been a bit cranky. Well, I never knew that Bill Walton. By the time I met him, he wanted to make everyone happy. He wanted to volunteer. He wanted to help. He wanted to boost San Diego.

Bill was a champion for the poor and for addressing homelessness through

his work with the Lucky Duck Foundation, Champions for Health, Father Joe's Villages, and Feeding San Diego. He supported the Brad Fowler Memorial Scholarship, which used sports to help teens overcome substance abuse. He helped the Challenged Athletes Foundation equip disabled people to participate in sports.

He helped San Diego State become a national basketball power. He cared deeply about the environment and joined the activists and organizations working to protect San Diego's natural resources. He never just raised money, although he was willing to do that. He was there personally to thank, to encourage, to congratulate, always with a big smile and never intending to be the center of attention, but inevitably always the center of attention.

Bill also faced hard times. The injuries he had suffered in sports led to such intolerable pain that Bill actually considered ending his own life. Fortunately, medical innovations in spine surgery helped him have close to a normal life, though he often brought his own tall chair with him so he could have a more comfortable spot for his 7-foot frame to sit.

Given the physical pain he suffered, I guess it is a little ironic that when you encountered Bill, what you noticed was his joy. You could feel that joy when he did a basketball broadcast or when he talked about the Grateful Dead or when he told basketball stories about Coach Wooden or about Larry Bird. Thankfully, he found joy in riding his bicycle.

When I rode the Bike the Bay with him once, he told me that that was really important to him. Even though this amazingly accomplished world-class competitor was notoriously slower on a bike than his friends, he would regularly proclaim himself the luckiest man in the world. Just being healthy enough to ride was the win.

Mr. Speaker, I offer condolences to Bill's wife, Lori; to his sons; Adam, Nate, Luke, and Chris; and his grandchildren; Olivia, Avery Rose, and Chris.

Bill Walton was a great San Diegoan and a great American, and while we will miss him so much, he will live on through the thousands he served as a philanthropist, as a citizen, and as an example.

#### CELEBRATING DIA DE PORTUGAL

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Dia de Portugal. It is a national Portuguese holiday celebrating the anniversary of Portugal as a nation. It is the equivalent of their Fourth of July.

The story of the Portuguese Americans, I think, is also a part of the American story. Why? Because the American story is one of immigrants past and immigrants present. I think it is the secret sauce of America.

Every generation of immigrants coming to this country for over 200 years add value to our country. My district in California is home to generations of the Portuguese diaspora, the majority of them coming from the Azores Islands off the coast of Portugal out in the middle of the Atlantic.

As the co-chair of the Portuguese Caucus and a proud descendant of Portuguese immigrants, the traditions and values that my family took from the Azores have always been a part of who I am.

This year, it is particularly meaningful to celebrate Dia de Portugal because it is the 50th anniversary of what they call the Carnation Revolution. That is a revolution that occurred in Portugal in the mid-70s when they transitioned from a dictatorship to a full-fledged democracy.

Now a contributing member of the European Union, Portugal is one of America's longest and strongest allies. It was one of the first to recognize the United States as an independent Nation after the Revolutionary War and it is also an original member of NATO.

Join me in celebrating this special occasion and the strong bond between Portugal and the United States and the Portuguese people and people from our country. "Happy celebration of the day of Portugal," "Feliz Dia de Portugal."

#### PROTECT SNAP

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, millions of families continue to struggle to put dinner on their table every night, and that is why I will speak about the American safety net known as SNAP, which is providing food for people who are insecure, 41 million Americans.

Fresno and Tulare Counties that I represent are among the top agricultural-producing counties in the country. It is a real dichotomy because we produce so much aplenty, over 300 commodities, 20 percent of America's milk production, almost half of the fruits and vegetables, 75 percent of the almonds in the world, and 50 percent of the pistachios. The list goes on and on.

However, in my district I have a significant amount of food insecurity. Mr. Speaker, 42 million Americans are food insecure, or 12.5 percent of our Nation's population rely throughout the year on SNAP, this food supplement.

In my district, out of 52 congressional districts in California, 28 percent rely on SNAP. They are food insecure, whether it be young or old or people with disabilities or working people. A lot of them are seasonal workers in our fields that live on \$20,000 a year or maybe a little bit more but have a family of four or five that they have to feed every night.

When we think about the farm bill and the reauthorization, it is not only the safety net to American farmers, ranchers, dairymen and -women, but it is also the safety net to 42 million Americans who are food insecure.

What we need to understand is that four out of five SNAP households include a child, an elderly individual, or

a person with a disability. I know because my district ranks among the highest in California and the sixth highest in the Nation.

SNAP is more than a lifeline. Why? Because it also benefits local economies and cuts hunger by 30 percent. Every dollar spent on SNAP generates economic activity and support for our farmers and small businesses and obviously puts food on those families' dinner tables.

Nothing is more challenging than to educate a child. For many of our children, the breakfast and lunch program in our schools is the best meal they get during the day. I don't look at this as a burden on taxpayers. I look at it as an investment in our Nation's health and well-being.

As we debate the importance of reauthorizing the farm bill, let's address the income inequality that makes people food insecure and let's sit together to try to find a bipartisan agreement to reauthorize the farm bill.

#### RECOGNIZING ILWACO FIRE DEPARTMENT AS FIREHOUSE OF THE YEAR

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

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the Ilwaco Fire Department, which was recently recognized as the Firehouse of the Year by the Washington State Fire Fighters' Association.

First responders and firefighters are on the front lines of keeping our communities safe, and many of them are doing this as volunteers because they are committed to serving their community.

At the Ilwaco Fire Department, the ambulance component is entirely run and operated by their volunteers. Whether it is a wildfire or a house flood, our first responders are constantly prepared for emergencies throughout our community.

In this last year, the Ilwaco Fire Department was responsible for transporting more than 200 patients and traveling over 23,000 miles. The crucial role they play can't be done without proper funding, which is why I will always fight to bring back the Federal dollars they deserve. I am honored to have such a hardworking and outstanding fire department in my district.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of the brave members of the Ilwaco Fire Department, and a special thanks to Sparky, the fire dog, for keeping everyone's spirits high.

□ 1045

21-YEAR-OLD ANDREW OKERLUND SUMMITS 100 HIGHEST PEAKS IN WASHINGTON STATE IN 85 DAYS

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Andrew Okerlund, a young mountain climber in my district. Last summer, Andrew became the 91st person to summit the 100 highest peaks in

Washington State, which he accomplished in just 85 days. This list of summits is known as the Bulger List or the Bulger 100.

Okerlund turned 21 this past March, making him the youngest person ever to complete the Bulger List. He started his climbing journey just 2 years prior, when he became inspired by the stories of other young people who had competed in the 100 summits.

Andrew's meticulous planning and grit was evident throughout his trek. From precise meal planning to his high standards for climbing partners, each decision made in the 85 days was deliberate.

Andrew Okerlund's accomplishment is a testament to his dedication and strength. I applaud him for such an impressive feat.

ANGELINA RODRIGUEZ-CALDWELL NAMED STEM RISING STAR

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angelina Rodriguez-Caldwell, a freshman at Kelso High School. Angelina was just named the Southwest Washington STEM's Rising Star in recognition of her work as an active member in her school's medical club, known as ClubMED. Her time in ClubMED has allowed her to participate as well as lead a variety of events and conferences.

This upcoming school year, Angelina will serve as the ClubMED president, allowing her educational opportunities to continue to grow in the medical field. Her teachers have shared that she excels in communication, work ethic, and spirit, rising to challenges above her grade level.

Angelina Rodriguez-Caldwell has made her teachers and community extremely proud. I have no doubt that this is just the beginning. Her success with ClubMED shows how much students can accomplish when they are given the tools to work on issues they are interested in. I congratulate Angelina. I can't wait to see what she accomplishes next.

PSP SHUTS DOWN SHELLFISH FISHING IN WILLAPA BAY

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a recent harmful spike in paralytic shellfish poisoning, known as PSP, that has partially shut down shellfish fishing in Willapa Bay.

The PSP biotoxin is caused by a harmful microorganism that can spread in coastal waters. This spike was the first to cause commercial closures in Willapa Bay since 1997.

The shellfish industry plays a critical role in southwest Washington's economy and ecosystem. However, due to this outbreak, most commercial shellfish farming was halted for over 10 days, costing growers, their families, and employees financial hardship and challenges.

Testing requirements have put constraints on growers, and shutting down harvesting operations has threatened the jobs of hundreds of southwest Washingtonians. Imagine what 10 days of lost pay would do to your ability to

pay rent or make a payment on your car.

I stand by the shellfish farmers during this difficult time. Local farmers are a staple in southwest Washington, and it is essential that they get the support they need to be able to continue their operations. My staff and I are closely monitoring the situation as more information is discovered.

REMEMBERING MAYOR ROB GORDON

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Rob Gordon of Bucoda, who recently passed away after battling stomach cancer.

Mayor Gordon was born in Centralia and remained a lifelong resident of southwest Washington. Before and during his tenure as mayor, Gordon was the assistant chief of the Bucoda Fire Department and has been serving as a firefighter since the age of 16.

In addition to serving the public, Mayor Gordon also worked for his family's company that he co-owned with his brother, where he drove dump and log trucks. Outside of work, he enjoyed raising cattle on his family farm, collecting old International tractors, and teaching these skills and values to his children, Jakob and Anna.

Mayor Gordon was the epitome of a servant leader, and the impact he had on our community cannot be overstated. He was old school, tough, fair-minded, and at times reserved, but he always gave people the chance to be the best version of themselves.

This loss will be felt by many, and his life of service and dedication to Bucoda will echo forever. My thoughts are with his family, Miriam, Jakob, and Anna and loved ones grieving this devastating loss.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REVEREND JAMES LAWSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Reverend James Lawson, a pioneering civil rights activist whose enduring commitment to unity and nonviolence shaped our Nation. He was a beloved constituent of the 37th Congressional District.

As a young missionary, Reverend Lawson traveled to India, where he studied under Mahatma Gandhi. It was during this trip that he developed his guiding philosophy of civil disobedience, one that would inspire a generation of activists.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Reverend Lawson led nonviolent workshops with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference as the organization worked to desegregate the South. In 1974, he moved to Los Angeles and was named senior pastor of Holman United Methodist Church, also in my district, a largely Black congregation of 2,700. He preached for 25 years, leaving an enormous impact on the south L.A. community.

Reverend Lawson's visionary leadership changed the course of American history. At a time when tensions are escalating at home and abroad, his guidance will be deeply missed. He was a mentor to so many and a blessing to so many more.

Please join me in honoring his legacy and the values that he championed during his lifetime.

HONORING BASKETBALL LEGENDS JERRY WEST AND BILL WALTON

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacies of two L.A. basketball legends, Jerry West and Bill Walton, who both changed the game in their own rights.

Jerry West was a man of many names: The Logo, Mr. Clutch, Mr. Outside, and Zeke from Cabin Creek. He was also a man of many titles: player, coach, scout, and general manager, all for my Los Angeles Lakers.

After a stellar college career in his home State, at West Virginia University, West was drafted second overall to the Lakers, beginning a career that would span over 40 years. As a player, West dominated the backcourt, garnering all-star honors in each of his 14 playing seasons and bringing home a championship in 1972.

Upon his retirement, he came back to the Lakers as a head coach, then scout, and finally as an executive, where he truly thrived. West constructed the Lakers' 1980's Showtime dynasty, which helped bring the NBA into the mainstream, and won five championships.

Toward the end of his tenure as general manager, he orchestrated the trade for Kobe and signed Shaq, leading to a championship in his final season with the Lakers and setting them up to complete a three-peat with two more in the following two seasons.

While West later pursued other opportunities in the NBA, he will forever be a Los Angeles legend for his fierce loyalty and contributions to the team and our city.

A California native, Bill Walton was recruited to UCLA by the illustrious John Wooden, where he went on to lead the Bruins to two consecutive 30-0 seasons and two NCAA championships, earning the honor of Naismith College Player of the Year three times. While I am a Trojan for life, I have to respect that.

Walton then went on to have an equally impressive career in the NBA, leading the Portland Trail Blazers to their first title in 1977 and following up that season by taking home the NBA MVP. I won't go into further detail, but he did later win another title with a certain team from Massachusetts in 1986.

Walton's entire career is a story of perseverance. Throughout his basketball career, he battled injuries to support his teams the best he could, and following his playing career, Walton overcame a stutter to become a celebrated broadcaster.

After living all across the U.S., he never let the California free spirit in

him wane. He was a committed antiwar advocate, devoted Deadhead, and he fought to preserve the PAC-12 until the end.

Please join me in honoring the legacies of these two L.A. legends.

#### CELEBRATING THE NEGRO LEAGUES

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

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Major League Baseball's Tribute to the Negro Leagues, which will take place at the historic Rickwood Field in Birmingham, Alabama, beginning Tuesday, June 18, 2024, and culminating with an MLB game, the Giants versus the Cardinals on Thursday, June 20.

Built in 1910, Birmingham's historic Rickwood Field is the oldest professional baseball field in the United States. For 36 years, it served as the official home to the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro Leagues, and to this day, it continues to stand as a living monument of baseball history.

For decades, the Black Barons were a beacon of excellence in Birmingham's community. Between 1943 and 1948, they racked up a win percentage of more than 60 percent and captured three Negro League pennants.

At the height of Jim Crow segregation, the success of the Black Barons at Rickwood Field galvanized and united Birmingham's Black community. The stands were always overflowing with fans eager to cheer on their favorite team.

Over the years, Rickwood Field has hosted a number of baseball giants, including Willie Mays from Fairfield, Alabama, Satchel Paige, Jackie Robinson, Hank Aaron, Josh Gibson, and of course Birmingham's own Black Baron, Reverend William Greason, who at the age of 99 continues to give back to his Birmingham community as pastor of Bethel Baptist Church Berney Points.

With the help of Major League Baseball, Rickwood Field has undergone major renovations. Beginning on Tuesday, June 18, it will host a series of events to pay tribute to the Negro Leagues and to recognize the contributions of African Americans to baseball history. On June 18, Rickwood Field will host a Minor League contest between the Birmingham Barons and the Montgomery Biscuits.

On Wednesday, June 19, to commemorate Juneteenth, I will honor the Negro Leagues by hosting a tribute to William Greason, our 99-year-old constituent, who played for the Birmingham Black Barons from 1948 to 1951, at 1 p.m. at the Bethel Baptist Church Berney Points. Later that day, the Birmingham community will join together with MLB for a celebrity softball game in celebration of Juneteenth.

The events will culminate with a special regular season game between the St. Louis Cardinals and the San Fran-

cisco Giants on Thursday, June 20. It will be the first MLB game played at a Negro Leagues stadium in America's history.

As we gather to celebrate Juneteenth, I can think of no more fitting time to honor the Negro Leagues. I look forward to welcoming Major League Baseball and my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus to Birmingham, Alabama, for a time of reflection and celebration.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Major League Baseball for their tribute to the Negro Leagues at Rickwood Field. Let's play ball.

#### THE CASE AGAINST EARMARKS

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, Citizens Against Government Waste has released its "2024 Congressional Pig Book," documenting the fiscal rot that is taking place with congressional earmarks.

CAGW documents 8,222 congressional earmarks in last year's appropriations bills. That is up more than 11 percent in a single year, costing taxpayers \$22.7 billion, the fifth highest amount of earmark spending since CAGW began tracking it in 1991.

I thank Tom Schatz and his staff for continuing to shine the light on one of Congress' most tawdry and wasteful practices, in which individual Congressmen bypass merit-driven competition and instead personally direct spending to pet projects in their own districts or to favored supporters.

CAGW notes that "Earmarks continue to provide the most benefit to the most powerful legislators. In fiscal year 2024, the 90 members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, making up only 17 percent of the Congress, were responsible for 42.2 percent of the earmarks and 35.2 percent of the money." One House Appropriations member grabbed 13 earmarks, costing taxpayers a quarter of a billion dollars.

Although all spending bills start in the House, and the voters elected a Republican House for that reason, Democrats received three-quarters of the earmarks, 8,571 to the Republicans 2,931. They are all bad, though.

Since the Magna Carta, it has been a settled principle of good governance that the power to spend money should be separate from the power to appropriate it. That is at the heart of our constitutional separation of powers: The President spends money but cannot appropriate it, and Congress appropriates money but cannot spend it.

□ 1100

Earmarks combine these two powers, and the inevitable result is waste, logrolling, porkbarrel spending, and, ultimately, corruption. It is no coincidence that so many of the congressional

scandals involving political corruption or laughably absurd projects are the result of earmarks.

Worthy projects in open competitive bidding don't need earmarks. They rise or fall on their own merits. If there is such a thing as a good earmark, the price to be paid is all of the bad ones, and that is a high price, indeed.

Members can and should advocate for their districts and make the case for projects they deem worthy of the money that Congress has appropriated. The problem with earmarks is blurring these two roles and having individual Members both advocate and decide.

Many say they don't trust this President and his deputies to administer these funds appropriately and evenhandedly, and I share that sentiment. If you don't trust the President to administer the funds that we appropriate, then don't give him the money.

We hear that earmarks simply ensure that local governments get a fair break. No. What they actually do is turn the Federal budget into a grab bag for local pork spending by the most powerful Members of Congress and undermine the central tenet of federalism that local projects should be financed by local communities and Federal spending reserved for the Nation's general welfare.

When a local government proposes an earmark, what is it saying? It is saying the project is so low on its priority list that they don't dare spend their own taxpayers' money. Yet, they are perfectly happy to have taxpayers in other communities foot the bill.

The result is a long list of dubious projects that rob St. Petersburg to pay St. Paul for projects that St. Petersburg doesn't benefit from and that St. Paul doesn't deem worthy enough to spend its own money on.

Finally, it is said that earmarks can grease legislation by buying off the votes of individual Members. Add a few local projects for that Member, and suddenly, a bill he would never vote for on its merits becomes a local imperative, overriding his sound judgment. Explain to me exactly how that is a good thing.

Paying interest on the national debt now exceeds our entire defense spending for the first time in our history, and history warns us that countries that bankrupt themselves aren't around very long. If we are going to avoid the terrible fate of so many nations before ours, we have to end congressional profligacy, and earmarks are the most glaring example of that waste.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Citizens Against Government Waste for continuing to expose the excesses and inequities of earmarks and to hold accountable those politicians from both parties who are responsible.

#### CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH

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



Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Pride Month, I rise today to honor Lisa Isadora Cruz, a passionate and committed advocate for the trans community in my district and beyond.

Born in Puerto Rico, Lisa, like many of our trans neighbors, faced systemic and social challenges that motivated her to create and strengthen networks of community care, solidarity, and support.

She eventually moved to Chicago, where she has committed herself to supporting marginalized communities, especially the LGBTQ+ community of color, through her work in health services, mental health care, and housing.

In addition to the gratitude of her community, Lisa's advocacy has earned numerous awards, including the Transgender Leadership Award, the Rosa Parks Equality Award, and inclusion in Chicago's LGBT Hall of Fame.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I am proud to commend Lisa Isadora Cruz for courageously inspiring us to live our truth and for encouraging, supporting, and celebrating our communities.

#### HONORING ERIKA L. SANCHEZ

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Erika L. Sanchez, a writer rooted in Illinois-03 whose work has profoundly impacted literature and culture in our district and beyond.

The daughter of Mexican immigrants, Erika's works of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction have moved so many eager readers. Her young adult novel, "I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter," shares Julia's story, a story shared by many children of immigrants as she navigates family expectations, mental health struggles, and cultural stereotypes. Her beautiful story will now find a new life as a film directed by America Ferrera and screen-written by Linda Yvette Chavez.

This Immigrant Heritage Month, I am grateful for storytellers like Erika who invite us into a deeper understanding of our immigrant experiences and encourage young people through art and literature.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend Erika Sanchez for her skill, for her creativity, and for her commitment to telling our stories.

#### COMMENDING ALEES EDWARDS

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the one and only Alees Edwards, a leader bringing diverse communities together in our shared struggle for justice and freedom.

From West Humboldt Park, Alees is the founder and executive director of Drawn Out Ministries, a nonprofit providing hope and transitional housing for women returning to the community from prison. She is also a member of Westside Rising, Chicagoland United in Prayer, and Westside Community Leadership Fellows, and she is a councilmember for the 11th Police District, where she works to redefine community safety and hold the Chicago Police Department accountable to the people.

As we observe Juneteenth, I appreciate Alees' leadership in the 1865 Fest Coalition, bringing critical awareness to the day's significance and the struggle for Black liberation.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend Alees Edwards for her dedication to community and her relentless fight for our collective leadership.

#### CONGRATULATING BINGHAMTON BLACK BEARS

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

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Binghamton Black Bears on winning this year's Commissioner's Cup Championship. Not only is this the team's first title in franchise history, but it is also the first time a professional team has brought back a championship to Binghamton since 2011.

Binghamton, New York, is a hockey town, and we are grateful to the Black Bears for choosing our city to plant their roots in 2021. We are even more proud to call ourselves champions.

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to attend a game ending in a thrilling overtime victory, and I have to say that my wife, Corinne, and my kids, Abigail, Elias, and Theo, still haven't stopped talking about that game.

Like the city of Binghamton, this team is gritty and resilient, and it is reflective of our city. That was clear to me then and even more apparent upon watching their incredible playoff run.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating the Black Bears and its ownership group led by Andreas Johansson, Head Coach Brant Sherwood, and the entire staff on the ice and in the back office. Of course, we extend our appreciation and congratulations to the Binghamton Black Bears players led by captain Tyson Kirkby.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate our Binghamton Black Bears and the city of Binghamton.

#### NDAA DISAPPOINTMENT

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my deep disappointment in what my colleagues on the far right have done with this year's National Defense Authorization Act.

Instead of building on the bipartisan work we achieved in the Armed Services Committee, they have loaded up the bill with MAGA culture war amendments and refused to allow a vote on amendments that would improve the quality of life for servicemembers, their families, and the American people.

For centuries, a cornerstone of the American people's trust in our military has been reinforced by laws like the Posse Comitatus Act, which provides a guarantee that our Armed Forces are there to protect them, not police them.

There are dangerous gaps in the laws that govern National Guard deployment. Every year since the former President first abused these laws to suppress protests in Washington, D.C., I have introduced an amendment to make sure that any future President cannot skirt these important laws.

If elected to another term, Donald Trump has promised to be a dictator on day one and has outlined his intent to weaponize the military and law enforcement to go after his political opponents. I can't say I am surprised that this year the House is refusing to even debate this amendment.

I am also deeply concerned by the turn this bill took when it comes to our servicewomen. When I was first commissioned 30 years ago at the Naval Academy, there were many who argued against women serving in leadership positions. People circulated James Webb's op-ed titled: "Women Can't Fight." They said women couldn't withstand the g-force of F-15s like men could.

In fact, the Chief of Naval Operations at the time said women wouldn't be serving on submarines in his lifetime and received a standing ovation from the brigade of midshipmen.

By the time I graduated, things were changing. My class of 1994 was the first eligible to serve in most combat roles, so I got my wings. I became a helicopter pilot and helicopter commander, and I flew missions across the globe.

It is that opportunity that allowed me to eventually become a Member of Congress, the fact that I was given the opportunity to lead, serve, and climb the ranks in pursuit of a shared mission. It is because of that progress that we finally have the first woman Chief of Naval Operations and member of the Joint Chiefs. We have the first female commander of an aircraft carrier, my classmate, and the first woman superintendent of the Naval Academy.

Today, I see my Republican colleagues trying to take us backward, offering amendments to strip women's ability to serve in combat roles, to make our military less inclusive for Black, Brown, and LGBTQ servicemembers, and to repeal the Pentagon's policy that allows servicewomen to be reimbursed for travel to get an abortion.

Frankly, it is like we are living in The Upside Down. These policies will not make our military stronger. It will make it harder to recruit and retain talented Americans who simply want to serve our country, just like I did.

Today, after the fall of Roe, we are sending servicewomen and their families to serve in States with draconian abortion laws, States like Texas, which has the 49th worst reproductive care in the Nation.

These are orders. They don't have a choice of where they want to serve. If



we are going to tell them to serve in Texas or Florida, we should, at a bare minimum, ensure that they have the baseline reproductive care and rights that they deserve.

We send servicewomen overseas to risk their lives for their country. We should not be sending them to Texas or Florida or Idaho to risk their lives giving birth.

That is why I offered an amendment to codify the DOD's travel policy, an amendment to ensure that military service providers know the care they are legally obligated to provide servicewomen and their families, an amendment to ensure that servicewomen know the care they are entitled to regardless of where they are stationed, and an amendment to ensure that the military can provide emergency care to servicewomen, including medically necessary abortions. It is why I offered an amendment to lift restrictions on the DOD, so military facilities have the freedom to perform abortions.

Guess what? All of these amendments were ruled out of order by my far-right MAGA colleagues on the Rules Committee. In the greatest deliberative body in the world, my Republican colleagues wouldn't even bring these up for a debate or a vote. They would rather tuck their plans away in Trump's Project 2025 or a speech to the Susan B. Anthony List rather than debate them on the merits or go on the record with their votes.

Mr. Speaker, I know, as a veteran, that we must do better for servicemembers and military families, but today's bill has once again been hijacked by the far right, not to improve our military or national security, but to drive an agenda that makes America look small, attacks women, and ultimately will be detrimental to the greatest fighting force in the world.

#### CONGRATULATING MICHAEL MCKEE

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael McKee on being the recipient of the 2024 John van Hengel Fellowship Award.

Feeding America presents this award to an executive of a partner food bank for excellence in leadership, local impact, national influence, and entrepreneurial spirit in the area of hunger relief.

For over a decade, Michael has served as the CEO of the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, which distributes food to one of the largest regions in Virginia. He has overseen the food bank's tremendous growth, including expanded warehouse capacity, thousands of people served each month, and millions of pounds of food distributed each year.

During COVID, Michael ensured that vulnerable populations, such as chil-

dren, seniors, and immigrants, continued to have access to nutritious food. More recently, his innovative partnerships include collaborating with Sentara RMH to launch a new online directory of food assistance resources and with the National Association of Letter Carriers in a successful Stamp Out Hunger campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I once again congratulate Michael for the national recognition of his efforts and tireless advocacy to end hunger in our part of Virginia.

#### CONGRATULATING DEBBIE MARTIN

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Debbie Martin of Frederick County Middle School for being named the Discovery Education Educator of the Year.

This distinguished award recognizes educators who demonstrate unwavering commitment to student achievement, innovative teaching practices, and unique contributions to learning. Debbie Martin exemplifies all of these qualities and more.

Discovery Education offers digital classroom resources, including podcasts, science experiments, videos, and articles, which Debbie Martin has utilized in her own classroom to shape the next generation of Virginians.

After 28 years of teaching in Frederick County, including 21 years at Frederick County Middle School, Debbie announced her retirement at the end of the school year.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Debbie Martin for her well-deserved recognition and thank her for her years of devotion to the students of Frederick County.

□ 1115

#### CELEBRATING THE GEORGE WASHINGTON HOTEL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The George Washington Hotel in Winchester, Virginia, as it celebrates its remarkable 100th anniversary.

Since its opening in 1924, "The GW" has stood as a beacon of hospitality and splendor. Located at the intersection of East Piccadilly and North Cameron Streets, it was once the tallest building in Winchester.

For half a century, The GW flourished as a premier luxury destination. By 1978, it had transformed into an assisted living facility before closing its doors 1993. In 2003, The George Washington Hotel was purchased and underwent a meticulous restoration. By 2008, the hotel once again opened its doors, rejuvenating its historic grandeur.

Today we honor The George Washington Hotel's first century, celebrating its enduring legacy of resilience and charm. Congratulations to The GW on reaching this significant milestone. Here's to another hundred years of exceptional hospitality and profound success.

#### CONGRATULATING CLARKE COUNTY 4-H POULTRY JUDGING JUNIOR TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary achieve-

ment of the Clarke County 4-H Poultry Judging Junior Team. For the third consecutive year, these outstanding young Virginians won first place at the State level.

Among this talented group of fourth to eighth graders were Samuel Sinclair, Josiah Sinclair, Molly Solich, Brendan Whalen, and Finn Whalen.

The team won the 2024 State 4-H/FFA Poultry Evaluation Contest in Harrisonburg, Virginia, which consisted of evaluating eggs, patties, live birds, and ready-to-cook birds.

Under the guidance of their coach, Brian Cather of Clarke County, these students have been practicing since February, preparing rigorously for the statewide competition. Their hard work and commitment are truly commendable.

Please join me in congratulating these remarkable 4-H members and their coach for this extraordinary accomplishment.

#### BIDEN'S WEAK IMMIGRATION EXECUTIVE ORDER

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Biden administration rolled out another ineffective executive order supposedly aimed at securing our border. This executive order claimed that the U.S.-Mexico border would shut down once illegal crossings hit 2,500 per day. That would result in nearly 1 million additional illegals crossing over the border during the next year.

The American people deserve more than an election-year stunt that won't actually secure our borders.

For the past 3½ years, Biden has failed his responsibility to the American people to secure our borders and safeguard our national security. Instead, Biden and his administration have taken over 60 executive actions to open our borders and completely dismantle one of the most secure borders our country has ever had.

The chaos unleashed by Biden's policies has turned every community into a border community whether in the form of rising crime, the fentanyl crisis, or massive strains on our hospitals, schools, and other community services.

Mr. Speaker, it is far past time that we hold the Biden administration accountable for its complete dereliction of duty to secure our borders. The executive order is nothing but a desperate ploy to boost Biden's poll numbers ahead of November. The American people deserve an administration that will put their safety and concern first by implementing actual solutions to this border crisis, not political theatrics.

#### HONORING ROBERT HUGHES

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday two basketball legends were lost. One of those basketball legends was from Fort Worth, Texas, better known as the "Mayor of Stop Six," and that was Coach Robert Hughes.

Coach Robert Hughes was the winningest boys high school basketball

coach in the country. There are only four coaches with over 1,000 wins, and Coach Hughes is one of those with 1,333 wins, making him the winningest coach of all time for boys.

He grew up in Oklahoma, played basketball at Texas Southern, and was drafted by the Boston Celtics. An injury landed him in the Fort Worth Independent School District where he coached during the time of segregation for I.M. Terrell.

After segregation ended, Coach Hughes moved to Dunbar High School where he put on quite a show. There were no accidents with Coach Hughes. All of his kids followed the rules. They were well disciplined. They followed through with pinpoint execution. Coach Hughes didn't play any games in his coaching of these young men. He would have his coat unbuttoned, and if someone came down and took a shot that he knew wasn't right, Coach Hughes would put his hands on his hips, look down at the bench and point, and have another person come in.

It was just amazing that decade after decade, Coach Hughes produced so many outstanding players, so many State championships, and was a role model for so many of these young men and a father figure for many of these young men. You should see the comments on Facebook about Coach Hughes.

Coach Hughes and Coach Rambo, as you see there to his right, are both gone now. However, the memories of what Coach Hughes has done for the city of Fort Worth, what he has done for basketball in Texas in a school known for Friday night lights, this man literally was the show, and we will miss Coach Hughes.

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

#### HONORING JOE COATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of one of my constituents, Joe Coates, who passed away late last month after a hard-fought fight and battle with cancer.

Joe was a true public servant. As the director of the Charleston County Emergency Management Department, Joe dedicated his life to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community.

Joe's commitment to public service goes far beyond that. For nearly two decades, he served Charleston County in various roles, including as a coordinator for the Sheriff's Rural Search and Rescue Team and as a secretary for the Disaster Recovery Network following the devastating floods of 2015. His leadership as the planning section chief under the Lowcountry Incident Management Team was instrumental in guiding our community through times of crisis.

On May 16, 2024, during a special meeting of county council attended by Joe and his family, friends, and colleagues, members of the council voted unanimously to rename the emergency operations center the Joe Coates Emergency Operations Center.

My team and I extend our deepest condolences to Coates' family, friends, and colleagues. May we all strive to embody the selflessness, compassion, and leadership that Joe exemplified throughout his life. His legacy and his impact on Charleston County will be remembered forever.

#### HARRIET TUBMAN MONUMENT

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the unveiling of the Harriet Tubman Monument in Beaufort County and to highlight Beaufort's rich history in the fight for freedom and equality. This monument stands as a powerful tribute to a remarkable woman whose courage and dedication to liberty continue to inspire all of us today.

Harriet Tubman's legacy is deeply woven into the fabric of our Nation's history and even in Beaufort County. She led countless enslaved individuals to freedom through the Underground Railroad, embodying the very essence of bravery and resilience.

Beaufort County is steeped in history from the establishment of the Penn Center, one of the first schools for freed slaves, to its strategic importance during the Union occupation. This area became a sanctuary for those seeking freedom and education, and it continues to be a symbol of resilience and progress.

The monument in Beaufort County not only honors Harriet Tubman's extraordinary achievements but also serves as a reminder of the enduring fight for justice and freedom. I commend the efforts of the local community historians, artists, and activists who have worked tirelessly to bring this project to fruition. Their dedication ensures that future generations will learn about Harriet Tubman's incredible contributions and the profound impact she had on our country.

In fact, one night during the Civil War, Harriet Tubman rescued over 700 slaves in Beaufort County. Harriet Tubman has had an extraordinary impact on South Carolina.

#### CONGRATULATING DORCHESTER COUNTY CONSOLIDATED DISPATCH CENTER

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Dorchester County Consolidated Dispatch Center on its remarkable strides to improving 911 response times amid our community's rapid growth, particularly this week when we had a tornado hit Dorchester County.

This state-of-the-art facility is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our local officials and emergency services personnel who tirelessly strive to ensure the safety and well-being of all of our residents.

I would like to extend a special recognition to Tristan Proctor, director of

Dorchester County Emergency Management, and Mario Formisano, deputy administrator for Public Safety for Dorchester County. Their leadership and vision have been instrumental in addressing the challenges facing the old facility, which was not built to withstand significant tropical storm-force winds or seismic activities, and it also lacked adequate space.

I commend the leadership of Dorchester County for their vision and their commitment to public safety.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHNNY WACTOR

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of Johnny Wactor, who has sadly passed away.

Johnny was a beloved actor known for his compelling performances on "General Hospital" where he touched the lives of many with his talent and his dedication.

Johnny's portrayal of Brando Corbin resonated deeply with fans and brought joy, drama, and depth to the show. His ability to convey complex emotions and connect with audiences was truly remarkable, making him a cherished figure in the world of daytime television.

Beyond his on-screen presence, Johnny was known for his kindness and generosity off the set. He was a friend to many, always willing to lend a hand or a listening ear. His passing is a profound loss to all who knew him and to the countless fans who admired his work.

Today, as we remember Johnny Wactor, we are also reminded of the incredible talent that emerges from the Lowcountry in South Carolina. Johnny's success story is a testament to the creativity and dedication that thrive in our region. His journey from the Lowcountry to the national stage serves as an inspiration to many aspiring artists in our community.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 25 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### PRAYER

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

Lord, the God of our ancestors, the eternal one who saw our forebears through times of global unrest and the devastations of war, are You not still

the God who is in Heaven? Do You not still rule over all the kingdoms? Are You not sovereign over all the nations?

Power and might are in Your hands, and we call upon Your strength in our day. As nations war against nations and peoples have risen up against peoples, use Your sway to intervene in the conflicts between Israel and Hamas, Ukraine and Russia. Intervene in the disputes where we have resorted to violence in our hatred for each other.

We dare ask that You judge both the righteous and the unrighteous, weigh every deed on Your scale, that justice would prevail. Exact fitting punishment on the evildoers. And may Your mercy be a source of joy to the blameless.

In You alone do we find hope. Only when You intervene and bring an end to our warring madness, as You have done in the past, will we find peace.

O God in Heaven, establish Your rule over all the kingdoms. Reveal again Your sovereignty over all nations. Once more let Your justice roll like a river and Your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

In the power and might, the justice and mercy, the peace and love found only in Your name do we pray.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WENSTRUP 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.

#### RECOGNIZING FLAG DAY

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, there are things that we do in our lives each and every day that become so routine. There are things that become so rote as we go about them, and often that includes our Pledge of Allegiance.

Tomorrow is Flag Day. As we pledge our loyalty to this flag, think about what she has stood for. Think about where she has been: from the home of Betsy Ross to the streets of Concord, to the fields of Gettysburg, to the rocks of Iwo Jima, to the tundra of Korea, to the jungles of Vietnam, and to the deserts of the Middle East.

She has stood in our front yards. She has stood on the Moon. She has been

sadly placed over coffins and proudly raised at the Olympics. She is posted on the sides of humanitarian aid packages. She flies through the air. She sails across the seas. She marches over the land. She has stood for freedom in places around the world until freedom could stand on its own two feet.

Evildoers have feared her. Those in need have prayed for her arrival. She has always stood for exceptionalism, and for that, we do not apologize.

#### REINSTATE BANS ON MILITARY-STYLE WEAPONS AND HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINES

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Gun Violence Awareness Month.

I am proud to represent Virginia's Seventh District. In the Commonwealth, we know far too well the horrors of gun violence that impact our communities.

From our universities to our Walgreens, to our playgrounds, to our walking paths, to our elementary schools, people across our Commonwealth and the rest of the country have been impacted by acts of gun violence that forever change lives.

I am a former Federal agent. I used to carry a gun every single day. I know what it is to be a responsible gun owner, and I also know that background checks are proven to help law enforcement keep guns out of the hands of those who pose a danger to themselves and others.

We must ensure that we have background checks on all firearm purchases. I know that Congress must reinstate a ban on the manufacturing, sale, and transfer of military-style weapons and high-capacity magazines, and I urge Speaker Johnson to bring these measures forward.

#### RECOGNIZING PINE CREEK SEED FARM

(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 today to recognize Chris and Jenni McCracken from Clinton County, as their business, Pine Creek Seed Farm, was honored as the Eastern Pennsylvania Family-Owned Small Business of the Year for 2024 by the U.S. Small Business Administration's Eastern Pennsylvania District Office.

Pine Creek Seed Farm stands out with its comprehensive range of seed processing, mixing and blending, and distribution services. These services are uniquely tailored to customer specifications to ensure the delivery of high-quality seed at every stage in the distribution chain.

Family-owned small businesses like Pine Creek Seed Farm are the cornerstone of communities throughout Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District and play a central role in building a strong community, Commonwealth, and country.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Pine Creek Seed Farm on receiving this well-deserved award and thank them for their contribution to our community and to rural America.

It is my honor to represent family-owned small businesses such as Pine Creek Seed Farm in the Halls of Congress as the chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture.

#### CELEBRATING LAKE COMO

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Fort Worth's own Lake Como community for winning the celebrated Neighborhood of the Year award.

This is a neighborhood that I know well because this is the neighborhood that my family was raised in.

This recognition is given out by the nonprofit Neighborhoods USA, an organization that awards neighborhoods and communities that love where they live.

The Lake Como community is an amazing community that has been a part of Fort Worth for decades and decades now, a community with attorneys, with retired teachers, with servicepeople, a variety of different professions that really make this west Fort Worth community amazing.

We do an annual Fourth of July parade that is attended by thousands. Sometimes, you would be sitting on your porch, like I would sit on my grandmother's porch, and somebody may come by on horseback in the middle of one of the Nation's largest cities. That is the type of community it is.

It is a community with dozens of churches and other civic organizations that make them worthy of this award.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Lake Como on getting this award because it is well deserved.

#### CONGRATULATING TROY WHITESIDE, JR.

(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, I rise today to congratulate Troy Whiteside, Jr., who just graduated from Cornell Law School.

Troy graduated from Webb School of Knoxville in 2015 and went on to Cornell University where he played basketball all 4 years and was a 4-year letterman.

Troy graduated with degree in hospitality and took his skills to Las Vegas to work in the hospitality and gaming industry, and he was a champion there.

He then decided to go back to Cornell Law School. He got a J.D./MBA, which is a dual degree in law and an MBA, so he has a total of three degrees from Cornell University, Mr. Speaker.

While he was an undergrad, Troy Jr. founded IvyUntold.com, a social media platform where Ivy League students can tell their stories since many of them have overcome a lot of challenges to get where they are. Troy Jr. was no different.

The Whitesides have been dear friends of my family for years. Troy Jr.'s parents, Troy and Jackie, took care of me and my dad when my mama died. They have been wonderful friends. They are a great family.

Troy and Jackie have been successful entrepreneurs. Troy Jr.'s brother, Donovan, on the far end, D-Man, he used to work with us up here in my first year in Congress.

I can't tell you how proud I am of this family. Donovan is now a daddy. Troy Jr., in his latest achievements on top of many others, is going on to greater things, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to seeing the bright future he has ahead of him, and I appreciate Troy, Jackie, Troy Jr., and Donovan.

#### RECOGNIZING CHILDREN'S WEEK

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Children's Week celebrated by First Focus on Children, a bipartisan group dedicated to serving children here in the United States and abroad.

Every decision that we make on the floor of the House has an impact on our children, from education to healthcare to the economy.

When we pass legislation to expand the child tax credit, we drastically reduce child poverty.

When we pass our bill to cap the cost of insulin for children, we keep hundreds of thousands of children healthy without their families going broke.

When we continue our work on bills to make childcare, housing, and food more affordable, we are making life just a little bit easier for our children and families.

Giving our children a voice in legislation means taking responsibility for their success. What could be more important?

We must do more. Every week should be Children's Week.

#### REMEMBERING NATALIE AND DAVY LLOYD

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

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, today, my heart and the hearts of my colleagues here are broken, especially the hearts of the citizens in southwest Mis-

souri and Oklahoma, as we ache and mourn the devastating loss of Natalie and Davy Lloyd.

Last month, their lives were tragically cut short by gang violence in Haiti while they were serving as missionaries at an orphanage. Natalie and Davy were too good for this Earth. They were steadfast disciples of Christ, walking in his footsteps and spreading his love to all that they encountered.

Their faith was a guiding force that shaped every aspect of their lives. As we struggle with the pain of their loss, let's draw strength from the knowledge that they are now reunited with their Heavenly Father for all eternity.

Rest in peace, Natalie and Davy. Your faith-filled lives will continue to inspire us forever. You will be dearly missed.

#### CELEBRATING HOMEOWNERSHIP

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate June as National Homeownership Month.

We know the vital role that homeownership plays in building strong, sustainable, inclusive communities. It is critical that our shared goal is making quality, affordable homes available in every corner of the American experience.

In 2017, my home of the Virgin Islands was devastated by two Category 5 hurricanes, Irma and Maria. Seven years later, the housing stock of the Virgin Islands is only just recovering to pre-storm levels. Homeownership remains difficult to achieve as demand dramatically outstrips supply, distorting the market.

I am heartened by the Department of Housing and Urban Development's efforts to expand access to homeownership nationwide, reversing the effects of decades of redlining and other forms of discrimination or keeping individuals out.

We know that homeownership is the greatest means for families to build wealth. I stand in celebration of former Secretary of HUD MARCIA FUDGE and the continued work of Acting HUD Secretary Adrienne Todman, a fellow Virgin Islander. I urge continued congressional support for home-building programs in any corner of the American experience.

□ 1215

#### MEDINA STUDENTS TAKE THE OATH OF ENLISTMENT

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, recently 21 students from schools across Medina County, in the heart of

my district in Ohio, raised their right hands at Brunswick High School and solemnly swore to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic.

They took the oath of enlistment in the military. It is the same oath I proudly took over 11 years ago in the United States Marine Corps.

Few people ever serve in the military. These days even fewer do. The American culture used to revere those who joined to put their lives on the line for this country. While that sentiment may have dwindled in recent years, students from my district promised to serve.

These young men and women will gain leadership experience at 18 years old that most people will never have. They will gain the confidence to move through this world and the discipline to know the difference between right and wrong, and that will last a lifetime.

They are brave. They are noble. They are the future leaders of our country. It is honorable what they did, and I am honored that they are my constituents. I thank them for their future service.

#### RECOGNIZING INVEST NEBRASKA

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Invest Nebraska and their work fostering a new generation of entrepreneurs.

Since the early 2000s, Invest Nebraska has supported startups by backing high-potential businesses across the Cornhusker State.

In the decades since their founding, they provided millions of dollars in capital to startups in industries ranging from software to agriculture to healthcare.

Over the years, Invest Nebraska has assisted 155 companies and supported the creation of more than 1,200 jobs across the State. Under the leadership of Invest Nebraska CEO Dan Hoffman, our State went from dead last in the Nation in venture capital investment to 29th.

Thanks in part to their vision and success, Invest Nebraska has earned the moniker "Silicon Prairie" with tech startups popping up across the Cornhusker State.

Invest Nebraska does outstanding work growing businesses that provide great jobs in Nebraska.

Mr. Speaker, I thank them for their good work.

#### BIDENOMICS HARMS FAMILIES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, according to a recent Labor Department report, since Biden, prices

have risen nearly 20 percent. This costs families \$12,800 more annually to buy the basics compared to under President Donald Trump.

Gasoline is up 56 percent; eggs are up 44 percent; baby food and formula are up 30 percent; electricity is up 29 percent.

Corrupt Judge Merchan's unintended reelection of Donald Trump was confirmed today as I had breakfast with President Trump. Members of Congress from virtually every State and territory were enthusiastically united as we saw the judge earning my invitation to be attending the Trump inauguration.

President Trump explained today that the judge is indicting him to the White House.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America. We don't need new border laws; we need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens the borders for dictators as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent as repeatedly warned by the FBI.

#### RISING IN SUPPORT OF THE 2025 NDAA

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025.

This legislation equips our military with the tools and resources needed to protect our Nation from the growing threats abroad now and in the future.

It also prioritizes the military's number one resource: our servicemembers. It would provide junior enlisted servicemembers with a 19.5 percent pay raise.

This would help offset the crippling inflation of the last 3½ years and improve military recruitment. It would provide employment support for their spouses, and this bill calls for more funding for their housing, childcare, and healthcare.

Importantly, the NDAA will work to deter further aggression from the Chinese Communist Party by strengthening and modernizing our defenses. This NDAA also supports greater oversight, cutting waste, fraud, and abuse, and ultimately saving taxpayers billions of dollars.

#### CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-146)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURLISON) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying

papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to North Korea that was declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, expanded in scope in Executive Order 13551 of August 30, 2010, addressed further in Executive Order 13570 of April 18, 2011, further expanded in scope in Executive Order 13687 of January 2, 2015, and under which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13722 of March 15, 2016, and Executive Order 13810 of September 20, 2017, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2024.

The existence and risk of the proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula; the actions and policies of the Government of North Korea that destabilize the Korean Peninsula and imperil United States Armed Forces, allies, and trading partners in the region, including its pursuit of nuclear and missile programs; and other provocative, destabilizing, and repressive actions and policies of the Government of North Korea, continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466 with respect to North Korea.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 13, 2024.

#### CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO WESTERN BALKANS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-147)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the

emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001, under which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13304 of May 28, 2003, and which was expanded in scope in Executive Order 14033 of June 8, 2021, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2024.

The acts of extremist violence and obstructionist activity, and the situation in the Western Balkans, which stymies progress toward effective and democratic governance and full integration into transatlantic institutions, outlined in these Executive Orders, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13219 with respect to the Western Balkans.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 13, 2024.

#### CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO BELARUS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-148)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Belarus that was declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, which was expanded in scope in Executive Order 14038 of August 9, 2021, is to continue in effect beyond June 16, 2024.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons, and the Belarusian regime's harmful activities and longstanding abuses, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13405 with respect to Belarus.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 13, 2024.

**SERVICEMEMBER QUALITY OF LIFE IMPROVEMENT AND NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 8070.

Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FLOOD) kindly take the chair.

□ 1225

**IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 8070) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with Mr. FLOOD (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, amendment No. 36, printed in Part B of House Report 118-551, offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) had been disposed of. AMENDMENT NO. 37 OFFERED BY MS. GREENE OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 37 printed in part B of House Report 118-551.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

**SEC. 12. PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE.**

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for assistance to Ukraine.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chair, my amendment would say that none of the funds available in the NDAA may be used for assistance to Ukraine.

I think this is an important amendment because I strongly support the NDAA. This is a great military funding bill that has many things involved in it that our military needs. It even contains a much-needed pay raise for our troops, and that is something I greatly believe in right now while many of our military members are suffering under this inflation caused by the Biden administration.

I think it is extremely important for Members of Congress to be able to vote separately for funding of foreign wars, and I do not believe that funding for Ukraine should be a part of the NDAA.

The mission statement on the Department of Defense's website says that its purpose and mission are to deter war and to ensure our Nation's security.

Funding a war in Ukraine does not deter war. It funds it. Funding a war in Ukraine does not ensure our Nation's security, it actually puts us at risk for possible further military engagement with another nuclear-armed nation, and that is Russia.

Americans do not support this and neither does the majority of the majority here in Congress, which has voted against funding the war in Ukraine.

To date, Congress has appropriated \$174.2 billion in emergency supplemental funding. That is a lot of Americans' hard-earned tax dollars going to support security for another country's border while our border is being invaded every single day.

Not only is our border being invaded every single day by millions and millions of people from over 160 countries, there is also a war declared on our own country with human trafficking and drugs that are killing Americans every day. On average, there are 300 Americans dying from fentanyl overdoses every day. I believe that should be our focus in the United States Congress.

It is also a war in Ukraine that is not defending democracy. Zelenskyy has canceled elections. He is now a dictator. Zelenskyy canceled free speech. Zelenskyy canceled freedom of religion, and Zelenskyy canceled free press. That is not defending democracy. That is actually attacking democracy.

Americans do not support sending their hard-earned tax dollars to Ukraine. They support paying our military and funding our military, but not funding a war in a foreign country.

□ 1230

Over half of Americans think the United States has already spent too much money in Ukraine, and over 60 percent of Republicans do not support sending additional money to Ukraine. Even one in four Democrats don't support it anymore, according to recent polling.

However, most importantly, the corruption in Ukraine is something that cannot be ignored. There has been report after report after report of money missing. The Pentagon cannot track over \$1 billion, and there have been reports of much corruption. That involves our hard-earned tax dollars.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS), the chairman of the committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, my colleague from Georgia will be

pleased to learn that there is nothing in this year's NDAA that authorizes assistance to Ukraine. That money is provided through the supplemental appropriations bills.

The problem with this amendment is it would cut off funds to maintain the deployment of marines to secure our Embassy in Kyiv. It would also cut off the DOD's ability to conduct and use monitoring of weapons systems the U.S. already has provided to Ukraine. We don't want them to fall into bad hands. We need to ensure those weapons stay in our hands. I urge Members to oppose this amendment.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield 45 seconds to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. MCCLELLAN).

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Chairman, last week we saw that the allied effort to repeal the Russian invasion of Ukraine is an extension of the battle for freedom in Europe that unfolded on the beaches of Normandy 80 years ago.

This was really crystallized when an American World War II veteran, Melvin Hurwitz, embraced President Zelenskyy and said: "You are the savior of the people. You bring tears to my eyes. You are our hero."

As Speaker JOHNSON himself has said, just like Hitler continued marching when he was not repelled, Vladimir Putin will continue to march through Europe if not repelled. That is one thing the Speaker and I agree on.

Any efforts to undermine our support of our allies in Ukraine should be opposed.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chair, according to the bill text in the NDAA, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, the DSCA, is the account of the NDAA that funds Ukraine. The Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, USAI, which annually appropriates \$300 million in Ukraine, would receive the standard \$300 million authorization again this year, so the funding is in there. That USAI funding is part of the DSCA line item. DSCA is receiving \$2.389 billion in this NDAA, of which the \$300 million for Ukraine is a part, so the money is definitely in there. It has not been taken out.

I will also inform Congress and the American people that a Ukrainian group called Texty recently published a list of Ukrainian enemies that includes almost 400 Americans, including Republican lawmakers. I am on that list, as are Conservative influencers, media groups, and antiwar activists.

The group receives money from the U.S. State Department through a program called TechCamp. While that is not part of the NDAA, our money is going to fund NGOs in Ukraine that have declared U.S. lawmakers and Americans enemies. That is extremely dangerous. None of our hard-earned tax dollars should be funding any sort of group that thinks that we are the enemies while we are funding them.



We also have no idea how many Ukrainians have been killed in this war. We asked for that number and have not heard. I urge Congress to pass my amendment.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chair, continuing to support the courageous people of Ukraine is not only the morally right thing to do, but it is also best for American families.

War criminal Putin's invasion is a prelude to a conflict which is death to Ukraine, death to Israel, and death to America. We are in a conflict we didn't choose, with dictators and rule of gun opposing democracies with rule of law. The war began with war criminal Putin invading Ukraine on February 24, 2022, and Iranian puppets invading Israel on October 7, 2023.

We should always remember—and I was grateful to be at Normandy last week—that it was President Ronald Reagan in 1984 who stated: “. . . isolationism never was and never will be an acceptable response to tyrannical governments with an expansionist intent.” We know that Putin has claimed that he wants to restore the Soviet Union. He already has invaded Georgia. He has invaded Moldova. He has Russian troops in Armenia. He has threatened Estonia and Poland. We know that he will not stop. We must be successful in Ukraine.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 2¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN).

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Chair, I rise with the strongest possible opposition to this amendment prohibiting assistance to Ukraine. This represents the most extreme and shortsighted position of some of the Members of the House of Representatives, particularly Republicans, with respect to global security. Too many have tried to stop or strip funding from Ukraine whenever they literally have the chance to, and here is yet another example.

This amendment, like others that were considered and failed last year and this year, is misguided and against the will of the American people. Thus, it is against the will of the legislative body. Indeed, in April we overwhelmingly voted to support Ukraine, 311-112-1, not even close, which further proves the very unseriousness and waste of time of this amendment.

What some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle fail to recognize and to appreciate is that not only does the American public support Ukraine, but that supporting Ukraine actually, indeed, helps the American public by

avoiding further instability in Europe just miles from NATO. It, indeed, deters war. This amendment would irreversibly hurt our posture on the world stage. I urge Members to oppose it.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL).

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chair, many of my colleagues across the aisle are not content with delaying necessary aid to Ukraine for months at the cost of countless innocent lives, but are once again playing right into Putin's hands and attempting to block all American assistance to Ukraine.

The rest of the world, literally all of our allies, understand that a Ukrainian victory is necessary to prevent further Russian aggression, deter an invasion of Taiwan, and preserve the global democratic order. Republican national security leaders, including the chairs of the Armed Services, Intelligence, and Defense Appropriations Committees understand that this funding is critical to our own defense industrial base. However, instead of working to strengthen our national security, we are once again having an argument that my colleague across the aisle has lost over and over and over again.

My colleague is comfortable handing over Ukraine and the rest of Europe to Putin. The rest of this House, the rest of Congress, and the rest of the world reject it. Enough. I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time just to say we need to support Ukraine. Ukraine was brutally invaded by Putin. The only way to make this war stop is to make Ukraine strong enough so that Putin realizes he cannot succeed. Please defeat this amendment and continue to support Ukraine. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. GREENE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Georgia will be postponed.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 38 will not be offered.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 39 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MR. GAETZ

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 40 printed in part B of House Report 118-551.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 549, after line 15, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 10 . PROHIBITION ON SALE OR TRANSFER OF CLUSTER MUNITIONS OR MUNITIONS TECHNOLOGY.**

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Defense may be made available to furnish cluster munitions, to facilitate any export license for cluster munitions, or to otherwise sell or transfer any cluster munitions or cluster munitions technology.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Chair, this amendment creates a prohibition on the transfer of cluster munitions.

I thank my co-lead on this measure, Congresswoman SARA JACOBS, and many of the Members who have been fighting to get rid of cluster munitions as part of modern warfare, including Representatives TITUS, OMAR, and MCGOVERN. I would simply observe, if there is an amendment that is supported by OMAR to GAETZ with JACOBS and MCGOVERN and TITUS in it, it must be a great idea and we ought to probably adopt it.

According to The New York Times, since World War II, cluster munitions have killed an estimated 86,500 civilians. Additionally, Human Rights Watch and the U.N. have reported that cluster munitions in Ukraine have killed or wounded 890 people in 2022, 95 percent of whom were civilians. If Congress continues to flood the battlefield in Ukraine with indiscriminate killing instruments like cluster munitions, the blood of everyone impacted, including children harmed, will indeed be on our hands.

We should halt the transfer of cluster munitions to any country. We stand rarely isolated in the modern world by still sending these things. I mean, we are still demining cluster munitions in Laos, for goodness sake. I hate the notion that American taxpayers are going to have to pay for cluster munitions, a bunch of civilians are going to die, and then years from now, we will be back here paying to demine the very cluster munitions we sent out.

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

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Chair, I begin by yielding 30 seconds to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS), the chairman of the committee and my friend.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I thank my colleague for yielding. This amendment would have serious consequences to our allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific as they face down China and North Korea.

Former INDOPACOM Commander Admiral Harris highlighted that cluster munitions are essential in a potential conflict with North Korea. I would



point out China and Russia have not banned cluster munitions. We also should not wait until the fighting starts to transfer these weapons.

Deterrence depends on getting real and effective weapons like cluster munitions in place before a potential fight. I urge a “no” vote on this amendment.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Chair, I simply observe that North Koreans have nuclear weapons. If we are relying on cluster munitions as the deterrent, it seems to be pretty nonsensical.

I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS), the co-lead on this measure.

Ms. JACOBS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment with Congressman GAETZ to prohibit the transfer of cluster munitions.

Most U.S. allies, including almost every NATO member, have joined the Convention on Cluster Munitions, but not the United States. That is a grave mistake because these weapons maim and kill civilians indiscriminately and can be lethal indefinitely.

It is reported that up to 40 percent of these weapons don't explode on impact. If they don't explode, they become literal ticking time bombs, scattering tiny bomblets that are more like landmines. Even if the dud rate is far lower than 40 percent, the risk to civilians, to children, to our moral authority is too great.

In 2021, the Landmine and Cluster Munitions Monitor found that over 97 percent of casualties from cluster bomb remnants were civilians, and two-thirds of those were children. That is because these deadly weapons don't look dangerous. In fact, they look interesting to kids. They look like toys. When kids find these weapons in trees, in water, or on the ground, they often try to pick them up and can end up losing a limb or their life.

No amount of guardrails for cluster munitions is enough. No amount of so-called tactical advantage is enough. It isn't enough to say the other side is doing it, so we might as well, too. It is not worth it when civilian lives are at stake. It is not worth it when our reputation is at stake.

Our commitment to our core democratic values, like protecting civilians, abiding by international humanitarian law, and upholding human rights is the foundation of our reputation on the world stage, and it is what allows us to build and maintain international coalitions to make the world a better place and advance our national security goals. That is why we need to ban the transfer of these weapons. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

□ 1245

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Chairman, I point out that we all care about Ukrainian kids, but do you know who cares about Ukrainian kids the most? Ukrainians.

Ukrainians care about Ukrainian kids. They are the ones asking for

these munitions to use on their own territory. They understand the consequences. They understand the dud rates. They understand the danger.

Most of all, they understand the danger of losing this war to Russia, of having their kids kidnapped, taken away, or killed.

That is why the Ukrainians want these munitions, and that is why we are giving them to them.

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Chairman, I would object to the proposition that the House of Representatives has to outsource our thinking on the cluster munitions question to Ukraine. When did we substitute their judgment for ours?

I think that this notion that they are essential to warfighting is belied by the actual casualty numbers. If you believe that 95 percent of the people killed were children, not enemy combatants, which is what The New York Times is telling us, then I think that adoption of the amendment is appropriate.

We should not be in a race to the bottom for the weapons systems that are the least discriminate and most harmful to people who are not engaged in warfare.

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

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), my friend.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I oppose this amendment. Prohibiting the transfer of cluster munitions, specifically in the context of Ukraine, would have disastrous impacts on the Ukrainian ability to push back war criminal Putin's barbaric invasion of Ukraine.

Russia is currently using every weapon in its arsenal, including cluster munitions, to murder civilians and hit civilian infrastructure. I have seen firsthand in Bucha, Ukraine, where families were forced from their homes, their hands tied behind their backs, and then the Putin troops shot members of the family in the head and buried them in the yard. We must fight back.

Additionally, in the Indo-Pacific, it has been reported by Admiral Harry Harris that this is a deterrent to the dictatorship of Kim Jong-un of North Korea, and we know that is the largest artillery complex in the world facing the people of Seoul, Korea.

We are in a conflict we did not choose with dictators with rule of gun invading democracies with rule of law, threatening civilians, and it has always been clear that Ukraine is the first invasion of this current conflict.

With further promises by Putin to restore the Soviet Union by invading Georgia and Moldova, threatening Armenia, Estonia, and Poland, we know that we must support Ukraine. It is existential for Ukraine, and it is existential for the United States.

We can see that today, as Putin has sent nuclear warships to Cuba, 90 miles away from our border. We must stand together with the people of Ukraine and provide them the best equipment to stop the war criminal Putin.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Chairman, I sure hope we don't have to rely on cluster munitions to deter submarines off the coast of Florida. Not being a munitions expert, I would suggest that probably wouldn't be too effective because I think the submarines are in the water.

Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to close. May I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida has 45 seconds remaining.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Chairman, I have great appreciation for the bipartisan consensus around this. I really miss when the Democratic Party was the anti-war party. Now, we are going to see probably on this vote a majority of Democrats vote for cluster munitions that are killing civilians, that will cost taxpayer money, and that are not even the best deterrent. There are just defense contractors that make them and a country that wants them, so we are willing to accommodate that death.

I hope this debate illuminates the foolishness of the United States exporting cluster munitions and that we will have a more responsible consciousness moving forward.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Chairman, we support this bill. We are opposed to this amendment because we want this war to end. We want to bring this war to a conclusion. The Ukrainians need these munitions to fight for their freedom.

No one wants to be in this position of having to argue in favor of cluster munitions, but this is the reality on the ground for Ukraine today. It is also the reality on the ground that the Russians are using far more cluster munitions with far higher dud rates.

Don't think for a second that Ukraine doesn't understand they are going to have cluster munitions on the ground that need to be cleaned up. They are mostly going to be Russian munitions.

The longer this war goes on, the longer it takes to push Russia back in this criminal war started by war criminal Vladimir Putin, the more unexploded cluster munitions from Russia are going to be on the ground.

We have to stand by Ukraine so that Putin doesn't continue this war not only to take over Ukraine but to take over Europe. We have to stand by Ukraine to prevent American boys and girls from going to fight. That is why we are in the position we are in today.

Let's defeat this amendment, and let's end this war.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Gaetz-Jacobs amendment to prohibit the transfer of cluster munitions.

Given their impact on civilians during and after a conflict and the dangers they pose to children and vulnerable populations, it is a matter of principle to limit or prohibit the transfer, export, sale, and production of these weapons.

Since 2001, U.S. policy, law or both have prohibited the sales, exports and transfers of cluster munitions that have a failure rate exceeding 1 percent.

Regrettably, the Pentagon insists that the U.S. should have the ability to use millions of stockpiled cluster munitions that have estimated failure rates of 5 to 20 percent. This was supposed to end in 2018, but it didn't.

I believe strongly that the United States should be an international leader in ending the terrible toll on civilians caused by the high failure rate of these weapons, including those we are currently providing to Ukraine for its defense against Russian aggression.

There will always be those who will argue against such changes in military policy and practice, who will say this can't be done.

If those voices had their way, we would still be using mustard gas and chemical weapons.

Even during this time of great conflict, we can make sure that U.S. cluster munitions have less than a 1 percent failure rate. In fact, it would be better for Ukraine and its people if we did.

Until the Pentagon assures us those are the only weapons being transferred, Congress must act and prohibit any further transfers of this devastating weapon.

I urge my colleagues to support the Gaetz-Jacobs amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 41 OFFERED BY MR. GROTHMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 41 printed in part B of House Report 118-551.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, I rise as the designee of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), and I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end of title XI of division A the following:

**SEC. 11 . . . LIMITATION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION POSITIONS; HIRING FREEZE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on January 1, 2025, the Secretary of Defense may not—

(1) establish any new positions within the Department of Defense with responsibility

for matters relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion; or

(2) fill any vacancies in positions in the Department with responsibility for such matters.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to prevent the Secretary from reducing the number of positions relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion or from eliminating specific positions relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This amendment would prevent the Secretary of Defense from creating any new DEI positions or filling any vacant DEI positions within the Department of Defense. Over the last few years, the DEI bureaucracy across the Department of Defense has infiltrated every unit, command, and school.

Even as much of the country recognizes that the ideology of DEI is opposed to a society based on merit, the Department of Defense has dug in its heels. From transgender Pride patches on military uniforms to DEI steering committees at DODEA schools and a record \$162 million dedicated to DEI activities in the President's FY25 budget, these activities continue to indoctrinate and divide.

Elevating immutable characteristics like race and color over all other factors is blatantly discriminatory. It harms public confidence in our military and makes us a less lethal fighting force.

For our national security, we must uphold the ideals of our country and put merit, hard work, dedication, and service above all. To do this, we must eliminate the DEI apparatus.

Mr. Chair, I urge all Members to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion works to ensure the Department of Defense and our Armed Forces reflect the face of the Nation that they defend, which they have not always done.

The office promotes a DOD culture of dignity and respect that values diversity and inclusion as a readiness imperative because the character of warfare is changing.

With the rapidly evolving threat landscape and in unprecedented times of facing unique challenges from global pandemics to the escalating climate crisis, the DOD and our Armed Forces need diverse perspectives, experience, and skill sets to remain a global leader to deter war and keep our Nation safe.

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH), the ranking member of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, this is an incredibly important issue in the bill this year. We have several amendments that go after diversity, equity, and inclusion in the military, and it could not be more misguided.

We need a diverse military. We need to recruit from all across the country, regardless of race, creed, color, religion, and gender. We need to make sure that we are taking advantage of the talent of all in America. Sadly, we haven't really historically done that. We still have a major challenge.

Just to give one example, when you look at the promotions within the military, the statistics have come out, and this is from 2023, not 20 years ago: Every single ethnicity gender is promoted at a lower rate than White men.

Now, is it the case that White men are just naturally better at this than anybody else? Absolutely not. Why do we have this disproportionate level of promotion? I don't know for sure, but I think it is worth it to have somebody at the Pentagon trying to answer that question. If you are a Black person, if you are a woman, if you are a Hispanic person, if you are a gay or trans person and you are looking at this and saying, should I sign up for the military, one central question you are going to have is: Am I going to get a fair shot?

Historically, all of those groups that I just mentioned have not gotten a fair shot. I challenge anybody on the floor to dispute that fundamental fact. Let's have at least some people at the Pentagon who are trying to make sure that they do and that we are able to recruit a diverse population and bring them in.

Two final points on this.

One, there is such a thing as bad diversity, equity, and inclusion. I have seen it. I have witnessed it. I have seen efforts that throw out actual standards in favor of a rather narrow-minded racial agenda. That is wrong and shouldn't happen. That is not what is happening in the United States military. If the folks on the other side of the aisle wanted to go after that, I would be happy to work with them, but that is not what they are doing. They are eliminating all diversity, equity, and inclusion in the military, an enormous mistake that will cost us an enormous amount of talent.

The second point is the only way this makes any sense is if you buy into this argument that we are past all of that, that racism doesn't happen anymore, that it is just not out there, and that it is not something we need to worry about.

I may need an additional 30 seconds, but I want to read you something from

David French, who is a conservative columnist who adopted a 2-year-old Ethiopian.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, he is a conservative, but he happened to adopt a 2-year-old Ethiopian. He is not a fan of Trump, so people started turning on him in his own church and his own community.

He said: "The racism was grotesque. One church member asked my wife why we couldn't adopt from Norway rather than Ethiopia." Shout-out to the former President for that one.

"A teacher at the school asked my son if we had purchased his sister for a 'loaf of bread.' We later learned that there were coaches and teachers who used racial slurs to describe the few Black students at the school. There were terrible incidents of peer racism, including a student telling my daughter that slavery was good"—

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. SMITH of Washington.—"slavery was good for Black people because it taught them how to live in America. Another told her that she couldn't come to our house to play because 'my dad said Black people are dangerous.'"

Let's deal with this rationally and intelligently, not just throw everything out. Please preserve diversity and inclusion in our military and oppose this amendment.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I find it amazing that people feel your viewpoint in life is based on where your ancestors came from 100 years ago or 200 years ago.

This amendment ensures the Department of Defense can uphold our Nation's values that no matter your race, color, sex, political beliefs, or ethnicity, you may excel.

This amendment sends not just a message to the Department that this form of racism is intolerable, but it also stops the excessive growth of an industry within the DOD that has wasted resources and which has no benefits for our national security.

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

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, diversity recognizes that a wide variety of opinions and people that reflect the diversity of the country that our Armed Forces defend is important.

Equity ensures that 400 years of the impact of slavery and Jim Crow, that didn't go away with a magic wand when laws changed, are addressed.

Inclusion ensures that everyone in our Armed Forces is treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve, given the sacrifice they are making.

These efforts to undermine DEI in our Armed Forces are counter-

productive, dangerous, and will not help with readiness, preparedness, recruitment, or retention.

That is why this amendment, as well as the next series of amendments that we will debate, should and must be defeated.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin will be postponed.

□ 1300

AMENDMENT NO. 42 OFFERED BY MR. NORMAN

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. FERGUSON). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 42 printed in part B of House Report 118-551.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title V, add the following:

**SEC. 5. ELIMINATION OF OFFICES OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION AND PERSONNEL OF SUCH OFFICES.**

Every office of the Armed Forces and of the Department of Defense established to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion is eliminated and the employment of all personnel of each such office is terminated.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, the numbers of those willing to serve in the military are now down over 30 percent. The military's sole purpose is to provide for the defense of our great Nation. Our military's focus should be the protection of the American people and our freedoms, not liberals' feelings.

Therefore, my amendment would eliminate any offices of DEI, diversity, equity, and inclusion, in the Armed Forces and in the DOD. We should focus on diversity of ideas and opinions, not races and genders.

DEI programs tend to be ineffective and cost the taxpayers more money, and it has been a very real detriment to the recruitment of our military.

In short order, a woke military is a weak military. Woke ideology undermines military readiness in various ways. It undermines the cohesiveness by emphasizing differences based on race, ethnicity, and sex. It undermines leadership authority by introducing questions about whether a promotion

is based on merit or quota requirements. It leads to military personnel serving in specialties and areas for which they are not qualified nor are they ready. It takes time and resources away from training activities and weapons development that contribute to readiness.

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

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL), a member of the Armed Services Committee.

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Chair, as a proud member of the House Armed Services Committee, I take seriously my responsibility to ensure that our servicemembers get the support they need to keep our Nation safe. Once again, Republicans are pushing poison pill amendments into our bipartisan Defense bill focusing more on culture wars and division than on our national security.

This radical amendment would eliminate diversity, equity, and inclusion offices at the Department of Defense and all personnel in those offices.

I shouldn't have to remind my Republican colleagues that diversity is our strength as a Nation. Inclusion is proven to be beneficial for military effectiveness, military readiness, and ultimately, our national security, yet my colleagues continue to fight our military leadership as they work to strengthen our Armed Forces.

In the midst of our military recruitment shortfalls, Republicans are focused on the wrong thing. They are busy telling our servicemembers and potential recruits that Congress does not value their background or lived experiences than recruiting the best and brightest to defend our country. This is not only harmful, but it is also hurtful. It is hurtful that our military recruitment, preparedness, and cohesiveness is at jeopardy and at stake. Our national security and our national defense deserves better.

Again this year, I am disappointed that we are considering amendments that poison legislation which would otherwise be bipartisan. I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and let's get back to the business of being truly bipartisan when it comes to our National Defense Authorization Act.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, I agree with my friend across the aisle. We shouldn't even be dealing with this, to be honest with you. The fact that money is going to fund this—you don't go to politicians to find out what is wrong with your car. You go to the mechanic. I am in the real estate business. We build houses. If I have trouble with a house, I go to my carpenters.

I would remind my friends on the other side of the aisle that last year 160 retired flag officers wrote a letter to

the Armed Services Committee Chairman ROGERS about the dangers of DEI and their opposition to it in the military. Mr. Chair, 160 retired flag officers—and I am sure it would be far more than this if you talked to the people that are serving—have pointed out why this is so detrimental.

The officers wrote this:

We respectfully request that Congress take legislative action to remove all diversity, equity, and inclusion programs from the DOD.

Secondly, our military must be laser focused on one mission: readiness, undiminished by culture wars engulfing our country.

Thirdly, the domestic cultural threat has an innocuous name of diversity, equity, and inclusion, but in reality, DEI is dividing, it is not uniting our military service, nor our society.

DEI principles are derived from critical race theory which is rooted in cultural Marxism where people are grouped into identity classes, typically by race, labeled as oppressed or oppressors and victims and pitted against each other.

Under the guise of DEI, some people are selected for career-enhancing opportunities and advancement based on preferences given to identity groups based on race, gender, ethnic background, sexual orientation, et cetera.

It is unbelievable we are even talking about this or funding it. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I do talk to people in the military all the time, and our military is doing just fine.

Now, there will always be people who are opposed to greater inclusion. We have seen this throughout the military in a wide variety of areas. Way back when, it was opposition to Black people serving in the military. Then there was a lot of opposition to gay people serving in the military. Every single time you had some people in the military saying this is going to destroy us, unit cohesion will fall apart, we can't possibly treat people fairly and function, they have all been proven wrong every single time.

The people I talk to in the military say things are going just fine, that they are, in fact, being more inclusive, and the military is as strong as it has ever been.

It is completely wrong for a right-wing political agenda to denigrate our military to try to make the point that there is some kind of excessive wokeism going on. That is not what the overwhelming majority of people in the military are telling me and others.

What they are saying is that inclusion does matter. People need to be treated fairly. The idea that if the military goes like this and says that we don't see color, we don't see gender, we don't see any of this, that it will all just go away and everything will be fine is absurd. Reasonable diversity, equity, and inclusion works. That is what the military is doing. Please let them continue to do it.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, I would just add that I think if you took a really diverse group and got opinions on the military, if it were doing so well, why are they 30 percent down in recruitment? Why are people not coming into it?

Less than a month after the appointment by President Biden of Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, he directed commanding officers and supervisors at all levels to schedule a day to discuss extremism.

What do you think our foreign adversaries are doing upon hearing this? They are laughing their heads off.

I would just say that we need to support this amendment. Get DEI out of the military. Let's focus on building ships, focus on building airplanes, focus on building missions, not DEI and extremism that my friends on the other side of the aisle want to try to continue to highlight.

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

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, to respond to the issue of why recruitment is down, there are actually three reasons why recruitment is down.

Number one is the pandemic, when they were restricted in their ability to recruit for a year and a half.

Number two is because we have very low unemployment. Recruitment is always down when we have low unemployment.

Number three is because the right-wing has decided to demonize the military as some sort of woke place that no one should serve in.

Yes, some people do listen to that message. I have spoken to Members and others who are pushing that message who say, well, it is not really a problem. They say, well, it is out there. It is out there because you all are putting it out there and creating this level of division that doesn't need to be created.

Recruitment can be just fine with diversity. In fact, it would be better.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, can I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from South Carolina has 45 seconds remaining.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, I would just add, I don't know how long my friends on the other side of the aisle are going to keep mentioning the pandemic, COVID, but it is over with, and the shortage still exists.

The fact that, again, we are funding this, devoting a day to discuss it, we ought to be having a day devoted to how to fight and arm our brave men and women who are serving in the military.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, the strength of our military is the people,

and the people bring with them the sum of their life experiences and perspectives and what they know.

In my family, I had several uncles born between 1918 and 1938 who served during World War II in the Navy in a segregated unit where they were not allowed to fight. They were only allowed to cook because of the color of their skin. The stories that they told their children about the indignity they suffered from their fellow servicemembers and superior officers, do you think any of their children wanted to serve in the military? There are countless stories like that.

As we see people who lived under Jim Crow dying off and those stories are not being told, people don't understand that a legacy of 300 years of slavery and Jim Crow did not go away with the wave of a magic wand.

When people show up and see people from different backgrounds, different colors, different religions for the first time in the military, which still does happen, they bring their life experiences and what they know and sometimes have trouble understanding and respecting the different life experiences of other people.

DEI programs are designed to help bridge that gap to help increase recruitment by making the descendants of people who were discriminated against when they served in the military actually want to join. It makes sure that everyone who does join is treated with the dignity and respect they deserve as people who are putting their lives on the line for every American.

This amendment should be defeated. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 43 OFFERED BY MR. HIGGINS OF LOUISIANA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 43 printed in part B of House Report 118-551.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

In subtitle A of title IX, add at the end the following:

**SEC. 9. ELIMINATION OF THE CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

(a) REPEAL OF POSITION.—Section 147 of title 10, United States Code, is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 913 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 8 U.S.C. 147 note) is repealed.

(c) PROHIBITION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF SIMILAR POSITIONS.—No Federal funds may be obligated or expended to establish a position within the Department of Defense that is the same as or substantially similar to—

(1) the position of Chief Diversity Officer, as described in section 147 of title 10, United States Code, as such section was in effect before the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(2) the position of Senior Advisor for Diversity and Inclusion, as described in section 913(b) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 10 U.S.C. 147 note), as such section was in effect before the date of the enactment of this Act.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

□ 1315

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, in a hearing earlier this year before the Oversight Committee, we had a young American, a squared-away young man, a former Army Ranger, who spoke on what it truly means to become a soldier. He told us: “Training in the United States Army is meant to melt away the effects of civilian life and to forge Americans into soldiers.”

I concur with that young man, Mr. Chair. Our military was never intended to be and should not be a platform to advance social agendas.

Our Nation’s military prowess not only keeps our homeland safe but a strong American military projects strength worldwide, deterring conflicts and pushing back against human suffering across the world.

While we remain the strongest fighting force in the world—this is true—we are waning, and the distractions that we experience within our own ranks must be addressed.

My amendment would eliminate the position of chief diversity officer of the Department of Defense or any substantially similar position. I appreciate that my colleagues, JEFF DUNCAN, CLAUDIA TENNEY, and JIM BAIRD, are cosponsoring my amendment.

The adoption of this provision will be a strong step in advancing a military that focuses on lethality and elevates excellence and performance, the values that made our Armed Forces great and indomitable worldwide.

This strength in that position worldwide, Mr. Chair, is indeed threatened by this cultural agenda, perhaps driven by good intentions, let me say, reflective of our journey as a nation as we have learned and evolved and grown into a better, stronger nation with regards to diversity, equity, and inclusion. No doubt, my colleagues’ intentions to force that agenda within the parameters of our Department of Defense were well-intentioned, but it is injuring our military.

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

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting Chair. The gentlewoman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, once again, diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives are not designed to force a social agenda down anybody’s throat. What they are designed to do is to recognize that people aren’t perfect, that the people who make up our military bring with them the sum total of their life experiences and what they know, and that from the beginning of our military, the right to serve was limited to a very few people.

Our Army turns 249 years old this week. My ancestors weren’t allowed to join. A year after, when the Declaration of Independence was written and said that all men were created equal, they didn’t include the men in my family, and they certainly didn’t include me.

When the Constitution was written, creating a government by, of, and for we the people, it didn’t include me. My ancestors were three-fifths of a person, yet many tried to fight anyway. Many who were allowed in foreign wars and wars on this soil, when they came home, faced violence and discrimination because of the color of their skin.

Those stories were told in my family, but they weren’t taught in history books. When I became a State legislator in Virginia, I recognized that there were a lot of people to whom those stories weren’t told, and therefore, they may not understand why something they say or something they do or a policy they put in place perpetuates the impact of 400 years of slavery and Jim Crow.

DEI is designed to recognize that now our military is open to more than just the limited few people who could join 249 years ago and that maybe we need to make sure that everybody who serves together respects one another and can be cohesive. That is what it is designed to do.

Mr. Chair, this amendment should be defeated, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, in 1988, I joined the Army. I went through boot camp and AIT in 1989 as Private Higgins, an enlisted man. Going through the military police academy in 1989 was quite grueling, and we lost a lot of people. We excluded many young soldiers, men and women. We excluded them because they couldn’t perform.

The United States military requires exclusion based on performance. That is all we ever cared about.

We never had problems with recruiting in the United States Army. We missed by 40 percent last year. Do you know why, Mr. Chair? It is because families like mine that historically have served are not advising our young

men and women to join the military now because of this insanity they have to go through and because it is weakness that has become embedded and woven within our DOD and forced upon our young soldiers.

You are injuring and you are setting your sons and daughters up for slaughter because war is brutal, and nobody in uniform cares about the gender or the sexual orientation or the skin color of the soldier next to them. All we care about is that they can perform.

This is the brotherhood that we forge. It requires discrimination. We discriminate against those young Americans who cannot make it. If they can’t make the cut to earn a slot in our unit, then we exclude them from our unit. They go do something else in life. That is fine, but they can’t be in the military.

So, good Lord, please support my amendment.

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

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Chairman, it is actually not true that people were only excluded in the military because of performance. I have already recounted some of that history, and if the gentleman thinks it is just history, then I invite him to speak to some of the men and women of color and the women in general who are serving now and ask them about some of the discrimination they continue to face.

Mr. Chair, you have already heard today some of the reasons why recruitment is down, and I do talk to some of the servicemembers whom I represent, including in my family. Part of it is pay, part of it is the inability to afford childcare and housing, and part of it is a question about whether they are respected as individuals.

I am not going to focus just on our fighting men and women. The Department of Defense is one of the largest employers in the country, and having a diverse workforce that is not out in battle is also important so that they can work together to keep our Armed Forces ready.

When our servicemembers go overseas, they are going to meet and see people from different backgrounds and work with people of different backgrounds, colors, races, and religions, and they probably need some help in bridging those divides. That is part of what DEI does.

In an effort to say that we are just going to pretend racism doesn’t exist, sexism doesn’t exist, homophobia doesn’t exist, Islamophobia doesn’t exist, and that anti-Semitism doesn’t exist, and that we are going to ignore it and maybe it will go away, it won’t.

We are going to ignore the fact that a disproportionate number of officers are one sex and one race. That is not based on merit. That is not based on performance. This amendment should be defeated.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 44 OFFERED BY MR. CLYDE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 44 printed in part B of House Report 118-551.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, insert the following:

**SEC. 10. RELOCATION OF RECONCILIATION MEMORIAL TO ORIGINAL LOCATION IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.**

The Secretary of the Army shall relocate the Reconciliation Memorial, also known as the Reconciliation Monument, to its original location in Arlington National Cemetery. The Reconciliation Memorial shall not be given any designation or name other than "Reconciliation Memorial" or "Reconciliation Monument" upon its relocation to Arlington National Cemetery.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment which relocates the reconciliation monument, sometimes referred to as the Reconciliation Memorial, back to its original location in Arlington National Cemetery. I am very grateful for the support of Chairman ROGERS on this amendment.

Under the direction of President Biden, the Reconciliation Memorial was removed on December 18, 2023. This monument in Arlington was a powerful symbol of the healing and unification of our Nation after the deep divisions of the Civil War.

American leaders like President Abraham Lincoln and Union General Ulysses Grant knew that a divided nation could not stand, and they tirelessly worked on promoting reconciliation.

In 1898, following the end of the Mexican-American War, President McKinley undertook a process to create greater national unity. In 1906, President McKinley authorized the construction of the Reconciliation Memorial. Unveiled in 1914 by President Woodrow Wilson, this monument, designed by a Jewish-American sculptor, features a woman crowned with an olive wreath symbolizing peace.

For over a century, Presidents of both parties have understood the purpose of this memorial of reconciliation and have honored it by sending wreaths

to the monument. This tradition showing national unity and respect has been carried on regardless of the party or politics of the sitting President. Even President Obama understood the reconciliation monument in the context of what it stands for, unity not division, when he continued the Presidential tradition of sending a wreath to the monument. In doing so, Presidents have continued to emphasize the message of this monument, reconciliation and unity, not division.

Former Democrat Senator Jim Webb, a highly decorated Marine Corps officer and former Secretary of the Navy, has strongly supported the preservation of the Reconciliation Memorial because the monument is one of the most potent symbols of healing in our Nation and across the globe.

Democratic Senator Webb has said that the statue's removal would signify the desire of "a deteriorating society willing to erase the generosity of its past, in favor of bitterness and misunderstanding conjured up by those who do not understand the history they seem bent on destroying."

Now, I would like to share a little of this monument's history.

When this monument was originally dedicated back in 1914, Reverend Dr. McKim pronounced these words within his invocation:

And as the blue and the gray mingle their dust on this consecrated hill, may the men of the North and the men of the South join hands and hearts in the labors and sacrifices which must be undertaken in the years to come for the honor, the happiness, and the glory of our country.

Grant also, O Lord, that this monument may stand as a perpetual memorial of the reconciliation between the people of the States once arrayed against each other in deadly conflict.

Men who once met in wrath on the field of battle meet here today as friends and brothers in the great enterprises of peace.

Henceforth, we pray and labor for the good and the glory of our reunited country. We have beat our swords into ploughshares, and our spears into pruning hooks. Ours it shall be to strive in fraternal emulation with our northern brothers, in all undertakings for the common weal.

□ 1330

Meaning the common prosperity.

President Woodrow Wilson, a Democrat, had these words to say at the ceremony: "I assure you that I am profoundly aware of the solemn significance of the thing that has now taken place." Meaning the dedication of the Reconciliation monument.

It was suggested by a President of the United States, who had himself been a distinguished officer of the Union Army. It was authorized by an act of Congress of the United States.

The corner-stone of the monument was laid by a President of the United States elevated to his position by the votes of the party which had chiefly prided itself upon sustaining the war for the Union, and who, while Secretary of War, had himself given authority to erect it. And, now, it has fallen to my lot to accept in the name of the great government, which I am privileged for the time to represent, this emblem of a reunited people.

Again, I say: "... this emblem of a reunited people."

Last year, I led a similar amendment, which passed the House floor by voice with no opposition prior to the removal of the monument. I ask that all Members support the adoption of my amendment to return the Reconciliation Memorial to the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery. In doing so, we can maintain a critical piece of our national unity and fill the empty spot that now exists in Arlington.

Let us unite against the destruction of our history. Let us fight for the principles of healing and unity, which is exactly what this memorial was created to accomplish.

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

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in firm opposition to this retrograde, revisionist amendment. Today is not the 1920s. It is not the 1950s. It is so disheartening to see a lost-cause amendment come before the House in the year 2024.

Mr. CLYDE has proposed today that we return a monument to treason to our national cemetery without any accompanying context or education.

The monument in question is a basic ode to the Confederacy, to romanticize the lost cause. More troubling than that is that it also glorifies slavery. It is not an emblem of a reconciled people.

An enslaved woman is depicted as a mammy. She is holding the infant child of a White officer, and an enslaved man is following his owner to war. It is very difficult to see how the humiliating portrayal of a slave woman and a slave man represents reconciliation.

The Arlington National Cemetery, on Congress' orders, not President Biden's orders, removed this monument on December 22, 2023. This amendment is four, if not four score, years too late. The NDAA for 2021 required that Arlington National Cemetery remove the Confederate States of America monument.

I think it is important to remember why we removed the memorial in the first place, because treason in defense of slavery is no virtue.

This is a monument to a cause that killed hundreds of thousands of American servicemen in a doomed attempt to tear this country asunder to preserve the practice of keeping our fellow humans in bondage. The cause of the Confederacy is no more honorable today than when Lee surrendered at Appomattox. Let it lose today as it did then: With a whimper.

The monument has been handled responsibly and respectfully according to



the National Historic Preservation Act. This would also be a horrible waste of taxpayer money, and in no way does it support our national defense. It would only make the families and visitors to the Arlington National Cemetery, including our current servicemembers, rightfully uncomfortable or hurt by the association of the monument.

This NDAA should be focused on supporting the servicemembers currently dedicating their lives to this country, not those who came closest to destroying it. I urge Members to vote “no” if they believe they represent the United States of America, not the Confederate States of America, and if they oppose glorifying slavery and treason.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Madam Chair, in closing, I rise to oppose this amendment, as well. After the Civil War ended, Robert E. Lee himself argued against the erection of monuments to the Confederacy. I invite Members to read what he said about proposed monuments in Gettysburg, proposed monuments to Stonewall Jackson. He said they would more likely retard the reunion and bonding and reconciliation of the North and South than help it.

Many of these monuments, including this one, weren't put up right after the Civil War. They were put up after Reconstruction ended. During Reconstruction, formerly enslaved people, for the first time, began to gain social, political, and economic power.

When Reconstruction ended and the old Confederate power structure came back in the South, three things happened. Through the use of voter suppression, racial terror, and propaganda, efforts were made to say to Black Americans, who finally started to gain in the promise of our founding documents: Stay in your place.

The lost-cause narrative was a part of that. Many of these monuments were a part of that. They were put up in response to Reconstruction, in response to the gains of the civil rights movement, and we are in that backlash, frankly, right now.

When this monument was placed, the gentleman said it was for reconciliation, but for who? Not for the Black Americans who saw that monument then, and even today, and see the images of a mammy and a loyal slave following his master into battle. They know what that means. It conjures up the stereotypes that were used to help build the lie of White supremacy, and the stereotypes that were used to help convince Black people to stay in their place.

That is part of why the commission said this monument should come down and why this amendment should be defeated.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. HAGEMAN). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 45 OFFERED BY MR. WILLIAMS OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 45 printed in part B of House Report 118-551.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title VIII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 8. PROHIBITION ON FUNDING FOR COVERED ENTITIES AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS OR OTHER ENTITIES THAT ENGAGE IN COVERED BEHAVIOR.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2025 may be used to contract with or grant awards to—

(1) a covered entity; or

(2) a nonprofit organization or other entity that engages in covered behavior.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “covered entity” means—

(A) NewsGuard Technologies, Inc. (doing business as “NewsGuard”); or

(B) Disinformation Index, Inc., Disinformation Index, Ltd., or Global Disinformation Index gUG (collectively doing business as “Global Disinformation Index”).

(2) The term “covered behavior” means operations, activities, or products, the function of which is to demonetize or rate the credibility of a domestic entity (including news and information outlets) based on lawful speech of such domestic entity under the stated function of “fact-checking” misinformation, disinformation, or malinformation.

(3) The term “nonprofit organization” means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and that is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of amendment No. 45.

Small businesses are the lifeblood of America. Their contribution to the success and security of the country cannot be overstated. Simply put, they are the driving force behind America's dominance in the world.

The men and women who start small businesses take calculating risks to compete in the marketplace. It is one that is supposed to allow the best products and services to rise to the top, through spirited competition free from government influence.

At least this is how it is supposed to be here in America. That is why it is appalling that an investigation led by

the Committee on Small Business uncovered that the Federal Government is actively silencing entrepreneurs and driving them out of business simply because they exercise their right to free speech.

Under the guise of misinformation and disinformation, the Biden administration is funding third-party entities, such as NewsGuard, to label entrepreneurs' free speech as dangerous and prevent them from doing business online.

In a country that was founded on the free flow of ideas, it is unconscionable that the government would seek to interfere with an individual's ability to make a living over the internet because of their beliefs.

NewsGuard and similar companies receive funds from the Department of Defense, the State Department's Global Engagement Center, and other Federal agencies to actively suppress and demonetize small businesses by labeling certain speech as untrustworthy, using partisan tactics and skewed determinations of fact.

This has resulted in massive revenue losses and businesses having to completely change their operations, including downsizing. Worst of all, these efforts have been paid for by American taxpayer dollars. Make no mistake: This is a direct effort by the government to skirt the Constitution and force a single viewpoint on America.

Some will have you believe that government-forced censorship and demonetization of small businesses who spread supposed misinformation is the only way to protect America. The reality is that those same people simply label speech they dislike as misinformation. That is why one of America's founding principles is that more information, not the suppression of it, brings out the truth.

My amendment is just the first step in cutting off the head of the snake that threatens the God-given rights afforded all Americans. This amendment would prevent any Federal funds from going to any organization that looks to demonetize businesses based on lawful speech. Too often, we have seen the self-proclaimed fact checkers get it wrong, and these determinations should not be deciding which businesses survive online.

That is why this amendment is so critical to an open marketplace where small businesses can compete. The government should never seek to demonetize or censor American businesses, whether directly or indirectly, as it has done through NewsGuard and similar entities.

No small business owner should ever fear that their government will actively fund efforts to threaten their livelihoods and put them out of business. Unfortunately, if we continue exporting what is considered truth to outside organizations, this will not be the case.

I urge all of my colleagues on both sides to support this amendment so



that we can preserve free speech, free enterprise, and put an end to this attack on small business.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. For what purpose does the gentleman from Washington seek recognition?

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DELUZIO).

Mr. DELUZIO. Madam Chair, I thank the ranking member for yielding time.

Madam Chair, I am opposed to this amendment. Put simply, I think it does some pretty bad things, among them making it impossible for the Department of Defense to contract with any organization that might try to identify propaganda from our adversaries.

For instance, if a nonprofit wants to say and identify something as Communist Chinese propaganda, under this amendment, the Department of Defense cannot work with that organization in identifying something as propaganda from our adversary.

I cannot imagine that is the purpose of this amendment, yet that is exactly what the legislative text does. It goes on to apply, beyond the organizations the gentleman from Texas recognized or acknowledged, to include any entity, any nonprofit that does any of these categories listed in the amendment.

It includes fact-checking, rating the credibility of that entity. Again, not banning it, not silencing it, but identifying it. The mere fact of an adversary of ours having propaganda in this country and an organization identifying that propaganda, this amendment would bar the Pentagon from working with it.

Now, if my colleagues on the other side want to offer a soft on Communist China amendment, have at it. We are not going to support it. I cannot imagine that is the purpose of this amendment, yet that is exactly what it does.

Madam Chair, I urge a more narrow redrafting of this amendment. As it is drafted, it makes it very difficult even to do something as simple as identifying propaganda from our adversaries. This is foolish. It is not drafted appropriately, and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle ought to withdraw it.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Chair, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has 1¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. LUNA).

Mrs. LUNA. Madam Chair, I support this amendment. The Department of Defense should not be giving money to

propaganda machines. In fact, the only money that should be going from the Department of Defense anywhere is to lethality, not organizations ticked off that a conservative from Ohio might be calling out different branches for their focus on DEI or CRT or a movement that is basically alienating conservatives and pushing conservatives out-side of its ranks.

I think there are a lot of Members who speak on these bills who are not servicemembers or have no experience with the Department of Defense. Honestly, we in this governing body are not going to allow a wokification of the Department of Defense.

Frankly, with the near-peer threat that we have in the future, I think that it is increasingly important that we focus again on lethality and not woke nonsense. It has no business in the NDAA.

□ 1345

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Chair, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Madam Chair, what is at dispute here is fact-checking. It is not true that businesses or anyone in America can say whatever they want. Facts do matter.

I mean, if the U.S. Government is doing business with a company that says that their product will let you live to 200 years and cure cancer, they don't have the freedom to do that. I would hope that someone with the administration would check that and say that is not somebody we want to do business with.

This amendment basically is saying facts do not matter and basically saying that they don't exist, that everyone says what they want to say, and we just go along with it. That is completely wrong. You should do fact-checking.

Now, I completely agree with the gentleman that facts are not as black and white as a lot of times people say they are. We should have robust disputes about what actually happened, what the information is out there.

This amendment does not allow for that. This amendment says anything goes. Any effort whatsoever to check the accuracy of what is being said and done by people we are doing business with is going to be strictly prohibited.

I understand where this is coming from. A lot of this is coming from disputes conservatives have, but you can't just say whatever you want to say. The people who tried to overturn the 2020 election are learning that. We have heard about the attack on this Capitol on January 6. We have heard people say that it didn't happen or that it was antifa, an inside job, the government.

All of these things are wrong. It is not: You say this; I say that. Wrong. Facts do exist, even if some of them turn out to be wrong. This amendment says: No, we are giving up. We are not

even trying to figure out what is true. Anything goes. Have fun with it.

I don't think that is a good idea in general, but it is a particularly bad idea in our national security environment that we are in right now because Russia and China love that approach. They regularly feed the disinformation battles in the U.S. on both the right and left.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Chair, I yield myself an additional 30 seconds.

They find stories that agitated people on the right or agitated people on the left, and they amplified them. We are seeing this all over the place with the Ukraine war as Russia has spread story after story that is picked up by people here.

It is in our national security interests to check those facts and not spread propaganda damaging to this country. Dispute it. Sometimes they get it wrong. Let's have that debate, but please let's not pass this amendment that basically says there are no facts, that whatever you say is true just because you said it.

That is not correct. Please defeat this amendment.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Chair, here is the bottom line: We can have all this dialogue, but it is not DOD's job to police speech.

This amendment will prevent the government from funding organizations that tip the scales against certain businesses from succeeding online.

Competition is what makes this country great. A business should try to gain market share by having the best product, lower prices, or better service than other businesses, and I personally deal with that every single day.

When the government gives money to third parties to decide which entities are allowed to take part in this exercise, it is simply un-American.

Madam Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Chair, what this amendment says, as the gentleman just said, is that it is not the government's job to figure out what is true. That is a shocking statement.

What would be accurate is the government needs to be careful when they are trying to figure out what is true. I don't disagree with that. If they mess that up or get something wrong, let's talk about it, but please, let's not have the United States Congress say that the government should have no interest whatsoever in what is true or what is not true. You all just go have fun, say whatever you want to say, and we

will keep giving you money for whatever.

Let's try to get an accurate picture of what is going on. As difficult and challenging as that can be at times, the alternative of saying that facts don't exist and truth doesn't exist, so say whatever you want, is not an alternative we should embrace.

Please defeat this amendment.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 46 OFFERED BY MR. STEUBE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 46 printed in part B of House Report 118-551.

Mr. STEUBE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title V, add the following new section:

**SEC. 5. PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN MATERIALS IN SCHOOLS OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY.**

(a) PROHIBITION ON PORNOGRAPHY AND RADICAL GENDER IDEOLOGY.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2025 or any fiscal year thereafter for the Department of Defense Education Activity may be obligated or expended to purchase, maintain, or display in a school library or classroom—

(1) any material that contains, depicts, or otherwise includes pornographic content; or

(2) any material that espouses, advocates, or promotes radical gender ideology.

(b) DEADLINE FOR REMOVAL.—The Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity shall ensure that any material described in subsection (a) that this is in a library or classroom of a school operated by the Activity is removed not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term "pornographic content" means any virtual-reality technology, video, image, drawing, sound, instruction, reading material, writing material, presented via any medium in a classroom, school library, on school grounds, or as part of a school-sponsored or school-affiliated event that depicts, describes, or presents, in whole or in part—

(A) nudity, sex organs, or sexual acts;

(B) obscenity;

(C) indecent material (as defined by the Secretary of Defense taking into consideration applicable Federal regulations); or

(D) lewd or sexual acts in a manner intended to cause sexual arousal.

(2) The term "radical gender ideology" means any concept, teaching, instruction, or curriculum that—

(A) states or suggests biological sex is a social construct;

(B) states or suggests biological sex is fluid, interchangeable, or exists beyond the binary of male and female;

(C) states or suggests that an individual can be trapped in the wrong body or have a different identity than that of their biological sex;

(D) encourages, promotes, or advocates the use of personal pronouns unaligned with an individual's biological sex; or

(E) encourages, promotes, or advocates hormone replacement, puberty blockers, or gender reassignment surgery as a safe, necessary, or optional treatment for an individual.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEUBE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. STEUBE. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment that would restrict radical gender ideology and pornographic content from entering the libraries and classrooms of schools operated by the Department of Defense.

These morally corrupting materials have no place in an educational setting and could seriously harm the educational and psychological development of school children belonging to our servicemembers.

Oftentimes, DOD schools are the only option that servicemembers have to educate their children, and we must ensure they have the resources to prepare them for success in their future careers and society.

Yet, radical leftists desire to use schools as a tool to indoctrinate our children as soon as they enter kindergarten. I wish they were all just theoretical, but there exists a litany of examples of inappropriate and pornographic material that is available in DOD schools.

Much of the material is far too graphic for me to read verbatim here on the House floor, but one example includes the book "Gender Queer," which includes explicit imagery of explicit acts.

In some DOD middle schools, young children are able to access a book called "Middle School's a Drag," which is a story about a 12-year-old boy who starts a talent agency for child drag queen performers.

In elementary school libraries, students can read many books about radical gender ideology, like "When Aidan Became a Brother," which tells the story of a girl who believes she is a transgender boy.

This material has no place in our schools, and Congress has the power to put a stop to it in DOD schools. The DOD school system serves over 66,000 children across the world, and we owe it to our servicemembers to provide their children with a topnotch education. That education should include lessons about reading, writing, and arithmetic, not explicit pornography and radical transgender propaganda.

Madam Chair, I encourage my colleagues to join me in protecting the children entrusted to DOD schools by our men and women in uniform.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TOKUDA. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Hawaii is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. TOKUDA. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, as the mother of two teenage boys in public schools, I understand and can appreciate the need for age-appropriate content to ensure our schools remain nurturing environments for our kids, but the kinds of content that make it into these curricula and classrooms are decisions best left to professional educators working together with parents to determine what is best for our students.

As a mom, it is important that our children see themselves and the situations they face in the books they read and the curriculum they are taught. This amendment is yet another attempt to broadly ban entire categories of books, forcing educators to second-guess and censor themselves.

Engaging with novel and challenging topics is essential to how kids grow as students and individuals. They need to be able to confront ideas and topics that may not always be comfortable to them.

This amendment is simply terrible policy in terms of providing our kids with the education they need to succeed in a complex and rapidly evolving world.

Ultimately, at its core, this is a discriminatory and offensive amendment in its targeting of our LGBTQ+ people. It separates the military children attending DODEA schools, some of which identify as LGBTQ+ themselves, from their peers in other school systems in the United States, isolating them and depriving their education of perspectives critical to their own self-identification, growth, and development.

This amendment makes it harder for DODEA teachers and counselors to support students with the materials they need if they question their gender identities or sexual orientation. This is an unwelcome intrusion on the trust between students and their teachers and counselors, who can play important roles for military children often moving from place to place at formative times in their lives, eliminating the ability for educators to provide resources and guides to help our military youth with complicated decisions and feelings that they have. This is absolutely unacceptable.

I have had conversations with young people back home who shared serious concerns about the impact of censorship of LGBTQ+ content in their schools and the mental health of themselves and their peers. This amendment would further that sense of isolation and lead to increased rates of depression and, tragically, as we have seen, suicidal ideation.

This amendment also sends a deeply hurtful and wrong message to LGBTQ+ servicemembers, some of whom may have children attending DODEA schools, about what this Congress and our government think about them and their loved ones. This amendment dishonors their service and commitment to our country.

We know that the people most hurt by book bans are ultimately students and kids, and this amendment undermines the quality of education and experience that military children receive at our DODEA schools.

It is reckless, discriminatory, and an attack on our LGBTQ+ students and servicemembers. As a mom, I think that all of our children deserve to feel supported, included, and seen in our educational system.

Madam Chair, for these reasons, I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEUBE. Madam Chair, these decisions are not best left to educators. In my opinion, it is best left to the parents to decide how they want to teach their kids.

Our schools should be about teaching for the success of our children in mathematics and arithmetic and writing, not in gender ideology and pornography. What is unwelcome intrusion is teaching our kids pornography and transgender ideology.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TOKUDA. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS).

Ms. JACOBS. Madam Chair, as Americans, we pride ourselves on freedom, freedom to receive information and ideas from anyone and anywhere, to think freely, to speak freely, but this amendment is nothing more than censorship and a violation of our First Amendment rights, all in an effort to erase the existence of transgender and intersex people.

This amendment would reinforce the negativity, hostility, discrimination, and misunderstanding that many transgender and intersex youth already experience. In 2021, 68 percent of all LGBTQ+ students surveyed by GLSEN reported feeling unsafe in their school environment due to their perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression. More than three-quarters of LGBTQ+ students report experiencing in-person verbal harassment based on their sexual orientation, gender expression, or gender at some point in the past year.

Here is the fact: Attempts to erase transgender and intersex people from schools will exacerbate these challenges and increase their isolation, but it won't erase the existence of transgender and intersex people, much to some of my colleagues' dismay.

Parents across the country want their children to learn in safe and affirming environments, but this amendment is an answer to a problem we

don't have. It would set a dangerous precedent that politicians can censor a range of school content based on a politician's political ideologies.

It is so broad that it would ban schools from teaching about a range of animals, including, for instance, clownfish, which can change their sex. So, no more "Finding Nemo" in DODEA schools, I guess.

Schools should be focused on creating environments that support all students, including transgender and intersex students, not censoring content.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mr. STEUBE. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TOKUDA. Madam Chair, may I inquire how much time I have remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Hawaii has 15 seconds remaining. The gentleman from Florida has 2½ minutes remaining.

□ 1400

Mr. STEUBE. I just think that the purpose, especially having been a military servicemember and been on bases that have schools for our children, one of which was actually in Hawaii when I served at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, the purpose of our DOD institutions and the education that our kids are getting there should not involve gender ideology, transgender propaganda, and radical sexualized ideology that just, quite frankly, shouldn't be taught to elementary school kids or middle school kids.

Middle school children have access to some of these things that are very explicit pornography in these types of books. My belief is that our education system should be focused on teaching our children the types of things to make them successful as students, not sexual content.

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, the problem with this is that many think that a radical gender ideology is that trans and gay people exist. We heard a Member on the floor earlier today on the Republican side of the aisle say trans people don't exist. So that is not a radical ideology. This would ban that. We have seen this happen. You are not allowed to acknowledge that gay or transgender people exist. That is deeply damaging. It is not a radical ideology and it shouldn't be banned.

Mr. Chair, I urge defeat of this amendment.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. OGLES). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEUBE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 47 OFFERED BY MRS. LUNA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 47 printed in part B of House Report 118-551.

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, insert the following:

**SEC. 10. PROHIBITION ON PROMOTION OF CRITICAL RACE THEORY AND ASSOCIATED RACE-BASED THEORIES.**

(a) PROTECTION FROM CRITICAL RACE THEORY INDOCTRINATION.—No employee of the Department of Defense or member of the Armed Forces acting in their official capacity may promote, endorse, or advocate for critical race theory or associated race-based theories described in subsection (b) or may compel or train any member of the Armed Forces or employee of the Department of Defense to believe or profess belief in such theories.

(b) ASSOCIATED RACE-BASED THEORIES DESCRIBED.—In this section, the term "associated race-based theories" includes the following principles:

(1) That any race, ethnicity, color, or national origin is inherently superior or inferior to any other race, ethnicity, color, or national origin.

(2) That the United States is a fundamentally racist country.

(3) That the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, or the Federalist Papers are fundamentally racist documents.

(4) That an individual's moral character or worth is determined by the individual's race, ethnicity, color, or national origin.

(5) That an individual, by virtue of the individual's race, is inherently racist or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously.

(6) That an individual, by virtue of race, bears collective guilt and is inherently responsible for actions committed in the past by other members of the individual's race, ethnicity, color, or national origin.

(7) That an individual, by virtue of the individual's race, should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment to achieve diversity, equity, or inclusion.

(8) That an individual should feel discomfort, guilt, or any other form of psychological distress on account of the individual's race, color, or national origin.

(9) That virtues such as merit, excellence, hard work, fairness, neutrality, objectivity, and racial colorblindness are racist or in any way discriminatory, or were created by members of a particular race, color, or national origin to oppress members of another race, color, or national origin.

(10) That to be "antiracist" requires explicitly or implicitly promoting racial discrimination to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. LUNA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Chair, my amendment would prohibit CRT training for employees of the Department of Defense or members of the Air Force.

The primary focus of our military should be mission readiness and lethality. Unfortunately, many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have continued to push for diversity, equity, and inclusion to the deficit of our servicemen and -women.

Divisive ideologies like CRT have no place in our military. Our servicemembers should be learning the critical and often lifesaving skills that help them and their fellow servicemembers stay alive when they are deployed rather than having training hours diverted to forced CRT and race-based training.

As a veteran, I know firsthand that our servicemembers are not concerned about CRT training or DEI in the military. In fact, our servicemembers care about the skills and qualifications that prepare them for war.

When servicemembers are wounded, they do not care about how diverse their medics are; they care that the medics responding to them in their time of need are qualified and trained with the skills to keep them alive.

It is beyond time we stop prioritizing CRT and other divisive ideologies that are weakening our military and putting our Nation's security at risk.

We will gut CRT from our Nation's military with this NDAA. We are one Nation, one people, and this majority body believes in unity over division and merit over identity.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, there is actually quite a bit in this amendment that I do agree with. I think ideologies that are explicitly racist are problematic, and I certainly have seen that done. There are examples of the teaching of critical race theory and promotion of critical race theory that I personally disagree with, but there are two reasons to oppose this amendment.

Number one, that is not happening in the United States military. We had a great debate earlier about why recruitment is down. Part of it is because of the fundamental dishonesty that the rightwing is saying about the military in terms of what is going on.

They are not promoting critical race theory. It is a theory they do talk about, just like they talked about communism and fascism and a whole wide variety of other things that they don't agree with. To suggest, as this amendment does, that our military is promoting any of this ideology is completely wrong.

The second problem I have with this amendment is that it does sort of push in the other direction, to want to sort of suggest, as we have seen in Florida and other States, that racism isn't really a thing.

There was a famous example where it was said: What we ought to be teaching people is that, in fact, slavery had its upside. So there are problems with taking that approach.

In particular, there is something in here about whether or not the Declaration of Independence is a racist document. That is a debate, I think, certainly we should have, but a document that basically enshrines—actually, it is the Declaration of Independence. I guess the Constitution is in there, too—enshrines the fact that if you are a Black person, you cannot vote and you count as three-fifths of a person. I think it would kind of be interesting to debate whether or not that was racist because I think it kind of was. To ignore the history of our country, both good or bad, is a mistake.

This amendment pushes us toward ignoring any of the history that is racist, that has promoted white supremacy, which has promoted slavery and Jim Crow. To say that the people being educated in our military schools should ignore that history, I think, is a great weakness.

The military does not promote CRT. They should have a robust discussion about various ideologies and also the history of racism in this country. Ignoring it will do a disservice to the men and women who serve in the military and to the country.

Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Chair, to say that the military isn't actively doing this is misleading.

In fact, I personally have seen training that our servicemembers, including my husband, have had to go through.

To put it in perspective, my husband, before he got out of the military, was made to write down the top five people he associated with, writing down their race, sexual orientation, and gender. If those people were not diverse enough, he was then racist.

Well, I have news for my colleagues across the aisle. When you have men and women deploying around the country, serving with Black and Brown people, because that is apparently what we are going to talk about in regards to color around the world, and you are telling them that they are racist, even though they have laid down their lives for these people, I think that just shows how out of touch this governing body is.

To say that our military is not being forced to do that is misleading. They absolutely are. When I talk to men and women, both enlisted and at the officer level, I can tell you that they are more concerned about what is happening in the Pacific and what is happening in Russia than the infighting and the constant name-calling and also the wokification of our military.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA).

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Chair, once again, it appears my colleagues fail to understand what critical race theory is.

Critical race theory helps us understand the past, while DEI, as they have often been against, helps us chart the path forward to acknowledge and rectify the systemic racism that still shapes the present. Let's not conflate or confuse the two.

Let me reiterate: Critical race theory is simply an academic and legal framework to recognize that systemic racism is part of our Nation's history. Yes, that is hard to hear, but sadly that is absolutely the fact and the case.

Systemic racism continues, quite frankly, to affect our society and individuals in it to this very day. These are hard truths for my colleagues that cannot bear to hear it.

However, there is no other way to explain the compromise enshrined for almost 80 years in our Constitution that count slaves as three-fifths of a person to determine matters like the number of seats allotted to States for this very body, the House of Representatives.

There is no other way to explain the Chinese Exclusion Act or the Asian Exclusion Act, which banned immigration of Asian people to this country for decades. Nor is there any other way to justify the grave historical injustices of Executive Order 9066 that interned over 100,000 Japanese Americans during the Second World War, including my great-grandfather, who was locked up against his will in Santa Fe, New Mexico, while my grandfather, his son, served in the military intelligence service for a country who saw and treated him and his loved ones as the enemy.

Systemic racism is a part of the history of our military, the Department of Defense, and this country. There is no other way to explain the fact that, even though they served bravely in the Revolutionary War, Black men were formally excluded from military service after the war until the Civil War.

Meanwhile, Filipino veterans of World War II waited for over four decades for the citizenship and benefits promised to them for their service under our flag and are still waiting to this day.

If my Republican colleagues believe we can compete with our adversaries across the globe by avoiding these truths, they are sadly mistaken.

While our adversaries will seek to whitewash and erase histories like that of the Ukrainians, the Tibetans, and the Uyghurs, we must do better. We should be better because this speaks to who we are as a Nation.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. BENTZ). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Hawaii.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Chair, having our servicemembers learn about systemic racism and think critically about the role it continues to play in our society may make some of them uncomfortable, but it is not going to make them

hate America. It will, however, help them understand why inequities persist in our country, including in the ranks of our military.

I hope it will remind them how far we have come and how much further we must go toward a more equitable future, one in which they, regardless of their background, can achieve their fullest potential.

We need to understand critical race theory for what it is, an opportunity for us to confront our past and work toward a better future.

Mr. Chair, for that reason, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLS).

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Chair, I will start out by saying that I really admire and love my colleague from Hawaii. We have had many conversations together on the strengthening of our military, especially when it comes to Schofield Barracks and the rest, and the same is true with the ranking member, my colleague, ADAM SMITH.

I will say, however, for the record, I served in the United States military. As an Army combat veteran, I proudly served with people from Hawaii, people from Puerto Rico, and people from the Virgin Islands. I have seen the diversity which exists, and I think that the utilization of DEI and CRT is what has led to the creation of the recruitment deficit of 41,000 that we see today.

Our military is not supposed to be prioritizing the ideas of critical race theory or diversity, equity, inclusion. It should be about increased lethality, readiness, and being properly equipped. This is how we defeat our enemies. It is not through the ideas of trying to create division, and it is not through the ideas of pronoun training, where I can guarantee you that we cannot pronoun all of our enemies, but the he/him, they/them, and she/her is not going to make us a stronger military.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support Mrs. ANNA PAULINA LUNA's amendment, and I ask that we understand that we are here to strengthen our military, not to divide it.

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

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I think we have concluded our remarks as well. For all the reasons stated, I urge opposition, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. LUNA).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida will be postponed.

□ 1415

AMENDMENT NO. 48 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 48 printed in part B of House Report 118-551.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XVII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 17. PROHIBITION ON FUNDING FOR THE COUNTERING EXTREMIST ACTIVITY WORKING GROUP.**

No Federal funds are authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for the Countering Extremist Activity Working Group or to implement any recommendations of such group.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I rise in favor of my amendment, which would prohibit Federal funding for the Countering Extremist Activity Working Group or implement any recommendations from the group.

In 2021, Democrats and the Biden regime unjustly used January 6 to prop up this woke working group to provide cover for unjustly targeting members of our military. The so-called Countering Extremist Activity Working Group has been weaponized and implemented to almost exclusively target Republicans, Conservatives, and Libertarians serving in the military. Yet, by its own metrics, it has been a massive waste of money and time.

The Defense Department continues to spend large amounts of time and money to combat extremism, yet its own analysis of the situation shows that it is entirely unnecessary. In fact, fewer than 100 servicemembers have been subject to discipline due to engagement in extremist activities. That is only 0.005 percent of the approximately 2.1 million Active and Reserve personnel. Clearly, extremism is not the problem that my colleagues on the left and media outlets made it out to be.

The United States military is tasked with one mission: maintaining mission critical readiness to protect the American homeland. Sowing our Armed Forces with divisive rhetoric designed to pit races and genders against one another is not only morally wrong, it poses a very real threat to our national security.

Under the Biden regime, DEI instruction and management has reached new heights that threaten to weaken the bond between America's Armed Forces

and its civilian leadership and undermine our military effectiveness and readiness.

All of our men and women in uniform deserve to have the best tools needed to carry out their mission to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. Unfortunately, liberal ideology undermines this mission. In order to stand up to China, Russia, and terrorists, our military needs to project strength, not cultural wokeness. My amendment does exactly that.

I urge the adoption of this amendment, Mr. Chair, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Hawaii is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume. To be clear, January 6 was an attack on America, our democracy, and this institution, which we have all taken an oath to serve. This shouldn't be controversial. Servicemembers who swear an oath to the Constitution should not try to overthrow the United States Government.

Yet, the latest report from the Department of Defense inspector general found that 78 servicemembers were alleged to have advocated for the overthrow of the government in the past year alone. That is likely an undercount given reported challenges in gathering and compiling data across the military departments.

Clearly, extremism in the military remains a persistent and serious issue, one that we should not take lightly, again, given the January 6 insurrection in which we know some servicemembers and veterans participated. This fact alone should be deeply concerning to every single one of us in this Chamber.

Instead of taking this problem seriously, this amendment prohibits the Department of Defense from implementing recommendations designed to counter extremist activity in our military. This undermines unit cohesion, the readiness of our forces, and ultimately public trust in our military.

My colleagues allege that the Department's efforts to counter extremist activities unfairly targets conservatives. There is nothing in the Countering Extremist Activity Working Group's final report to substantiate that allegation because violent extremism, regardless of its political or partisan leaning, is a danger to all of us and to this democracy.

There can be no denial that far-right extremism is surging across the country at a much higher level than that of leftwing extremism. A recent study showed that violent extremist acts in the United States were far more likely to be associated with far-right ideologies like white supremacy than with any far-left alternative. In fact, the level of violence perpetrated by

rightwing extremists in this country is on par with, if not higher than, that of Islamist extremists.

In our country, where servicemembers have access to critical national security information and assets, individuals motivated by extremist ideologies can pose an outsize threat to our national security when they move beyond fair and legal expression of contentious issues and into subversive or even violent actions.

Tackling extremism in our military is not about promoting wokeness, which my colleagues continue to be obsessed about. It is about protecting our people and our country. That, sadly, also means preventing domestic terrorism and addressing the serious and persistent threat to our homeland. It is also about restoring public confidence and trust in one of the most important institutions in our history and society.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject this dangerous amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I just want to reiterate quickly that this is fewer than 100 servicemembers who have been targeted here, and that is only 0.005 percent of the approximately 2.1 million Active and Reserve personnel serving. Ultimately, wokeness weakens our military.

Violent leftwing extremists stormed the field yesterday at the Congressional Baseball Game. In 2020 they burned down our cities. They say that we are obsessed with wokeness. They are obsessed with January 6, which their Speaker admitted that she did not have our facility properly secured.

Mr. Chair, I yield the remainder of my time to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLS).

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Chair, I just point out once again, as a United States Army combat veteran, I served with people from different races, creeds, and genders. None of that mattered; we all bled green. When we went to Iraq and Afghanistan, when we were sitting in Kosovo, not once did we talk about who did you vote for, what religion do you follow, what gender do you identify as. We were a cohesive unit that believed in service.

I think that the DEI, which was actually passed in last year's NDAA in the House, should actually show that we are ready to close this because it has caused division, not inclusion. When you talk about the 41,000 deficit that we are seeing today, I think that we were a much stronger military with greater recruitment efforts when we were prioritizing the ideas of coming together, fighting a common enemy, training as one.

This is what matters to our United States military when we strengthen ourselves; not the idea of trying to identify ourselves as being something different, but as being one. That is the military that I served in. That is the military I believe in. We need to stop allowing our military to only think about serving political agendas and get

back to what they are supposed to do, which is serving our country.

I have seen nothing but division through DEI. One of those examples that we talk about is that we want to try to make sure everyone has a right to their own opinions. The reality is that Tyler Bowyer had a Turning Point event where military members were actually refused attendance because of being conservatives.

We need to be a stronger military. I support this amendment. I ask my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. BOEBERT. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

First of all, let's be clear here. As we previously heard, we are not talking about DEI, which, once again, this is an obsession of the far right in this particular body. I will agree with you, though, in the same context of that conversation, I think we are in agreement. This is about how we should serve as one united Nation. How do we serve as a United States of America as a whole?

The bottom line is, when we take a look at the kind of extremist activity that is happening within our military that was found by the Countering Extremist Activity Working Group, this is not bringing our country together. This is not allowing us to stand under one common flag.

A 2020 Military Times poll found that more than half of minority servicemembers, servicemembers of color, say they have personally witnessed examples of white nationalism or ideologically driven racism within the ranks.

As we can recall, in June 2020, a servicemember of the 173rd Airborne Brigade with white supremacist leanings led classified troop movements to facilitate an attack on his own unit while deployed to Turkiye.

Let's be clear here. The recommendations of the Countering Extremist Activity Working Group are not controversial, and they include: Enhancing insider threat analysis and response, developing comprehensive training and education for departmental leadership, providing notice to personnel on prohibited activities, and improving internal information sharing and coordination.

I think we can all agree in this body, no matter what side of the aisle you sit on, this is good for us if we are truly trying to stand up to China, to Russia, and to North Korea. How do we make ourselves truly a United States Department of Defense, not one that is currently divided by internal risks, internal extremism that, sadly, we are seeing too often in the field and in our ranks.

Mr. Chair, I strongly encourage all of my colleagues to vote against this amendment and to make sure that we can, in fact, be a strong united presence standing against our adversaries across the globe. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 49 OFFERED BY MR. MILLS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 49 printed in part B of House Report 118-551.

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, insert the following:

**SEC. 10. ELIMINATION OF DISCRETION OF MILITARY CHAIN OF COMMAND AND SENIOR CIVILIAN LEADERSHIP WITH RESPECT TO DISPLAY OF FLAGS.**

Section 1052(d)(1)(N) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31; 10 U.S.C. 2661 note) is amended by striking subparagraph (N).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Chair, tomorrow is Flag Day. The Second Continental Congress of June 14, 1777, adopted the flag of the United States some 247 years ago. This was in the midst of our struggle to become a free and independent Nation and to become a constitutional Republic. Now, that flag changed over time as new States were added and the country expanded, but our dedication must be unyielding. They saw fit to honor the flag then, and we must honor the flag now and forever.

We start each legislative day here with the Pledge of Allegiance. That flag that sits behind you right now is a symbol of this great country. We don't make that pledge to a party. We pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands. It is a simple but solemn part of the day, and it is done to remind us that we are one Nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Those stars and those stripes mean a lot to me, Mr. Speaker. It is a flag that I saluted as a soldier and a combat veteran, and a flag that I have seen many times draped over the coffins of those I had served with. I hope we never lose sight of the importance of it.

What my amendment does is simple, Mr. Speaker. It honors our flag. We can do this again by asserting the legislative powers, as they did in 1777. Currently, no flag other than the approved flag should be displayed in any workplace, common area place, or public



area at the Department of Defense, which we decided in fiscal year 2024 in the NDAA. Approved flags include the American flag, the State flags, military service flags, and even our POW/MIA flag, as well as others, for 13 types in total.

There is, however, a provision that concerns me that allows “a flag approved at the discretion of a military chain of command or civilian leadership, as appropriate,” and this is what my amendment would strike. It would strike the ability from it being a legislative priority that we are abdicating over and bring it back as it was supposed to under Article I. This is about Congress determining the flags that can be displayed at military installations, and we have already agreed to 13 of them. If a Member of Congress or the Department of Defense wants to add to that list, then come and make the argument and the debate here on the floor and have a vote.

Don't just give our Article I powers away to the executive branch. It is our responsibility as a legislative body in this country to make these determinations in this Chamber. I also want to be clear that under current law, a building or an area that primarily serves as a place of residence is exempt, and servicemembers can do as they choose, not denying them their rights that they fight for. There are also exemptions for museum exhibits, license plates, gravesites, memorials, educational displays, and more that were decided here by Congress.

I am here today, Mr. Chair, to say: Honor our flag and protect our legislative powers. I hope all my colleagues will join me in doing so.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1430

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I rise to claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. FULCHER). The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Chair, the maker of this amendment is correct. This is an issue that we have litigated before the House already. I forget how many years ago it was now, but controversy arose over different flags being flown at different military institutions.

We attempted to resolve that issue, and we did resolve that issue. We resolved the issue by saying there would be these approved flags.

The other piece of it is that if the local leadership agrees, they may fly a flag as well because there are a whole lot of flags out there in the world, and we didn't want to contemplate absolutely all of them. If somebody is a Dallas Cowboys fan and wants to fly a Dallas Cowboys flag somewhere, the commander or civilian leadership can rightly decide whether or not it is appropriate within that unit.

I am with him on the initial part about how much he loves the U.S. flag.

I love the U.S. flag, as well. Let's be clear: This amendment has absolutely nothing to do with the U.S. flag. The U.S. flag can be flown, as it well should be, and we appreciate it. This is about commanders and civilian leadership at local military installations being able to decide whether or not they want to fly other flags. That was part of the compromise that we agreed to. There is no necessity for banning this.

If you rise to be the person who is in charge of a military installation, I am going to trust you to be able to make this decision. It is not something that Congress needs to insert itself into. We don't need to decide on whether every single flag should go up or go down. We litigated this issue. We resolved it in the NDAA. We do not need to reopen it.

Mr. Chair, I urge opposition to this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Chair, I have great respect for my colleague, Mr. SMITH, and I have served proudly with him on the Armed Services Committee. I remind him that it is our responsibility. As our Founding Fathers established in 1777, it is Congress under Article I that has the rights and authorities to be able to designate which flags are flown over military installations.

We are not talking about outside of their barracks. We are not talking about what they fly outside of their own rooms or even the buildings that they occupy. We are talking about the military installation as a whole.

The one thing that Congress has gotten very good at is abdicating our responsibilities the same way that we abdicate Article I, Section 8, Clauses 11 through 13 of our war powers authority within the actual AUMF, Authorization for Use of Military Force. I ask my colleagues to explain why.

In 1777, we deemed this as a congressional authority, but we now say that any command—and there are good commands; there are bad commands—has the right to overrule what has actually been done here in the body.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues, once again, to explain why we continue to abdicate our roles and responsibilities within this Chamber only to complain about them further later.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I would say Congress has decided. We decided on 13 flags, and we decided to trust the military installation commanders to make other decisions. We did decide. We have done this two or three times. They want us to decide something different. That is not violating anything. That is just going at what they think Congress ought to decide to do.

We have exercised the law and the right that was laid out. We exercised it in the way we did. We approved it in this body, the Senate, and the conference report. It does not need to be reopened.

Mr. Chair, I urge us to defeat this amendment, and I yield 1 minute to the

gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. MCCLELLAN).

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, I find it really interesting that in a Congress that took 15 votes and several days to elect a Speaker and then 3 weeks to elect another Speaker, and every must-pass bill has been bogged down with culture war amendments or partisan infighting that has taken us to the brink, that in a Congress that has passed very little legislation compared to other Congresses, we now want Congress to micromanage a local military base.

For example, if Fort Gregg-Adams in Prince George, for example, has a festival and they want to fly a flag related to that festival, they have to come to Congress to ask for a bill to be passed and signed by the President of the United States. That is ridiculous. That is utterly ridiculous.

That is why, in a wide variety of bills passed by Congress, we delegate some of that minutiae to the people on the ground who know, in that given situation, they can exercise their judgment.

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Chair, I remind the gentlewoman that the purpose of Congress is not to try to pass as many bills as you can possibly pass. Actually, it was the opposite of that. It was actually trying to make it very difficult.

The reason that we are so big on wanting to try to gauge the metrics by how many bills we pass is because we don't even enforce the existing laws that we have on the books, and we think that is somehow a metric of success.

The reality is that we are not supposed to be involved in day-to-day lives, which is why, in 1777, they made it very clear: Here are the authorized flags we can fly.

I can tell you that if there were a tremendous amount of MAGA flags flying over military installations, you would hear an absolute outcry by the left that would come in and tell you that these are not authorized and approved flags, so how dare they do this, it is a complete atrocity, and J6 is a result of this.

The funny thing is that it is only a great argument when it is to their own benefit, but the reality is this: Why can't it be simple? The simplest thing is that our military installations and our military servicemembers, myself as an actual armed services member—not sure that my colleagues have actually served in the Army—we wore an American flag on our uniform. Why? Because that is what our American country represented, that flag.

Mr. Chair, I ask that my colleagues support this and that we get back to supporting and honoring our flag.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time. It is ironic, the gentleman arguing about how Congress doesn't need to pass a bunch of laws while he is urging us to pass another one. He is the one



who is actually proposing and having us pass something else that would place a restriction after we have already dealt with that.

This is not an issue that needs to be revisited. We worked it out. We have a bunch of approved flags for everybody. We allow the local commanders to make local decisions.

Congress certainly should exercise our authority of oversight over the Department of Defense, and there are a wide variety of different areas where we need to do this. Micromanaging what flag is flown at every single installation in the United States of America and beyond is not a place I think we need to insert ourselves.

Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment and urge the body to do so. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 50 OFFERED BY MR. WALTZ

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 50 printed in part B of House Report 118–551.

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title V, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 5. EXPANSIONS OF INCREASED FITNESS STANDARDS FOR ARMY CLOSE COMBAT FORCE MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTIES.**

Section 577 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31; 10 U.S.C. 7013 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall implement increased minimum fitness standards as part of the Army Combat Fitness Test” and inserting “Not later than 14 months after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, the Secretary of the Army shall implement sex-neutral fitness standards that are enhanced in each test category”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(21) 25C assigned to infantry, cavalry, and engineer line companies or troops in brigade combat teams and infantry battalions.

“(22) 68W assigned to infantry, cavalry, and engineer line companies or troops in brigade combat teams and infantry battalions.”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “Not later than 365 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army” and inserting “Not later than 13 months after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, the Secretary of the Army shall”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman

from Florida (Mr. WALTZ) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment to require the United States Army to establish gender-neutral fitness standards for its combat fitness test.

Last year’s defense bill contained my provision that required the Army to create gender-neutral fitness standards for combat military occupational specialties. While I am pleased that the conference adopted increased fitness standards for combat arms in the FY24 NDAA, it removed the provisions requiring these standards to be gender-neutral. This amendment would restore the House’s previous language.

To be clear, Mr. Chairman, I fully support all Americans, regardless of race, religion, or gender, to serve in any capacity in our uniformed services. We need them, and in the middle of this recruiting crisis, we need all of them. This amendment and conversation are about standards and establishing the standards we need to be successful in combat.

I can tell you firsthand that our enemies’ bullets do not discriminate between Black, White, or Brown. They don’t discriminate between men and women. We are all in the foxhole together, so we need to establish what those standards are to be successful. If you hit them and achieve them, then you are in that combat unit. If you don’t, there are other ways to serve.

I like to talk about the first female to successfully graduate from the U.S. Army Ranger School. Her name is Kristen Geist. She had to achieve the standards that it takes to be a Ranger and went on to command her infantry platoon, but she now has a lower physical standard than the men she is charged to lead.

I think that does her a disservice. I think that does the women who achieve these incredibly difficult elite units within our military a disservice. Frankly, it lowers the readiness of the units that they are joining.

In her op-ed, she said: “First, reverting to gender-based scoring could drastically reduce the performance and effectiveness of combat arms units,” particularly as more women join these units, with the opening of combat arms.

She also goes on to say: “Reverting to gender-based scoring and reducing the minimum standard for combat arms will also hurt the women in those branches. Under a gender-based system, women in combat arms have to fight every day to dispel the notion that their presence inherently weakens these previously all-male units.” These are her words.

“Lower female standards also reinforce the belief that women cannot perform the same job as men, therefore making it difficult for women to earn the trust and confidence of their teammates.”

Mr. Chairman, you are going to hear that we don’t have data, that we don’t know. We have 20 years of combat in the Middle East. We know what it takes to move a 200-pound soldier to that helicopter, to move that medevac up to the top of the building, to move that artillery round. None of those things discriminate based on what gender you are—none of them. Certainly, our enemies don’t.

At the end of the day, the standard it takes to be successful in infantry should be different than to be a cyber warrior, a supply officer, or a pilot. Let’s make the standards according to the job and not according to anything else, and that is what this amendment would do.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL).

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to this amendment. It is just the latest in a long series of attempts by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to drum women out of combat roles in which they are currently serving.

It is dressed up as protecting women, as a step aimed at preserving military readiness, but make no mistake, it is about a deeply held belief that women shouldn’t fight.

When I served in the Navy, I was part of the first class of women eligible for most combat roles, and I know firsthand what women bring to the table in combat roles.

This fight is to ensure that women can serve in combat roles. It is one that I have already fought and has impacted my entire career in the Navy. It has also impacted the careers of our first female commanding officer of an aircraft carrier, our first woman Chief of Naval Operations, our first female superintendent of the Naval Academy.

Make no mistake, I had to pass numerous physical tests during my time in the Navy. Some, such as the physical readiness test, were simply basic measures of fitness based on my age and gender. Some, such as the helicopter dunker, the platform dive, and SERE/POW training school, were gender- and age-neutral and based on the ability I needed to have to serve in a certain role—namely, a Navy helicopter pilot who flew over water, often at night.

The military determined this, not Congress. Congress should not be telling the military what standards they should be implementing for physical fitness standards. The services have long had the ability to make these decisions based on their expert knowledge on what is actually needed for servicemembers.

Congress should not intervene, especially when it could lead to the prevention of qualified women in combat

roles and especially not as a cheap political ploy to score points in a culture war.

By all means, we don't need to take my word for it. Let's see what the Army has to say. It is redundant. Per Secretary Wormuth, the Army already has sex-neutral fitness standards that apply to every single combat arms military occupational specialty.

It is duplicative. Per Secretary Warmoth, the Army is already pursuing increased standards to close combat force MOSes to comply with last year's bill.

It is counterproductive. Under this amendment, the Army would lack empirically defensible data to set the standards. Instead, per Secretary Warmoth, the Army would be forced to rely on this amendment's conclusion that sex-neutral minimum standards are scientifically justifiable without the science.

□ 1445

Mr. Chair, once again, this body is considering amendments that serve one goal: cheap shots at women as part of a MAGA culture war.

Our military readiness is an incredibly important thing that should be treated with careful deliberation. It should not be subject to the whims of a single Member of this House who has willfully disregarded the input of experts from the Army and of the House Armed Services Committee which rejected this very amendment.

I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment.

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Chair, I found that, frankly, incredibly insulting and somewhat disappointing coming from a colleague and a fellow veteran.

At the end of the day, those who are fighting for women to serve in all combat roles—which I will state again, despite the aspersions or projecting of motives here—cannot then say, well, they should have a lower standard in combat. Combat doesn't present a lower standard. It is one: life or death. When you are in a foxhole with fellow Americans, that is all that matters.

Number two, I think to equate an experience as a helicopter pilot with what this amendment actually addresses—which are combat roles in the Army, not in the Navy, not in the Air Force, not with support roles, not with other specialties that, again, all Americans are welcome and should be welcome to serve in—either we haven't read the amendment or we have our own motives in place. It is hard to tell.

At the end of the day, what we are seeing in Ukraine, what we are seeing in Gaza, and what we have seen in our experience in the Middle East is that combat on the ground in urban environments is brutally up close, dangerous, lethal, and at the end of the day regardless of race, religion, gender or anything else, you need to be able to hit the standards and training to be successful in a combat environment.

Again, I would support my colleagues setting aside their political, I guess, biases and support this amendment.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I will point out, as I am sure the gentleman recognizes, there are helicopter pilots in the Army and there are helicopter pilots who are in combat, so it is perfectly appropriate to have a helicopter pilot talk about what it is like to serve in a combat role, and I think the gentleman would agree with me on that.

There is one other aspect of this amendment that has always troubled me. We talk about combat MOSes, but the actual substance of the amendment would set a gender-neutral standard to be in the Army, period, and that is what is concerning because there are a lot of different jobs within the Army. There is combat, which you described, absolutely. We also need intel officers, we need linguistic experts, and we need a whole lot of people who will have a different set of qualifications.

What the Army was concerned about with this last year, how we came to a compromise—which you have decided you didn't like, apparently, even though you guys are in the majority, and we passed this last year—was that they were concerned that if you required this you would be booting a ton of women out of the military now who aren't in combat roles. The breadth of this amendment is what concerns me.

In addition, like I said, last year we did this, and the Army is tasked with coming back to us with new fitness standards for the broad Army and also for the very specific combat MOSes to make sure that they meet the standards, that the gentleman is quite correct must be there, for certain jobs, but it depends on the job.

It also is something that is not said on this floor, and I love the fact that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would have you believe that the military has always been this completely unbiased, unbigoted place, and no one has anything to worry about. We are just going to treat everybody perfectly equally, and everything will be fine.

I confess, I have not served in the military, and maybe someone who has served in the military will say, oh, no, we have never done that. I would think you were being dishonest if you said that because bias and bigotry have been a problem. It has been a particular problem for women serving in the military, as any woman, Republican or Democrat, who has served in the military in the last 40 years can tell you. Efforts to make sure that women know that they will be included and given a fair shot are important. This amendment undermines that.

Mr. Chair, I urge opposition, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WALTZ).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 51 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 51 printed in part B of House Report 118-551.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title V, add the following:

**SEC. 5. PROHIBITION OF REQUIREMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO WEAR A MASK TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.**

The Secretary of Defense may not require an individual to wear a mask while on a military installation in the United States to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, my amendment prohibits the Secretary of Defense from requiring individuals to wear masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on any military installation in the United States. I was proud to introduce a similar amendment last year, and I am happy to do so again.

Policies involving mandatory mask implementation are not about science or safety but control.

Tom Jefferson, not to be confused with Thomas Jefferson, a leading epidemiologist who coauthored what The New York Times Opinion section called: "The most rigorous and comprehensive analysis of scientific studies conducted on the efficacy of masks for reducing the spread of respiratory illness, including COVID-19" found that there was no evidence that masks made a difference.

It found that wearing a mask in public places probably makes little or no difference in the number of infections, and Dr. Fauci has recently admitted as much.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I will be brief. I don't fundamentally disagree with the idea that we learned a lot about the relative effectiveness of masks. I am not a huge fan of them myself. The main reason they tend not to be effective is people don't wear them or they don't wear them correctly.

I think what we have learned is that there are some circumstances in which masks could conceivably be helpful.

I don't like the way the scientists in this country presented the mask information to the American public. I think they undermined a lot of credibility in the way they did it by not explaining it in an honest way, and I think they were wrong in a number of different areas.

This amendment says there is never any time ever when a mask mandate makes sense, and that is just further than even I am willing to go. I don't know when that time is going to be. I have not done an exhaustive study of the science. I have read a few New Yorker articles in other places that raised some of the concerns.

To have an amendment that says under no circumstances can our medical professionals within the military conclude that this is a good idea goes too far.

I oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I thank my colleague for his words.

Again, to my colleague's point, this really is about following the science and the lessons we have learned that this information, the requirement, the mandatory implementation of mask wearing, which was not presented honestly to the American people, has created distrust within the very institutions that we should trust when such said things happen.

That being said, I think this is important to lay the groundwork and the framework that you can't just mandate masks because you feel that you have to do something.

Fauci has acknowledged that he was winging it, that the 6-foot margin was made up. We now know the efficacy of masks didn't work, and, yes, obviously not wearing a mask could or could not have an impact.

The efficacy studies were on the masks themselves, on N95 masks. This isn't about not wearing a mask; this is about the fact that N95 masks did not work against COVID. We should not have a mandatory mask allowance for our military because of control.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I actually don't have any more arguments on this point other than what I have said.

Mr. Chair, I urge opposition, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, again, I will just emphasize this amendment is based off of what we now know about COVID. We know the masks didn't work. There is no need for the Secretary of Defense to urge or mandate our military to wear masks on military installations.

This is about freedom.

This is about liberty.

This is about science.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 52 OFFERED BY MR. ROSENDALE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 52 printed in part B of House Report 118-551.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

In subtitle A of title VII, add at the end the following:

**SEC. 714. PROHIBITION ON COVERAGE OF CERTAIN GENDER TRANSITION PROCEDURES AND RELATED SERVICES UNDER TRICARE PROGRAM.**

Chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1076f the following new section (and conforming the table of sections at the beginning of such chapter accordingly):

**“§ 1076g. TRICARE program: prohibition on coverage and furnishment of certain gender transition surgeries and related services**

“(a) PROHIBITION.—The medical care to which individuals are entitled to under this chapter does not include the services described in subsection (b) and the Secretary of Defense may not furnish any such service.

“(b) SERVICES DESCRIBED.—The services described in this subsection are the following:

“(1) Gender transition surgeries furnished for the purpose of the gender alteration of an individual who identifies as transgender.

“(2) Hormone treatments furnished for the purpose of the gender alteration of an individual who identifies as transgender.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Chair, President Joe Biden has tried to turn our United States military into a dangerous leftwing social experiment.

At the Malmstrom Air Force Base in my district there has been an inappropriate drag show and explicit library books on display for children.

The Department of Defense is paying for travel expenses and is offering up to 21 days of leave for soldiers and their dependents to get abortions.

This does nothing to help our troops continue to be the most effective fighting force on Earth and is nothing but a distraction and a waste of valuable taxpayer dollars.

My amendment No. 52 would prohibit TRICARE from covering gender reassignment surgeries and hormone treatment for individuals who identify as transgender.

The government has no business funding these procedures on the taxpayers' dime, and, quite frankly, if you don't know if you are a man or a woman, you shouldn't have your hand on the button that launches missiles.

The Department of Defense still spent millions of dollars on these surgeries, and they do nothing to help our servicemembers. The follow-up medications and counseling are even more costly.

The question that must be asked is whether having people who identify as trans in the military makes our military a more effective, lethal fighting force. The answer is a clear and resounding no.

A report commissioned by General Mattis found that servicemembers with claims of gender dysphoria are eight times more likely to attempt suicide than other servicemembers. It also found that these individuals are nine times more likely to have negative mental health episodes than other servicemembers.

As former Lieutenant General Thomas Spoehr aptly put it: “If those with gender dysphoria are at a much higher risk of suicide, crippling anxiety, or other mental breakdowns than their peers, those serving next to them will be reluctant to rely on them. Permitting them to serve also violates the principle of not placing individuals at greater risk of injury in harm's way.”

Allowing this radical trans agenda to infiltrate our military will put our servicemembers in harm's way and will make our country more vulnerable than it has ever been in modern history.

My commonsense amendment would save the taxpayers millions of dollars and help protect our servicemembers and our country.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS).

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Chair, gender-affirming care is safe, effective, and medically necessary. It is supported by every major medical association in the United States representing more than 1.3 million U.S. doctors.

That is why I find it incredibly concerning that many of my colleagues across the aisle choose to demonize the transgender community, but I don't think they have ever met someone who is trans. Many of them seek to restrict, deny, and disparage gender-affirming care but have never met anyone who has actually received it.

Forgive me if I am not convinced by their naive talking points when this is something I know about personally.

□ 1500

Earlier this year, my trans brother, Dylan, received gender-affirming surgery after consultations with his doctor. He will tell you, Mr. Chair, that it was life-changing, and that is the case for so many in the trans community. He will tell you, Mr. Chair, contrary to my colleague's remarks, that he knows who he is. His body just doesn't match that.

Prohibiting gender-affirming care for our servicemembers not only compromises our national security, but it also hinders our recruitment and retention efforts.

Trans people are about twice as likely as all adults in the U.S. to serve in the Armed Forces. Why would we want to alienate this patriotic, selfless community from serving?

When servicemembers get the medical care they need, then they can focus on their mission without distraction. However, by denying servicemembers this medically necessary care, this amendment will hurt our military readiness and likely lead to servicemembers leaving the military. Our efforts to recruit would be severely weakened.

This amendment isn't only bigoted, it is shortsighted and would hurt our national security.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to listen to someone who actually knows something about the trans community and gender-affirming care and oppose this amendment.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Chair, this is not rhetoric. These are simply the facts.

Again, a report commissioned by General Mattis found that servicemembers with claims of gender dysphoria are eight times more likely to attempt suicide than other servicemembers.

Mr. Chair, \$8 million roughly was spent on transgender care, including about \$5.8 million on psychotherapy, demonstrating that the vast majority of the investment associated with these gender surgeries is for psychotherapy thereafter.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. MCCLELLAN.)

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, have you ever wondered why transgender individuals are more likely to have mental health issues or commit suicide or attempt to commit suicide?

It is not just our servicemembers. It is also their dependents.

Maybe the reason is the harassment and demonization that they have faced for generations from the far right.

Maybe it is for the same reason a student whom I represented who identified as transgender wanted to commit suicide because on a daily basis in their school they received texts and threats from friends who said: "You should kill yourself" solely because they identified as transgender.

Maybe it is because the vitriol that we have heard in committee and on this floor against the transgender community tells them: You are not valuable as a human being.

That is why this amendment is so cruel.

What this amendment does is to say that in the same body, from the same party who has made arguments about individual freedom and decried what they see as people trying to impose their views on other people, this is an amendment that says that they are going to impose their views on what transgender people should or should not do when making their own healthcare decisions.

In doing so, it is so broadly written that it leaves it up to I don't know who to decide what the purpose of the hormone treatment that someone who identifies as transgender is because not every transgendered woman gets surgery. A woman who identifies as a man may not get surgery and continue to have ovaries, and when she reaches menopause, she may need hormonal therapy.

Now some bureaucrat is going to have to sit and say: What is the purpose of this? Is this part of your effort now to be surgically or hormonally transitioned?

This amendment is ridiculous and cruel, and it should be defeated.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Chair, the pressures of war are extreme, and if you are so troubled during peacetime that you don't know if you are a man or a woman, then I can't imagine what the pressures of war would do to you.

There were about 160 transgender surgeries that have taken place in the military, and they included 23,000 psychotherapy visits.

Again, Mr. Chair, if you don't understand if you are a man or a woman, then you should not have your hand on the button that is launching missiles.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Chairman, I am ready to close, as well.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Montana has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Chair, again, it is very simple.

First of all, the taxpayers should not be bound by paying the expenses that are associated with these transgender surgeries for the military.

The next thing is, and this is the larger question: Should these people who are so confused they don't understand whether they are a man or a woman even be allowed into the military?

This is putting lives at risk, this is putting their colleagues at risk, and this has been something that has been hurting the recruitment efforts for the military that we have seen be down since the Biden administration has taken over.

Quite frankly, taxpayers should not be bound by these obligations, and the people who are serving in the military shouldn't be exposed to this additional risk.

Mr. Chair, I request that my colleagues please support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Chair, two quick points: The United States Congress shouldn't be making medical decisions, and that is what this amendment is. It is telling

the military what medical services they should provide. That, I think, is a huge mistake regardless of the context.

Second, trans people have served in the military for a long time, even before it was officially allowed, and, certainly, now they are continuing to serve with the same honor and dignity as everybody else who has served. To imply otherwise is completely wrong.

Various people throughout the military need healthcare. We spend money on a lot of different healthcare provisions. There is a favorite stat about how much money the United States spends on Viagra for people who serve in the military. There are different purposes.

This amendment is wrong for two reasons: One, it is bigoted and discriminatory against trans people who serve and serve in the military very effectively.

Number two, it has Congress making medical decisions that should be left up to medical professionals and their patients.

Mr. Chair, I urge opposition to this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Montana will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 53 OFFERED BY MR. NORMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 53 printed in part B of House Report 118-551.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title V, insert the following:

**SEC. 5. PROHIBITIONS ON PROVISION OF GENDER TRANSITION SERVICES THROUGH AN EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—No gender transition procedures, including surgery or medication, may be provided to a minor dependent child through an EFMP.

(b) REFERRALS.—No referral for procedures described in subsection (a) may be provided to a minor dependent child through an EFMP.

(c) REASSIGNMENT.—No change of duty station may be approved through an EFMP for the purpose of providing a minor dependent child with access to procedures described in subsection (a).

(d) EFMP DEFINED.—In this section, the term "EFMP" means the program referred to as the Exceptional Family Member Program under section 1781c(d)(4)(I) of title 10, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman

from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chairman, my amendment prohibits the provision of gender transition procedures, including surgery or medication, through an Exceptional Family Member Program.

I think I have heard it all, when my good friend on the other side mentioned that the medical profession was for the surgery. That is like saying the owners of a gas station or a petroleum company are for gasoline production. It is a given.

Everything has got a price tag up here, and when I hear Viagra, I hope and pray that Viagra is not included in what the other side is wanting to do. That is not the place for that, particularly now.

The Exceptional Family Member Program provides resources to military families with special needs. This program is designed for military spouses, children, or other dependent family members who require ongoing medical or educational services such as individuals with asthma, autism, chronic respiratory illness, intellectual disabilities, and much more.

The military has tried to politicize this valuable program in order to get transgender procedures passed. For example, the Air Force suggested using the Exceptional Family Member Program for families who want to help their child transition.

I would just say the other side is taking—and I will list some of the other things that are included in this that already exist that they are paying for—money away from the things I will mention, and I think that is unheard of.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume before I yield to Ms. JACOBS.

I will say, just on the comment about doctors being like gas station owners, of course, a doctor is going to want to operate whenever you show up, that is not the way the medical profession works.

I have been through a number of operations myself. I don't always agree with decisions the doctors make, but I will stand up for the medical profession and say they are not selling a product to the point where the more of it they sell the happier they are. They are not just going to operate on anyone who walks in.

It is the purpose of a medical doctor to make a medical determination about what the proper treatment is, not to sell as much of it as is humanly possible.

I stand by what I said earlier: Congress should not be telling doctors

what medical decisions they should make.

Mr. Chair, if you have got a doctor out there who is passing out treatment like he is at a gas station, then please report him, and let's make sure that that license is taken away.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS).

Ms. JACOBS. Mr. Chair, I think we can all agree we want our military dependents to be safe and healthy. In fact, that is a crucial part of our national security. If our servicemembers are worried about their families, then they are not going to be focused on the mission that we need them to do.

That is why military dependents should have access to gender-affirming care, which is safe, essential, medically necessary care that promotes the health and well-being of transgender people.

Now, I highly doubt my colleagues who support this amendment know someone who has personally received gender-affirming care, let alone talked to them about their experience and about what it was like with the doctor and about how hard or easy it was to receive that care. I have.

Earlier this year, my transgender brother had gender-affirming care surgery. He will tell you it has been life-changing, and it has improved his relationship with his body, his life, and his society. He will also tell you, Mr. Chair, it wasn't easy to get.

That confidence and happiness that my brother has is what I want for everyone, especially those in the LGBTQ+ community who are, too often, misunderstood, judged, discriminated against, and have to hear the hateful things coming from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

However, by denying servicemembers the ability to provide medically necessary care for their children, this amendment will lead servicemembers to leave the military, and it will weaken efforts to recruit other people with trans family members to join the military.

We have already seen this happen where servicemembers have had to dramatically alter their career or leave the service altogether in order to support their trans dependents.

The bottom line is this: The Federal Government should not get in the middle of medical decisions, period.

This amendment will be unconstitutional and will likely lead to costly litigation. We have already seen similar laws struck down in the courts for violating the equal protection clause, by denying transgender adolescents the same care that is provided to cisgender adolescents, and the bans would violate the fundamental due process rights of parents to provide best practice medical care for their children.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, I will just add to some comments made about medical doctors.

The medical doctors are making money on this. Gas stations make money. The free enterprise system does that, and for them to be in favor of it, they are doing the surgery, and they are getting paid for it.

The military is meant to defend this country, and it has gotten away from that. That is what the American people are so sick of.

In another amendment, I brought up the fact that 168 generals and people active in the military are saying that that is why the recruitment is down 30 percent. It is for just what the other side is trying to oppose.

On my particular amendment, you have to realize this program was meant to help families with special needs.

Now, Mr. Chair, if you don't know whether you are a man or a woman, that is fine, go figure it out, and you pay for it, not the government from money we don't have.

Mr. Chair, let me just name you some of the things that are included now but by providing transgender surgery that will take away from these programs.

I guarantee you, Mr. Chair, you can ask and do a poll of everyone in the balcony: Do you want to do away with funds for life-threatening conditions or chronic conditions for transgender surgery?

Do you want to take away asthma and respiratory-related diagnoses for transgender surgery?

Do you want to delay intellectual development by taking the dollars away for that for transgender surgery?

Attention deficit disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorders, do you want to take that away?

How about chronic conditions that require adaptive equipment and assistive technology or environmental or architectural considerations?

That is everything that is included.

What the other side wants to do is take money for somebody who doesn't know whether they are a man or a woman. It didn't make sense then, and it doesn't make sense now.

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

□ 1515

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I want to follow that last train of logic.

Basically, if a trans person receives medical care, it is, by definition, taking medical care away from somebody else. I guess, if a cancer patient is receiving medical care, that is taking it away from somebody else.

That is simply not true. That is not the choice here. If you need healthcare, you should get healthcare. There will be a robust debate within the medical community about what is appropriate, certainly, but, in this case, we are talking about trans children of people who are serving in the military being denied healthcare that they need.

I don't feel that we should be denying healthcare to children whose medical professionals say they need it, and it is

not a choice of taking it away from somebody else. It is not the way our healthcare system works.

What this amendment would do is clearly take healthcare away from families and spouses of servicemembers that a medical doctor has determined that they need.

I come back to this argument that somehow our military is being destroyed by wokeness. This is completely and totally untrue. Number one, as we stand here today on the floor, we have the best military in the world. They are serving ably all across the world. It is incredibly talented and incredibly effective. I am offended that the other side of the aisle seems to want to continue to denigrate our military because of a rightwing agenda to wage a culture war.

That is not what is going on in the United States military. Recruitment is a problem primarily because of how good the economy is. Again, for a period of time, they weren't able to recruit because of COVID. Recruitment is also a problem, in small part due to the rightwing bashing on the military 24-7.

Are there some people in the military who long for the days when gay people and trans people and women and even people of color weren't in a position to compete with them? I am quite certain that there are. I am also quite certain that it is a relatively small number.

All we are trying to do is make sure that we have equal access in the military.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from South Carolina has 1¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, in closing, what my colleagues are trying to do goes against what the intent for this program was, and I am offended that the gentleman wants to take dollars away from that cancer patient. If my colleague is telling me the cancer patient goes behind somebody who doesn't know whether they are a man or a woman, the gentleman and I just have a basic world view difference.

The price tag for individual gender-affirming surgical procedures and other medical treatments can range from \$8,000 to \$100,000. I am offended that the gentleman wants to take that from somebody who has a disability.

Mr. Chairman, the fact that we are having to debate this is amazing, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further pro-

ceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 54 OFFERED BY MR. BRECHEEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 54 printed in part B of House Report 118-551.

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XVII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 17 — LIMITATION ON FUNDING ACTIVITIES PERFORMED BY PERSONS IN DRAG.**

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act may be obligated or expended for a drag show, drag queen story hour, or similar event.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRECHEEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would prohibit drag shows and drag queen story hours at U.S. military bases and installations. This measure is essential to ensure that our military remains focused on its core mission.

President Biden and his Department of Defense have hosted multiple drag show events as the left continues to push a sexual agenda on servicemembers, showing total disregard for our troops who signed up to protect this country, not to be subjected to far-left policies.

This agenda doesn't stop at our men and women in uniform. The Biden administration is also targeting young children in an effort to spread its views, its sexual agenda.

In 2022, a military base in Virginia hosted a kid-friendly diversity, equity, and inclusion summer festival—and I use air quotes, kid-friendly—featuring “Harpy Daniels—the Navy Drag Queen,” where children were encouraged to attend. That same summer, another base scheduled a drag queen story hour for children.

Our country depends on a lethal military capable of rising to any occasion, just as the Allied forces did 80 years ago when they stormed the beaches of Normandy. They exemplified patriotism and courage.

It seems the Biden administration and its DOD is more focused on promoting drag queens, waving the rainbow flag in a cultural war, preparing them for the cultural battle versus preparing a real fighting force advancing the red, white, and blue on a real battlefield.

This is nothing short of an insult to our troops. It is a mockery to history and those who died fighting for this country. What would General Eisenhower and General MacArthur say? I believe they would encourage a return to thousands of years of history of soci-

etal norms, not the current sexual fad that is in tandem with our armed services not being able to meet their recruitment goals, being down 30 percent during the Biden administration.

Young men who make up the bulk of our fighting forces are inspired by GI Joe. They are not inspired by: Be a Barbie girl in a Barbie world.

Although the DOD indicated it would stop hosting drag queen events last year, this informal decision lacks the force of law and was only made after significant public backlash. We have every reason to believe the DOD would resume these events tomorrow if they felt they could get away with it. We should codify this and not give them that option.

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

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the LGBTQ families, gay people who serve in our country, and, frankly, anyone who just likes to have fun, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

Now, we know there are a lot of threats to the health and well-being of our servicemembers: poisoned water on military bases, toxic mold in military housing, PTSD and suicide. I am stunned to see that a top Republican idea to protect our troops is actually to ban drag shows.

Mr. Chairman, my Republican colleagues want us to believe that gays are trying to murder us. They want to believe that drag is harmful or immoral or wrong. This is completely ridiculous.

I hate to break it to my Republican colleagues, but LGBTQ people have fought and died for this country since the American Revolution, even if they were forced to hide their true selves.

We can document and celebrate drag shows on military bases, and they have been celebrated since the 1800s and through both world wars. The USO and Red Cross hosted drag shows during World War II. The army that defeated Hitler and saved the world included drag queens. Ronald Reagan starred in a movie called “This is the Army,” a movie about World War II that featured four drag performances. He is not the only Republican President who knew that drag can be fun and sometimes silly.

Mr. Chairman, drag is art, drag is culture, and drag is a form of comedy. Drag is not a crime, and it is not pornography.

Now, real obscenity is when one of our colleagues, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE), shows literal photos of revenge porn in our Oversight Committee. If we want to end porn in government facilities, let's ban that.

We know that inclusion in our military is good for our country. We want to welcome anyone who wants to serve,



and I would invite my Republican colleagues to join me at a drag show in the future. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle will see that drag is not a threat to anyone, and I am convinced that some of the majority would really enjoy it.

It is my deep concern that this amendment is legitimatizing an extremist narrative that drag performances are now harmful or threatening. Drag is art.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment should sashay away. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Chairman, this amendment simply codifies what the DOD stated last year that, “holding these type of events in federally funded facilities is not suitable use of DOD resources.”

I remind my colleagues that the language in this amendment passed in last year’s NDAA, which almost all Republicans and some Democrats voted for, Americans’ tax dollars should not be paying for or be used to prop up paying for men to dress up as women in sexualized performances.

I take exception to the comment that this is something that was occurring during the Greatest Generation. What may be referenced is something totally different than something now that is designed to sexualize this culture.

Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time.

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Chairman, I remind my colleagues that art should be celebrated in this country. There are all forms of art. Whether it is going to a live theater performance, whether they are seeing something in a gallery, whether they are enjoying a sculpture, whether they are seeing a live music performance, or whether they are seeing a drag show, it is all a form of art. It is also an American art form that has been around our country for hundreds of years and has been on military bases since the USO was performing these similar types of shows.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is a culture-war stunt that does nothing to make our troops safer. It politicizes our military and silences servicemembers who just want to be themselves. It is Big Government telling our troops they aren’t smart enough to decide if they want to attend a particular type of entertainment and that Congress knows best in what is funny or may not be funny.

We should respect drag artists for the talent that they are and for the artists that they are. We should focus on real solutions to make life better for our troops and for our country.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRECHEEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 55 OFFERED BY MS. VAN DUYN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 55 printed in part B of House Report 118-551.

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle A of title VII, insert the following:

**SEC. 7. PROHIBITION ON PAYMENT AND REIMBURSEMENT BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OF EXPENSES RELATING TO ABORTION SERVICES.**

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) consistent with section 1093 of title 10, United States Code, the Department of Defense may not use any funds for abortions except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term or in a case in which the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest;

(2) the Secretary of Defense has no legal authority to implement any policies in which funds are to be used for such purpose; and

(3) the Department of Defense Memorandum titled “Ensuring Access to Reproductive Health Care”, dated October 20, 2022, is therefore unlawful and must be rescinded.

(b) REPEAL OF MEMORANDUM.—

(1) REPEAL.—The Department of Defense memorandum titled “Ensuring Access to Reproductive Health Care”, dated October 20, 2022, shall have no force or effect.

(2) PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS TO CARRY OUT MEMORANDUM.—No funds may be obligated or expended to carry out the memorandum specified in paragraph (1) or any successor to such memorandum.

(c) PROHIBITION.—Section 1093 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(C) PROHIBITION ON PAYMENT OR REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN FEES.—(1) The Secretary of Defense may not pay for or reimburse any fees or expenses, including travel expenses, relating to a health-care professional gaining a license in a State if the purpose of gaining such license is to provide abortion services.

“(2) In this subsection:

“(A) The term ‘health-care professional’ means a member of the armed forces, civilian employee of the Department of Defense, personal services contractor under section 1091 of this title, or other individual who provides health care at a military medical treatment facility.

“(B) The term ‘license’ has the meaning given that term in section 1094 of this title.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Chairman, in 2022, President Biden issued new Department of Defense policy using taxpayer dollars to fund time off, lodging, and travel expenses for elective abortions. My amendment will stop this unlawful practice and return to the high protections codified in law.

In recent years, President Biden and many of my Democratic colleagues have embraced a radical, pro-abortion stance, going so far as to push to federally legalize abortion for any reason up until the moment of birth.

I am not sure why we have gone from wanting abortions to be safe, legal, and rare to encouraging taxpayer-funded abortion on demand, but here we are. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle can’t define a single limitation that my colleagues would support on elective abortions.

Republicans are offering solutions that support women throughout their pregnancy while my colleagues on the other side are taking the antiwoman stance of incentivizing abortions.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment to not only follow the law and enforce the law, but to do so while protecting the most vulnerable, the unborn.

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN), my friend and partner in this fight and the ranking member of the House Armed Services Quality of Life Panel.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

Mr. Chairman, it truly saddens me to be here yet again having the same conversation we had last year, yet again standing before this Chamber as a woman, yet again a woman who has actually served and actually worn a uniform and actually was a mother in uniform. Here I am yet again defending our servicewomen’s and -men’s rights to seek the medical care that they need when they are serving our country.

□ 1530

I am sick and tired of Members who have never served telling servicemembers, the same servicemembers that they are proud to publicly express their purported support for, that they don’t deserve the financial or otherwise freedom to seek the medical care that they and their family members deserve and need when they need it.

To those who have served in uniform, and most of them are men who are here on this floor, and still don’t wish to afford servicemembers the ability to seek reproductive care, I am enormously disappointed with them, as well.

We all know how difficult military life is. If a woman in uniform or member of a family who is in uniform says it is not the right time, perhaps, to start a family, or she has a medical reason or otherwise, it is her—

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to my colleague.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Chair, it is her decision alone on what to do here. That is why I introduced the MARCH for Servicemembers Act, which would, in



fact, expand access to abortion services at military treatment facilities.

We should be supporting our family servicemembers, not hindering them.

Mr. Chair, I strongly urge a “no” vote on this amendment and the overall bill if it passes.

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Chair, the language in this bill is very straightforward. It would simply roll back Biden’s illegal DOD abortion travel policy issued under the October 22 memorandum, returning DOD to the practice in place for decades, under which both Democratic and Republican administrations have agreed.

This amendment has absolutely nothing to do with preventing people from getting medical care. Abortion is not medical care for the baby. It is a brutal procedure that ends the lives of unborn children through suction, dismemberment, or chemical poisoning.

The Biden administration has made taxpayer funding available for abortion at any stage of pregnancy, even for late-term abortions that inflict excruciating pain and suffering on the child. This human rights abuse should not be paid for or encouraged by the U.S. Government.

Abortion is also not medical care for the mother. Abortion can lead to significant physical complications for women and has serious mental health risks. A recent study found that over 60 percent of women who have had abortions report high levels of pressure.

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I am vehemently opposed to this amendment. I wish I could say that I am surprised by the situation in which we find ourselves where, once again, House Republicans are trying to take rights away from servicewomen and military families, but I am not.

I am not surprised because it is their third attempt to get this policy repealed in the last year alone. They tried in last year’s NDAA. They tried via Senator TUBERVILLE as he waged his culture war with no concern for how he was impacting military readiness and setting back the careers of many talented officers.

This year, instead of having an actual debate about the best policies regarding vital reproductive healthcare for servicewomen and military families, they are once again hiding behind the Rules Committee and only putting forward their standard regressive, backward policies that continue to fail.

Preventing military women from traveling for care when they are stationed in States with draconian abortion laws isn’t pro-life. It is not pro-life to force women to risk their lives and their careers with nonviable pregnancies. It is not pro-life to make it harder for women to access basic healthcare. It is not pro-life to do it at the expense of women who already risk their lives in service of their country.

I wish we could treat this issue with the seriousness it deserves. I wish we

could have a real debate about reproductive healthcare for servicemembers, but we can’t. Why? Because this majority would rather score cheap points in their MAGA culture wars than have a serious discussion about their antiwomen policies.

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

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Chair, when we talk about wanting to be concerned about the safety of women, I would say that when we are looking at statistics, if you look at actually far more accurate studies and complete data on pregnancy outcomes, including abortion and childcare, study after study show that a woman is almost four times more likely to die from abortion than from childbirth.

What we are trying to do is actually support women who are pregnant and found themselves in a difficult situation. All we are simply doing in this is going back to the law. We are enforcing the law of not having taxpayer-funded abortions. This has nothing to do with limiting healthcare. This has everything to do with following the law.

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The CHAIR (Mr. MCCLINTOCK). The gentlewoman from New Jersey has 2 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from Texas has 2½ minutes remaining.

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chair, amendments like this cheapen the National Defense Authorization Act. They make America look weak. They demean this body. This isn’t the only one.

Once again, this majority has chosen not to treat matters of national security with the seriousness they deserve to be treated, and they are choosing to use the National Defense Authorization Act to shove their extremist culture war agenda down the throats of the American people.

Homophobia? Check. Racism? Check. Misogyny? Check. Serious policy amendments that will strengthen our national security? Far less important to this majority.

These ludicrous amendments are why, later today, I will be offering a motion to recommit, not to start the process all over but to give our servicemembers and our Nation the serious, policy-focused National Defense Authorization Act that we passed out of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment and support a clean, policy-centered National Defense Authorization Act.

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

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Chair, this is about taxpayer-funded abortions, something that has been prevented for five decades. In fact, the Hyde amendment was upheld by the Supreme Court even under *Roe v. Wade*.

This is not a change in policy. This is continuing policies that have been sup-

ported by both Democrats and Republicans.

I ask my kind colleagues to tell me, please, how supporting and paying out of DOD funds for a woman to travel across the country to get an abortion has anything to do with protecting our national security.

With already stretched DOD resources, to underwrite abortions through funding for flights and hotels, it is simply pandering to the abortion lobby and does nothing to increase our national security.

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chair, I have the right to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I would argue that this was an amendment that last year passed. It was taken out by the Senate.

It is necessary. All we are asking the Department to do is actually follow the law, which, under executive order currently, Biden is trying to have them surpass.

For years, this has been an adoptive practice by both Democrats and Republicans. What we are seeing is extreme measures taken by Democrats to show us exactly where their abortion stance is.

I was on the floor of this House last session when we voted for a bill that would allow taxpayer-funded dollars to be used for abortions up until the moment of birth. If that is not extreme, I don’t know what is.

Republicans are supporting women who find themselves in these positions. This is a defense bill. It should not be used to kill innocent lives and put women’s lives at unnecessary risk, especially those who are supporting and fighting for this country and our values.

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, in the advent of the overturning of *Roe*, we have seen a race to the bottom in reproductive healthcare in too many States in the Nation and attempts again and again to implement a nationwide abortion ban by Republicans.

This is really dangerous to our servicewomen, who are given orders to go to certain places. They can’t say that they prefer not to serve in Texas, for example, which is now the 49th worst State in the Nation when it comes to women’s reproductive healthcare, a very fast drop because of the horrible, draconian anti-choice laws that have been implemented.

Our servicewomen are ordered to States like this and don’t have access to basic reproductive healthcare. We see again and again how this culture war agenda has threatened women across the country and certainly servicewomen.

We have over 140,000 servicemembers in Texas right now, and that doesn’t

even include their families. That is why these are dangerous pieces of legislation. That is why we have worked so incredibly hard to find fixes to make sure our servicewomen are protected.

Mr. Chair, I urge a “no” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the gentlewoman’s amendment, which would overturn the illegal DOD abortion travel policy.

Current federal law prevents DOD from paying for elective abortion while permitting it in the case of rape, incest and to save the life of the mother.

But the Biden DOD abortion travel policy forces taxpayers to pay the transportation costs for military members and dependents to travel to procure an abortion, for any reason, right up until the moment of birth.

There is nothing humane or benign about abortion. Abortion is not healthcare, unless one construes the precious life of an unborn child analogous to a tumor to be excised or a disease to be vanquished.

Regrettably, the pro-abortion culture of denial—a modern-day flat earth society—continues to deny, devalue, and disrespect unborn baby girls and boys and trivialize the harm suffered by women.

We must recognize the breathtaking miracle of the newly created life of an unborn child and that women deserve better than abortion.

We need to care for and love them both.

Future generations will someday look back on us and wonder how and why a society that bragged about its commitment to human rights could have legally sanctioned and aggressively promoted child beheadings, dismemberment, and abortion pills that literally starve the child to death.

Don’t force taxpayers to facilitate abortion on demand.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF ALABAMA

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 1287, I offer amendments en bloc.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 2 consisting of amendment Nos. 4, 9, 10, 18, 38, 39, 57, 58, 61, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, and 176 printed in part B of House Report 118–551, offered by Mr. ROGERS of Alabama:

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

At the end of subtitle G of title VIII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 8. PROHIBITION ON ENTERING INTO CONTRACTS WITH A PERSON ENGAGED IN A BOYCOTT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL.**

The Secretary of Defense may not enter into a contract with a person if such person is engaged in an activity that is politically motivated and is intended to penalize or otherwise limit significant commercial relations specifically with Israel or persons doing business in Israel or in Israeli-controlled territories.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. CURTIS OF UTAH

At the end of subtitle E of title VI, add the following new section:

**SEC. 6. PROHIBITION ON SALE OF GOODS FROM COMPANIES ENGAGED IN AN ANTI-ISRAEL BOYCOTT.**

Subchapter III of chapter 147 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“§2497. Prohibition on sale of goods from companies engaged in an anti-Israel boycott**

“(a) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of Defense may not knowingly permit the sale, at a commissary store or military exchange, of any good, ware, article, or merchandise from any entity that has engaged in or engages in a boycott of the State of Israel.

“(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘boycott action’ means, with respect to a target entity, the refusal to deal with such entity, the termination of business activities with such entity, or the limitation of commercial relations with such entity.

“(2) The term ‘boycott of the State of Israel’ means a boycott action the target of which is—

“(A) the State of Israel; and

“(B)(i) any company or individual doing business in or with the State of Israel; or

“(ii) any company authorized by, licensed by, or organized under the laws of the State of Israel to do business.

“(3) The term ‘company’—

“(A) means a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or similar entity; and

“(B) includes any wholly-owned subsidiary, majority-owned subsidiary, parent company, or affiliate of an entity described in subparagraph (A).”

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. BIGGS OF ARIZONA

Add at the end of subtitle B of title XII the following:

**SEC. 1214. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ISRAEL.**

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) since 1948, Israel has been one of the strongest friends and allies of the United States;

(2) Israel is a stable, democratic country in a region often marred by turmoil;

(3) it is essential to the strategic interest of the United States to continue to offer security assistance and related support to Israel; and

(4) such assistance and support is especially vital as Israel confronts a number of potential challenges at the present time, including continuing threats from Iran.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. OGLER OF TENNESSEE

At the end of subtitle C of title XVII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 17. PROHIBITION ON DIVERTING FUNDING FROM THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION.**

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available to carry out any provision of law in a manner that would divert away funds previously appropriated as

of the date of the enactment of this Act for assistance for the Indo-Pacific region through September 30, 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MR. DAVIDSON OF OHIO

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

**SEC. 12. REPORT AND STRATEGY FOR UNITED STATES INVOLVEMENT IN UKRAINE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State, shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains a strategy for United States involvement in Ukraine.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall—

(1) define the United States national interests at stake with respect to the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine;

(2) identify specific objectives the President believes must be achieved in Ukraine in order to protect the United States national interests defined in paragraph (1), and for each objective—

(A) an estimate of the amount of time required to achieve the objective, with an explanation;

(B) benchmarks to be used by the President to determine whether an objective has been met, is in the progress of being met, or cannot be met in the time estimated to be required in subparagraph (A); and

(C) estimates of the amount of resources, including United States personnel, materiel, and funding, required to achieve the objective; and

(3) list the expected contribution for security assistance made by European member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization within the next fiscal year.

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(d) BRIEFING.—Not later than 45 days after the date of the submission of the report required by subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees, and other Members of Congress that wish to participate, a briefing on the United States strategy with respect to Ukraine and plans for the implementation of such strategy.

(e) LIMITATION ON FUNDS.—None of the amounts authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, or the Ukraine Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024 (division B of Public Law 118–50) may be made available for Ukraine until the report required by subsection (a) is submitted to the appropriate congressional committees and the briefing required by subsection (d) is held.

(f) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the congressional defense committees; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR OF ARIZONA

At the end of subtitle A of title XVII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 17. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR UKRAINE.**

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for construction of covered military unaccompanied housing (as defined in section

2856 of title 10, United States Code) for fiscal year 2025 or any fiscal year thereafter are authorized to be transferred or otherwise made available to Ukraine or to provide any form of assistance to Ukraine.

AMENDMENT NO. 57 OFFERED BY MR. ROSENDALE OF MONTANA

At the end of subtitle E of title X, insert the following:

**SEC. 10. LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY OF ARMED FORCES TO DETAIN CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES.**

Section 1021(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81; 10 U.S.C. 801 note) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “, other than a citizen of the United States,” after “any person”.

AMENDMENT NO. 58 OFFERED BY MR. MCCORMICK OF GEORGIA

Strike section 565 and insert the following:

**SEC. 565. TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR EMPLOYMENT NAVIGATOR AND PARTNERSHIP PILOT PROGRAM.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall carry out a pilot program to be known as the “Employment Navigator and Partnership Pilot Program”. The pilot program shall supplement the program under section 1144 of title 10, United States Code.

(b) **ACTIVITIES.**—In carrying out the pilot program under this section, the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall—

(1) seek to enter into contracts with public, private, and nonprofit entities under which such entities provide individualized employment counseling for members of the Armed Forces and their spouses;

(2) prioritize entering into contracts with qualified private entities that have experience providing instruction to members of the Armed Forces eligible for assistance under the pilot program carried out under this section on—

(A) private sector culture, resume writing, career networking, and training on job search technologies;

(B) academic readiness and educational opportunities; or

(C) other relevant topics, as determined by the Secretary;

(3) prioritize entering into a contract with a qualified private entity that is an existing Employment Navigator and Partnership Pilot Program partner with experience integrating members of the Armed Forces into local communities across the entire nation, to:

(A) Lead the program in clause (2) and, following person-to-person interactions and discussions with the individuals seeking assistance, provide referrals to the organizations under contract with the Secretary based on the Armed Forces member or veterans preferences, geographic location, and other factors;

(B) Provide comprehensive wrap-around services to the those individuals receiving assistance under this title, to include services with other matters related to transition, and remain in contact with the individuals through person-to-person engagements throughout the process;

(ii) Provide close coordination with contracted organizations and follow-up commu-

nications with those enrolled in the Employment Navigator and Partnership Pilot Program to ensure a smooth transition;

(iv) Ensure the Secretary is provided with appropriate data on referrals, outcomes, and issues that arise to enable proper oversight of the program;

(4) give a preference to any private entity that—

(A) has a national or international geographical area of service;

(B) provides multiple forms of career assistance and placement services to—

(i) active duty members of the Armed Forces;

(ii) spouses of active duty members of the Armed Forces;

(iii) veterans; and

(iv) spouses of veterans;

(C) provides services to at least 1,000 individuals who are—

(i) active duty members of the Armed Forces;

(ii) spouses of active duty members of the Armed Forces;

(iii) veterans; or

(iv) spouses of veterans;

(D) has continuously, for at least the three-year period immediately preceding the date of the contract, provided services to individuals who are—

(i) active duty members of the Armed Forces;

(ii) spouses of active duty members of the Armed Forces;

(iii) veterans; and

(iv) spouses of veterans; and

(E) has a demonstrated record of success in providing assistance with employment services, as indicated by—

(i) the average wages or earnings of people who receive employment services provided by the entity;

(ii) prior completion of Federal grants or contracts;

(iii) having at least 75 percent of its participants find full-time employment within six months of initially receiving employment services provided by the entity; and

(iv) other employment performance indicators, as determined by the Secretary; and

(5) seek to enter into contracts with not fewer than 10, but not more than 60, private entities under which each such entity is compensated at a rate agreed upon between the Secretary and the entity for each individual who receives employment services provided by the entity and is in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after exit from the program; and

(6) conduct such other activities as may be necessary for the delivery of individualized employment counseling and other employment services under this section.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than October 1 of each year during the term of the pilot program, the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the pilot program under this section, including the employment outcomes for members of the Armed Forces and their spouses who receive employment services under the program on the following indicators of performance—

(1) the percentage of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after exit from the program;

(2) the percentage of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the fourth quarter after exit from the program; and

(3) the median earnings of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after exit from the program.

(d) **TERMINATION.**—The pilot program shall terminate five years after the date on which the Secretary of Labor begins to carry out the pilot program.

AMENDMENT NO. 61 OFFERED BY MR. DONALDS OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle A of title XVII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 17. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REQUIREMENT TO USE “TAIWAN”.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Department of Defense may not use “Chinese Taipei” and shall use “Taiwan”, except—

(1) in historical context explaining the People’s Republic of China’s attempt to control Taiwan through persuasion and coercion; or

(2) in the formal title of a Federal document.

(b) **REQUIREMENT TO UPDATE WEBSITE.**—Not later than 14 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall ensure the website of the Department of Defense meets the requirements of this section.

AMENDMENT NO. 118 OFFERED BY MR. LUTTRELL OF TEXAS

At the appropriate place in title XV, insert the following:

**SEC. 15. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE USE OF LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense, acting through the Chief Data and Artificial Intelligence Officer of the Department of Defense, shall coordinate and accelerate the adoption of large language models by the Department of Defense by improving the access and quality of the existing structured and unstructured data of the Department to ensure such data is immediately ready to use in conjunction with machine learning applications being developed, tested, or in production by the Armed Forces.

(b) **DUTIES OF CHIEF DATA AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.**—The Chief Data and Artificial Intelligence Officer shall—

(1) develop a list of large language model use cases for defense and intelligence applications, including cases that have the potential to support personnel and manpower, operations, intelligence, logistics, strategic planning, command and control, joint force development, and force structure, transform business processes, and improve non-mission capable rates;

(2) develop and make available to the Secretary tooling to ingest and transform natural language, and other types of unstructured data, into formats compatible with commercially available large language models; and

(3) provide access to capabilities, such as data preparation, for elements within the Department of Defense that are necessary for use with large language models.

(c) **CONTRACTING AUTHORITIES AND LIMITATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Chief Data and Artificial Intelligence Officer may enter into contracts with private-sector entities, as appropriate, to carry out the requirements of subsection (b)(2).

(2) **LIMITATION.**—The Chief Data and Artificial Intelligence Officer may coordinate with other elements of the Department of Defense with contracting authority as required to carry out the duties described in subsection (b).

(d) SEMIANNUAL BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and not less frequently than semi-annually thereafter, the Chief Data and Artificial Intelligence Officer shall provide to the congressional defense committees a briefing on the implementation of this section.

AMENDMENT NO. 119 OFFERED BY MR. DONALDS  
OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle C of title XVII, add the following:

**SEC. 17 . . . DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL STRATEGY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Secretary of Energy, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, the Chief of Engineers of the Army Corps of Engineers, the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Nuclear Energy of the Department of Energy, the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Reactor Fleet and Advanced Reactor Deployment of the Department of Energy, develop a national strategy to utilize microreactors to assist with natural disaster response efforts.

(b) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive national strategy developed under subsection (a).

(c) CONTENTS OF NATIONAL STRATEGY.—A national strategy developed under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) EVALUATION OF EXISTING DIESEL DEPLOYMENT EFFORTS.—An assessment of the effectiveness of utilizing diesel generators to assist with natural disaster response efforts, which such assessment shall include—

(A) information on the current use of diesel generators to assist with natural disaster response efforts, including—

(i) the prevalence of deploying diesel generators around the United States as the sole power source to assist with natural disaster response efforts;

(ii) the average number of diesel generators deployed in natural disaster response efforts based on the type of natural disaster, the severity of the natural disaster, and the location of the natural disaster;

(iii) where Federal, State, and local governments store diesel generators;

(iv) how diesel generators are transported to areas affected by a natural disaster;

(v) any logistical concerns with refueling diesel generators over an extended period of time;

(vi) the potential to utilize accessory equipment that is traditionally connected to diesel generators to help provide electricity to the area in need; and

(vii) any other information that is necessary to understand the role of diesel generators used to assist with natural disaster response efforts;

(B) how the effect on the environment of utilizing diesel generators to assist with natural disaster response efforts compares to the estimated effect on the environment of utilizing microreactors to assist with the same natural disaster response efforts; and

(C) the concerns to public safety when deploying diesel generators in natural disaster response efforts.

(2) GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND PRIORITIES.—A comprehensive, research-based, and long-term discussion of goals, objectives, and priorities for utilizing microreactors instead of diesel generators to assist with natural disaster response efforts.

(3) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ANALYSIS.—An analysis of—

(A) how the efforts of the Department of Defense to develop microreactor technology for operational uses could be used to inform the development of microreactors to assist with natural disaster response efforts, including any recommendations and additional direction that may be necessary for such expedited deployment;

(B) how the Department of Defense can most effectively translate and implement the lessons learned from its operations in the field to assist with natural disaster response efforts, including how operations in the field related to microreactors can be used to answer broad questions for the nuclear industry and for future issues relating to fuel reliability, energy supply chain issues, reducing diesel convoy casualties, and supporting other global humanitarian needs; and

(C) whether a demonstration program for microreactors is needed prior to deploying microreactors for natural disaster response efforts, based on the analysis provided by subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(4) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION.—Recommendations on how the Nuclear Regulatory Commission can work with other Federal agencies to expedite—

(A) the approval of designs for microreactors; and

(B) issuing licenses for the utilization, transportation, and operation of microreactors in rapid deployment scenarios, such as natural disaster response efforts.

(5) UTILIZING FEASIBILITY STUDIES.—An analysis of available academic literature and studies, including site feasibility studies, to identify high risk areas that are prone to natural disasters that should be prioritized during emergency planning.

(6) STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS WHEN DEPLOYING MICROREACTORS.—An assessment of various strategic considerations to improve the efficiency, timeliness, and cost-effectiveness of deploying microreactors to assist with natural disaster response efforts, including—

(A) whether the Department of Defense, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or any other government entity should build, own, or operate microreactors that are used to assist with natural disaster response efforts, including whether it would be viable to lease microreactors from private industry and whether it would be viable to facilitate public-private partnerships to find cost effective options to utilize microreactors for natural disaster response efforts;

(B) the recommended number of individuals charged with the usage, maintenance, and upkeep of the microreactors, including the recommended qualifications, training requirements, availability requirements, and oversight responsibility of such individuals;

(C) the number of microreactors needed, initially and in the long-term, to effectively respond to a natural disaster based on past natural disaster trends and the specific geographic location of the area;

(D) where microreactors used to assist with natural disaster response efforts would be stored, including information on—

(i) how different microreactor storage locations may affect swift and economically feasible natural disaster response efforts;

(ii) the feasibility of utilizing already-built facilities instead of constructing new microreactor storage facilities;

(iii) the cost of constructing new microreactor storage facilities;

(iv) how to properly store the microreactor when not being utilized for natural disaster response efforts; and

(v) potential storage locations, such as—

(I) the Strategic Alliance for FLEX Emergency Response locations in Memphis, Tennessee and Phoenix, Arizona; and

(II) Department of Defense bases;

(E) how to maintain a microreactor and replace, store, and dispose of fuel used by a microreactor, including whether public-private partnerships may be used to assist with such maintenance, replacement, storage, and disposal;

(F) when a diesel generator will suffice in the event of a natural disaster of limited proportions, in comparison to utilizing microreactors to assist with natural disaster response efforts;

(G) which States and territories and possessions of the United States that are prone to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, should be prioritized when initially selecting locations to deploy microreactors to assist with natural disaster response efforts;

(H) the methods, capabilities, and costs associated with transporting microreactors that were or may be impacted by natural disasters, including considerations about transporting new microreactors, in addition to microreactors that have been put to use, and any regulatory or legal issues that may arise during the transportation;

(I) any other strategic considerations that should be taken into account before deploying microreactors to assist with natural disaster response efforts;

(J) how to integrate microreactors into existing electrical grids in emergency situations, including how grid connection points, microgrid limits, site load limits, existing infrastructure, and the standard process for grid interconnections may impact the integration of microreactors into existing electrical grid;

(K) whether microreactors will be susceptible to cyberattacks, including whether autonomous control will impact the microreactor's cyberattack susceptibility and what systems or microreactor designs would be ideal for combating such cyberattacks during a natural disaster response effort; and

(L) how the weight of a microreactor, compared to the weight of a diesel generator, affects deploying microreactors and diesel generators to assist with natural disaster response efforts.

(7) DEPLOYMENT CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS.—An assessment of—

(A) the challenges and barriers to deploying microreactors to assist with natural disaster response efforts; and

(B) solutions to address each such challenge and barrier.

(8) REVIEW OF AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION.—

(A) REVIEW.—A review of existing law that can be used to ease the burden of utilizing microreactors to assist with natural disaster response efforts, including the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801 et seq.), the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (42 U.S.C. 2215 note), and any other relevant law.

(B) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Recommendations for legislation to—

(i) assist with—

(I) deploying microreactors to assist with natural disaster response efforts;

(II) the maintenance and upkeep of such microreactors; and

(III) the initial and long-term storage of such microreactors; and

(ii) pay for the activities described in subclauses (I) through (III) of clause (i).

(9) PARTNERSHIPS TO ENHANCE NATURAL DISASTER RESPONSE EFFORTS.—An assessment about—

(A) the current status of any collaboration between the National Guard, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Army

Corps of Engineers during natural disaster response efforts;

(B) the specific roles of each entity specified in subparagraph (A) (disaggregated, in the case of the National Guard, by State and by military department) during a natural disaster response effort, and their respective roles when participating in natural disaster response efforts;

(C) the current emergency responsibilities of the Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that relate to deploying microreactors during natural disaster response efforts;

(D) the potential opportunity to set up an annual listening group session or consortium to provide all the necessary information needed to deploy microreactors to assist with natural disaster response efforts and to ensure a smooth transition from the use of diesel generators to the use of microreactors to assist with natural disaster response efforts;

(E) how the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, consented to by Congress in the joint resolution entitled “Joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact” (Public Law 104-321), can be utilized to allow States to allocate their unused microreactors to other States that are in need of microreactors to assist with natural disaster response efforts; and

(F) how to improve the collaboration between Federal, State, and local government entities and private entities when deploying microreactors to assist with natural disaster response efforts.

(10) UTILIZING MICROREACTORS TO CHARGE ELECTRIC VEHICLES.—Recommendations on how to utilize microreactors as charging stations for electric vehicles in the event of a mass evacuation resulting from a natural disaster, including recommendations on—

(A) how to deploy microreactors to charge electric vehicles before an evacuation;

(B) the primary transportation corridors that would be used for such a mass evacuation;

(C) how many microreactors would be needed to charge electric vehicles during such a mass evacuation, based on the size and population of the State in which the mass evacuation occurs;

(D) the best placement of microreactors throughout the primary transportation corridors to ensure a smooth electric vehicle charging process and subsequent evacuation;

(E) any potential public-private partnerships that would be useful in utilizing microreactors to charge electric vehicles during a mass evacuation, including an estimate of the costs that would be associated with establishing these partnerships;

(F) how to—

(i) transport microreactors to mass evacuation locations along primary transportation corridors for purposes of charging electric vehicles; and

(ii) pay for such transportation; and

(G) any other topic related to subparagraphs (A) through (F).

(11) DEPLOYING MICROREACTORS TO UNITED STATES TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS.—Recommendations on deploying microreactors to territories and possessions of the United States to assist with natural disaster response efforts.

(12) USING MILITARY EQUIPMENT WITH NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES.—Recommendations on how to, in the event of a natural disaster and when the deployment of a microreactor is not timely or ideal for the circumstance, deploy military equipment of the United States with nuclear capabilities, such as nuclear aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines, to provide temporary electricity to

an area severely impacted by a natural disaster.

(13) BUDGET PRIORITIES.—A multiyear budget plan that identifies the necessary resources to successfully carry out the recommendations and implement any lessons learned from the assessments and other analysis under this subsection.

(14) TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENTS.—An analysis of current and developing ways to leverage existing and innovative technology to improve the effectiveness of efforts to deploy microreactors to assist with natural disaster response efforts.

(15) USING INNOVATIVE TOOLS TO PREDICT NATURAL DISASTERS.—A description of how to utilize innovative technology, such as artificial intelligence and predictive meteorological tools, to prepare for the utilization of microreactors before a natural disaster.

(16) FLOATING NUCLEAR BARGES.—An assessment of how floating nuclear barges compare to using portable microreactors, including—

(A) the advantages and disadvantages of using a portable microreactor compared to a floating nuclear barge; and

(B) an identification of scenarios during which a floating nuclear barge would be preferred over a portable microreactor.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Environment and Public Works, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(2) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “local government” has the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

(3) MICROREACTOR.—The term “microreactor” means a nuclear reactor, including a portable nuclear reactor, that has an electricity generating capacity of not more than 20 megawatts of thermal energy.

(4) NATURAL DISASTER.—The term “natural disaster” has the meaning given the term “Major disaster” in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122), except that the term “natural disaster” does not include a wildfire.

(5) NATURAL DISASTER RESPONSE EFFORT.—The term “natural disaster response effort” means a circumstance in which a State or local government requests assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), including assistance to address the loss of primary electrical capacity as a result of a natural disaster.

(6) STATE.—The term “State” means a State of the United States and the District of Columbia.

AMENDMENT NO. 120 OFFERED BY MR. GREEN OF TENNESSEE

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 12. GENERAL THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO MEMORIAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR POLISH-AMERICAN DEFENSE COOPERATION.**

(a) AUTHORITY.—The Commander of United States Army Special Operations Command shall seek to carry out a training program pursuant to section 322 of title 10, United States Code, between special operations

forces under the jurisdiction of the Commander and special forces of the Polish Army. Such program shall be known as the “General Thaddeus Kosciuszko Memorial Exchange Program for Polish-American Defense Cooperation”.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—Officers and enlisted members of such special operations forces may participate in the program under this section.

(c) PROGRESS REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commander shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report regarding progress of the Commander in carrying out the program under this section.

AMENDMENT NO. 121 OFFERED BY MR. BILIRAKIS OF FLORIDA

Add at the end of subtitle D of title XII the following:

**SEC. 1236. REPORT ON MULTILATERAL EXERCISES IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.**

(a) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on multilateral exercises in the eastern Mediterranean.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall contain the following elements:

(A) An assessment of the effectiveness of multilateral military exercises hosted by United States allies and partners in the eastern Mediterranean in bolstering maritime energy security and counterterrorism in the region.

(B) Individual assessments of the potential benefits of including the following countries in future exercises and their readiness to participate based on interoperability:

- (i) Bahrain.
- (ii) Egypt.
- (iii) Jordan.
- (iv) United Arab Emirates
- (v) Saudi Arabia

(b) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be transmitted in an unclassified form and may contain a classified annex.

AMENDMENT NO. 122 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

At the end of subtitle B of title XII, add the following:

**SEC. 12. STUDY AND REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY MEASURES ON THE BORDER BETWEEN GAZA AND EGYPT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall conduct a study on steps that Israel, Egypt, and the United States can take to enhance international security measures on the border between Gaza and Egypt to ensure Hamas and other actors do not use tunnels or methods via the Mediterranean Sea to smuggle weapons and illicit goods.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains the results of the study.

(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by this subsection shall include a description and map indicating existing tunnels on the border between Gaza and Egypt.

(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

AMENDMENT NO. 123 OFFERED BY MR. SELF OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle C of title X, insert the following:

**SEC. 10 . . . SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING NAMING OF NAVAL VESSEL AFTER LIEUTENANT GENERAL RICHARD E. CAREY.**

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of the Navy should name the Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport vessel of the United States Navy that has been ordered (Hull Number T-EPF-16) in honor of Lieutenant General Richard E. Carey for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR.—The acts of valor described in this subsection are as follows:

(1) Lieutenant General Richard E. Carey participated in the Inchon Landing, captured communist forces, and led his rifle platoon to Seoul. Three months later, on East Hill at the Chosin Reservoir, Carey hurled grenades at Chinese forces. Carey and his fellow Marines were outnumbered eight to one. They held their ground and broke through the Chinese trap to the sea.

(2) Carey remained in the fight until March 1951. While commanding a platoon of machine gunners, Carey was badly wounded. He continued leading his troops and initially refused to get aid for his injuries. Carey's wounds required hospitalization. During 189 days in Korea, Carey had seven near-death experiences. As a result of his actions in Korea, Carey received the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart.

(3) Returning to the United States, Carey earned a flight training slot and became a fighter pilot. In the early 1960s Carey scouted Marine airfield sites in Vietnam. He returned to Vietnam in the summer of 1967 and served during the Tet offensive. Carey flew 204 combat sorties earning the Distinguished Flying Cross and 16 Air Medals.

AMENDMENT NO. 124 OFFERED BY MR. GREEN OF TENNESSEE

Add at the end of subtitle D of title XV the following:

**SEC. 1538. REPORT ON STATE NATIONAL GUARD CYBER UNITS.**

The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the feasibility of establishing a cyber unit in every National Guard of a State to ensure the ability of a State to quickly respond to cyber-attacks in such State.

AMENDMENT NO. 125 OFFERED BY MR. FROST OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 17 . . . INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ANNUAL REPORT ON OVERSIGHT OF FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE.**

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall submit to Congress and the Comptroller General of the United States, and make publicly available, a report containing, for each fiscal year—

(1) a description of the budget of the Department of Defense, the total amount and dollar value of oversight investigations into fraud, waste, and abuse conducted by the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, and the total amount and dollar value of oversight investigations into fraud, waste, and abuse conducted by the Inspectors General of each military department;

(2) statistical tables showing—

(A) the total number and dollar value of oversight investigations completed and pending, set forth separately by type of oversight investigation;

(B) the priority given to each type of oversight investigation;

(C) the length of time taken for each type of oversight investigation, from the date of receipt of a qualified incurred cost submission (as such term is defined in section 3842 of title 10, United States Code) and from the date on which the oversight investigation begins;

(D) the aggregate cost of performing oversight investigations, set forth separately by type of oversight investigation; and

(E) the total number and dollar value of oversight investigations that are pending for a period longer than one year at the end of the fiscal year covered by the report, and the fiscal year in which the qualified incurred cost submission was received, set forth separately by type of oversight investigation;

(3) a summary of any recommendations of actions or resources needed to improve the oversight investigation process; and

(4) any other matters the Inspector General considers appropriate.

AMENDMENT NO. 126 OFFERED BY MS. TENNEY OF NEW YORK

Page 244, insert after line 21 the following (and conform the table of contents accordingly):

**SEC. 5 . . . CORRECTION OF CERTAIN CITATIONS IN TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE, RELATING TO SEXUAL OFFENSES.**

Part I of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 2241(c)—

(A) in the second sentence, by inserting “or an offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice” after “State offense”; and

(B) by striking “either such provision” and inserting “any such provision”;

(2) in section 2251(e), by striking “section 920 of title 10 (article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), or under” each place it appears and inserting “the Uniform Code of Military Justice or”;

(3) in section 2252(b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “section 920 of title 10 (article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), or under” and inserting “the Uniform Code of Military Justice or”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “section 920 of title 10 (article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), or under” and inserting “the Uniform Code of Military Justice or”;

(4) in section 2252A(b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “section 920 of title 10 (article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), or under” and inserting “the Uniform Code of Military Justice or”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “section 920 of title 10 (article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), or under” and inserting “the Uniform Code of Military Justice or”;

(5) in section 2426(b)(1)(B), by inserting “or the Uniform Code of Military Justice” after “State law”; and

(6) in section 3559(e)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking “State sex offense” and inserting “State or Military sex offense”; and

(ii) by inserting “or the Uniform Code of Military Justice” after “State law”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “or Military” after “State”.

AMENDMENT NO. 127 OFFERED BY MR. GREEN OF TENNESSEE

Add at the end of subtitle E of title XXVIII the following new section:

**SEC. 28 . . . REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN ACCESS TO CATEGORY 3 SUBTERRANEAN TRAINING FACILITY.**

(a) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN ACCESS.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the Department of Defense maintains access to a covered category 3 subterranean training facility on a continuing basis.

(b) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO LEASE.—The Secretary of Defense may enter into a short-

term lease with a provider of a covered category 3 subterranean training facility for purposes of compliance with subsection (a).

(c) COVERED CATEGORY 3 SUBTERRANEAN TRAINING FACILITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered category 3 subterranean training facility” means a category 3 subterranean training facility (as defined in section 2869 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263)) that is—

(1) operational on or before the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) deemed safe for use on such date.

AMENDMENT NO. 128 OFFERED BY MR. ROY OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle B of title XII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 12 . . . PROHIBITION ON PROVIDING FUNDING TO IRANIAN ENTITIES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Defense or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available, directly or indirectly, to—

(1) the Government of Iran;

(2) any person owned or controlled by the Government of Iran;

(3) any person that is on the List of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury and the property and interests in property of which are blocked pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act; or

(4) any person owned or controlled by a person described in paragraph (3).

(b) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to activities subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 129 OFFERED BY MR. ROY OF TEXAS

Add at the end of title IV, the following:

**Subtitle D—Reports**

**SEC. 431. ANNUAL DEFENSE MANPOWER PROFILE REPORT: EXPANSION OF JUSTIFICATIONS FOR END STRENGTHS.**

Section 115a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “Congress” and inserting “to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and furnish to any Member of Congress upon request,”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting “(1)” before “The Secretary”; and

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

“(2) The justification and explanation required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) An assessment of the most important threats facing the United States, disaggregated by geographic combatant command.

“(B) An explanation of how personnel end strength level requests address threats described in subparagraph (A).

“(C) The rationale for recommended increases or decreases in active, reserve, and civilian personnel for each component of the Department of Defense.

“(D) The rationale for recommended increases or decreases in active, reserve, and civilian personnel for each of the geographic combatant commands.

“(E) The primary functions or missions of active, reserve, and civilian personnel in each geographic combatant command.



“(F) An assessment of any areas in which decreases in active, reserve, or civilian personnel would not result in a decrease in readiness.

“(G) The actual end strength number for each armed force for the prior fiscal year, compared to authorized end strength levels.

“(H) The shortfall in recruiting by each armed force as a percentage, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(I) The number of applicants who were found to be ineligible for service in the Department of Defense during the prior fiscal year as a result of current enlistment standards, disaggregated by armed force and reason for disqualification.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 130 OFFERED BY MS. BUDZINSKI OF ILLINOIS

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 8. REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO COMBAT FOOTWEAR OF MEMBERS OF ALL BRANCHES OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Defense shall issue regulations prohibiting any member of the Armed Forces from wearing optional combat boots as part of a required uniform unless the optional combat boots are entirely manufactured in the United States and entirely made of—

(1) materials grown, reprocessed, reused, or produced in the United States; and

(2) components that are manufactured entirely in the United States and entirely made of materials described in paragraph (1).

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “optional combat boots”, with respect to a member of the Armed Forces, combat boots not furnished to such member of the Armed Forces by the Secretary of Defense.

(2) The term “required uniform” means a uniform a member of the Armed Forces is required to wear as a member of the Armed Forces.

AMENDMENT NO. 131 OFFERED BY MS. PORTER OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle C of title XXVIII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 28. SCREENING AND REGISTRY OF INDIVIDUALS WITH HEALTH CONDITIONS RESULTING FROM UNSAFE HOUSING UNITS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter V of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“§ 2895. Screening and registry of individuals with health conditions resulting from unsafe housing units**

“(a) SCREENING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with appropriate scientific agencies as determined by the Secretary, shall ensure that all military medical treatment facilities screen eligible individuals for covered conditions.

“(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCEDURES.—The Secretary may establish procedures through which screening under paragraph (1) may allow an eligible individual to be included in the registry under subsection (b).

“(b) REGISTRY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish and maintain a registry of eligible individuals who have a covered condition.

“(2) INCLUSION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall include any information in the registry under paragraph (1) that the Secretary determines necessary to ascertain and monitor the health of eligible individuals and the connection between the health of such individuals and an unsafe housing unit.

“(3) PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN.—The Secretary shall develop a public information campaign to inform eligible individuals about the registry under paragraph (1), including how to register and the benefits of registering.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘covered condition’ means a medical condition that is determined by the Secretary of Defense to have resulted from residing in an unsafe housing unit.

“(2) The term ‘eligible individual’ means a member of the armed forces or a family member of a member of the armed forces who has resided in an unsafe housing unit.

“(3) The term ‘unsafe housing unit’ means a dwelling unit that—

“(A) does not meet the housing quality standards established under section 8(o)(8)(B) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(8)(B)); or

“(B) is not free from dangerous air pollution levels from mold.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such subchapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2894a the following new item: “2895. Screening and registry of individuals with health conditions resulting from unsafe housing units.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 132 OFFERED BY MS. SALAZAR OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle D of title III, insert the following:

**SEC. 3. STUDY ON USE AND PRESENCE OF TOXIC CHEMICALS IN PANAMA CANAL ZONE.**

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—Not later than December 31, 2025, the Armed Forces Pest Management Board shall conduct a study on the use and presence of herbicide agents and toxic chemicals by the Department in the Panama Canal Zone during the period beginning on January 1, 1958, and ending on December 31, 1999.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study conducted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment to determine the degree to which herbicide agents, including those known as “rainbow herbicides”, and other toxic chemicals were used, tested, stored, or otherwise dispensed within the Panama Canal Zone while members of the United States Armed Forces were stationed there.

(2) An assessment of how many members of the United States Armed Forces may have been affected by the usage of herbicide agents and other toxic chemicals.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “herbicide agent” means a chemical in an herbicide.

(2) The term “rainbow herbicide” means herbicides known as Agent Pink, Agent Purple, Agent Blue, Agent Green, Agent White, and Agent Orange.

(3) The term “toxic chemicals” means persistent organic pollutants, as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency.

AMENDMENT NO. 133 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of subtitle C of title XVII, add the following:

**SEC. 17. STATEMENT OF POLICY RELATING TO REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF CHINA'S MARITIME SAFETY ADMINISTRATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—It is the policy of the United States to reject as a violation of international law and United States sovereignty any attempt by China's Maritime Safety Administration to compel United States vessels to adhere to any reporting requirements listed within China's Maritime Traffic Safety Law, including any requirements to require a vessel to declare—

(1) the vessel's name and number;

(2) the vessel's satellite telephone number;

(3) the vessel's position and recent locations; and

(4) the vessel's cargo.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (a) applies to all maritime claims made by the People's Republic of China that the United States has rejected, to include virtually all of China's claims within the Nine-Dash Line.

AMENDMENT NO. 135 OFFERED BY MR. BOWMAN OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle D of title V, insert the following:

**SEC. 5. IMPROVING OVERSIGHT OF MILITARY RECRUITMENT PRACTICES IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS.**

The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees an annual report on military recruitment practices in public secondary schools during calendar year 2024 and each subsequent calendar year. Each such report shall include, for the year covered by the report—

(1) the zip codes of public secondary schools visited by military recruiters;

(2) the number of recruits from public secondary schools by zip code and local education agency; and

(3) a demographic analysis, including race, ethnicity, and gender, of recruits from public secondary schools by zip code.

AMENDMENT NO. 136 OFFERED BY MR. PAPPAS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

At the end of subtitle F of title VIII, insert the following:

**SEC. 8. COLLABORATE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING REPORT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Entrepreneurial Development of the Small Business Administration and the Director of Small Business Programs of the Department of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the memorandum of understanding (referred to in this section as the “MOU”) between the Small Business Administration and the Department of Defense entered into on December 2, 2022. Such report shall include the following:

(1) The status of activities specified in clause (1) of part III of the MOU.

(2) A summary of the lessons learned specified in clause (1)(b) of part III of the MOU.

(3) An analysis of the activities and efficacy of those activities specified in clause (3) of part III of the MOU, including any nexus related to small business certifications and use of contracting authorities at the Department of Defense.

(4) A description of the training and events specified in clause (5) of part III of the MOU.

(5) A summary of how the MOU prevents small business concerns from receiving duplicative assistance or contradictory or confusing information from covered centers.

(6) A discussion of the sufficiency of the MOU to achieve the goals to promote entrepreneurship and small business development nationally and locally and maximize participation in government contracting.

(7) Any recommended changes to existing laws or regulations that would enhance the Parties' ability to reach the MOU's goals.

(8) Any additional information the Parties deem necessary.

(b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committees on Armed Services and Small Business of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committees on Armed Services and Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate.

AMENDMENT NO. 137 OFFERED BY MR. GUEST OF MISSISSIPPI

In subtitle C of title XXVIII, add at the end the following:

**SEC. 28 . PROHIBITION ON USE BY AIR FORCE OF CORPORATE STRUCTURE IN CONDUCTING CERTAIN BASING DECISIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Air Force may not make any basing decision during the resource allocation plan or program objective memorandum process of the Department of the Air Force (commonly known as a “programmatic basing decision”) through the use of the DAF Corporate Structure set forth under chapters 3.2 and 7.1 of the Department of the Air Force Instruction 10-503, dated June 12, 2023, relating to strategic basing.

(b) UPDATE OF INSTRUCTION AND OTHER POLICY.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall update any instruction or other policy of the Department of the Air Force to include the prohibition under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 138 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES OF TENNESSEE

At the end of subtitle B of title XIII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 13 . INVITATION TO TAIWAN TO THE RIM OF THE PACIFIC EXERCISE.**

The Secretary of Defense is directed to invite the naval forces of Taiwan to any Rim of the Pacific Exercise that is to take place following the date of enactment of this Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 139 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES OF TENNESSEE

At the end of subtitle A of title XIII, insert the following:

**SEC. 13 . MODIFICATION OF PROHIBITION ON PARTICIPATION OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN RIM OF THE PACIFIC EXERCISES.**

Section 1259(a)(1) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10 U.S.C. 321 note) is amended—

- (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and”;
- (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;
- (3) by adding at the end the following:
 

“(E) held an internationally recognized free and fair presidential election.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 140 OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF NEVADA

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 7 . REPORT ON EMERGENCY AND TRAUMA CARE FOR CIVILIANS AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITIES.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Director of the Defense Health Agency, in collaboration with military treatment facilities engaged in emergency and trauma care to civilian patients, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that includes the following:

(1) A summary of any challenges that military treatment facilities have encountered in providing emergency and trauma care to civilian patients, including challenges related to the transportation of such patients to and from such facilities, and steps the Director has taken to overcome such challenges.

(2) An assessment of the effectiveness of the coordination of military treatment facilities with local emergency medical services and any barrier faced by such facilities and services related to providing timely emergency medical care to civilians, including any barrier caused by installation access.

(3) A summary of efforts the Director has taken to address the issues identified in the

report of the Comptroller General of the United States titled “Defense Health Care: Actions Needed to Improve Billing and Collection of Debt for Civilian Emergency Care”, published on July 7, 2022 (GAO-22-104770), including such issues related to inconsistent use of financial relief for civilian emergency patients and the lack of guidance to ensure accurate accounting of billing and collections efforts.

(4) Any recommendations to improve civilian emergency care at Department of Defense medical treatment facilities, including any recommendations for additional legislation.

AMENDMENT NO. 141 OFFERED BY MR. HIMES OF CONNECTICUT

At the end of subtitle A of title XVI, add the following new section:

**SEC. 16 . REPORT ON CAPABILITIES IN CISLUNAR SPACE.**

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that there is a need for comprehensive cislunar space domain awareness capabilities to ensure the safety of flight of civil and commercial missions in cislunar space.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief of Space Operations shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that includes a description of—

- (1) requirements for cislunar space domain awareness capabilities;
- (2) the plan of Department of Defense for researching and developing technologies for cislunar space domain awareness; and
- (3) the progress of the Department in coordinating with the Cislunar Technology Strategy Interagency Working Group to achieve the objectives set forth in the publication of the Working Group titled “National Cislunar Science and Technology Strategy” and dated November 2022.

AMENDMENT NO. 142 OFFERED BY MR. BIGGS OF ARIZONA

At the end of subtitle A of title X, add the following new section:

**SEC. 10 . DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SPENDING REDUCTIONS IN ABSENCE OF SUBMITTED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OR FAILURE TO ACHIEVE UNQUALIFIED OR QUALIFIED INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION.**

(a) APPLICABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), this section applies to the Department of Defense, including military departments and Defense Agencies thereof.

(2) SEPARATE APPLICABILITY.—If a military department or Defense Agency is identified by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget as required to have its own audited financial statement under section 3515 of title 31, United States Code, that military department and Defense Agency shall be treated separately from the Department of Defense for purposes of application of this section.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The terms “financial statement” and “external independent auditor” have the meanings given those terms in section 3521(e) of title 31, United States Code.

(3) The term “unqualified”, with respect to the audit status of a financial statement, includes the characterizations clean and unmodified.

(2) The term “qualified”, with respect to the audit status of a financial statement, includes the characterization modified.

(c) ADJUSTMENTS FOR FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On March 2 of each fiscal year, the discretionary budget authority available for the Department of Defense (or a military department or Defense Agency covered by subsection (a)(2)) for such fiscal year

shall be adjusted as provided in paragraph (2).

(2) ADJUSTMENT.—If the Department of Defense (or a military department or Defense Agency covered by subsection (a)(2)) has not submitted a financial statement for the previous fiscal year, or if such financial statement has not received either an unqualified or a qualified audit opinion by an independent external auditor, the discretionary budget authority available for the Department of Defense, the military department, or the Defense Agency (as the case may be) shall be reduced by .5 percent, with the reduction applied proportionately to each account (other than an account listed in subsection (d) or an account for which a waiver is made under subsection (e)).

(3) MINIMIZES NATIONAL SECURITY EFFECTS.—Consistent with applicable laws, the Secretary of Defense may make any reduction under paragraph (2) in a manner that minimizes any effect on national security.

(4) DEFICIT REDUCTION.—An amount equal to the total amount of any reduction under paragraph (2) shall be retained in the general fund of the Treasury for the purposes of deficit reduction.

(d) ACCOUNTS EXCLUDED.—The following accounts are excluded from any reductions referred to in subsection (c)(2):

(1) Military personnel, reserve personnel, and National Guard personnel accounts of the Department of Defense.

(2) The Defense Health Program account of the Department of Defense.

(e) WAIVER.—The President may waive subsection (c)(2) with respect to an account if the President certifies that applying the subsection to that account would harm national security or members of the Armed Forces who are deployed in combat zones.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after an adjustment under subsection (c), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to Congress a report describing the amount and account of each adjustment.

AMENDMENT NO. 143 OFFERED BY MR. WENSTRUP OF OHIO

At the appropriate place in subtitle C of title VII, insert the following:

**SEC. 7 . STUDY ON BLOOD WORK OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES REGARDING COVID-19.**

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—Not later than September 30, 2025, the Secretary of Defense shall conduct a study to test the blood of members of the Armed Forces relating to relating to COVID-19.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study under this section shall include the following elements:

(1) Testing to detect nucleocapsid protein immunoglobulin-G antibodies relating to COVID-19.

(2) Testing to detect T-cell immune response to COVID-19.

(3) An assessment of the efficacy of each vaccine for COVID-19 in comparison to—

(A) each other such vaccine; and

(B) infection-acquired immunity.

(4) An accounting of adverse events (including hyperimmune response),

disaggregated by—

(A) each vaccine described in paragraph (3); and

(B) history of infection.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after completing the study, the Secretary shall submit a report on such study to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 144 OFFERED BY MR. BIGGS OF ARIZONA

Add at the end of subtitle B of title XII the following:

**SEC. 1214. REPORT ON AGREEMENTS MADE BY THE UNITED STATES WITH THE TALIBAN.**

(a) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGREEMENTS MADE WITH THE TALIBAN.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees the following:

(1) Any agreement made and entered into by the United States and the Taliban. Submission thereof shall occur not later than 30 days prior to entry absent notification to the appropriate congressional committees, in which case submission thereof shall occur not later than 10 days prior to taking effect.

(2) Any agreement made and entered into by third parties and the Taliban or notice of any such agreement. Submission of any such agreement or notice thereof shall occur not later than 30 days after custody by the United States.

(b) REPORT ON PRIOR AGREEMENTS WITH THE TALIBAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees any agreements made and entered into by the United States or third parties and the Taliban from August 1, 2021, until such date of enactment.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGREEMENT.—The term “agreement” includes memoranda of understanding and other manifestations of mutual assent.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(3) THIRD PARTIES.—The term “third parties” means organizations or entities in receipt of United States Government funding, including sub-recipients thereof.

AMENDMENT NO. 145 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES OF TENNESSEE

Page 599, line 15, insert “classified or” before “unclassified”.

AMENDMENT NO. 146 OFFERED BY MR. AUSTIN SCOTT OF GEORGIA

At the end of subtitle D of title I, add the following new section:

**SEC. 1. REQUIREMENT FOR MINIMUM NUMBER OF AIR LOGISTICS COMPLEXES.**

Section 9062 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 154(a)(3) of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(m) The Secretary of the Air Force shall continuously operate not fewer than three air logistics complexes. For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘air logistics complex’ means an air logistics complex operated by the Air Force as of January 1, 2024.”

AMENDMENT NO. 147 OFFERED BY MR. NORMAN OF SOUTH CAROLINA

At the end of subtitle B of title II, add the following new section:

**SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONS PERFORMING RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

(a) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.—Section 4001 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.—Whenever issuing a statement, press release, request for proposals, bid solicitation, or other document describing a project or program

that is funded in whole or in part with Federal funding, a person performing a research or development project under paragraph (1) or (5) of subsection (b) shall clearly state the following:

“(1) The percentage of the total costs of the program or project financed with Federal funding.

“(2) The dollar amount of Federal funds obligated for the project or program.

“(3) The percentage and dollar amount of the total costs of the project or program that will be financed from nongovernmental sources.”

(b) COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS UNDER STEVENSON-WYDLER TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION ACT OF 1980.—Section 4026 of such title is amended—

(1) by striking “The Secretary of Defense” and inserting the following:

“(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Defense”;

(2) in subsection (a), as designated by paragraph (1), in the second sentence, by striking “Technology may” and inserting the following:

“(b) TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.—Technology may”;

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

“(c) DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.—Whenever issuing a statement, press release, request for proposals, bid solicitation, or other document describing a project or program that is funded in whole or in part with Federal funding, a person performing a research or development project pursuant to a cooperative research and development agreement entered into under subsection (a) shall clearly state the following:

“(1) The percentage of the total costs of the program or project financed with Federal funding.

“(2) The dollar amount of Federal funds obligated for the project or program.

“(3) The percentage and dollar amount of the total costs of the project or program that will be financed from nongovernmental sources.”

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should direct the operating divisions of the Department of Defense to design and implement processes to manage and administer grantees’ compliance with the requirements added by this section, including determining to what extent to provide guidance to grantees on calculations.

AMENDMENT NO. 148 OFFERED BY MR. NORMAN OF SOUTH CAROLINA

At the end of subtitle I of title V, insert the following:

**SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO JAMES CAPERS, JR. FOR ACTS OF VALOR AS A MEMBER OF THE MARINE CORPS DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.**

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in sections 8298(a) and 8300 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President is authorized to award the Medal of Honor, under section 8291 of such title, to James Capers, Jr. for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor described in this subsection are the actions of James Capers, Jr., as a member of the Marine Corps, during the period of March 31 through April 3, 1967, during the Vietnam War, for which he was previously awarded the Silver Star.

AMENDMENT NO. 149 OFFERED BY MR. ADERHOLT OF ALABAMA

At the end of subtitle A of title VIII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 8. UPDATED GUIDANCE ON PLANNING FOR GLOBAL DEMAND.**

(a) PROGRAM GUIDANCE ON PLANNING FOR GLOBAL DEMAND.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment shall ensure that the program guidance for major defense acquisition programs (as defined in section 4201 of title 10, United States Code), and for acquisition programs and projects that are carried out using the rapid fielding or rapid prototyping acquisition pathway under section 804 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92; 10 U.S.C. 3201 note prec.) is revised to integrate planning for global demand under foreign military sales, direct commercial sales, and other relevant transfer authorities to capture and plan for international demand under section 25 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2765), including—

(1) for major defense acquisition programs, an assessment of such programs to identify global demand; and

(2) for technologies under an acquisition program or project carried out using the rapid fielding or rapid prototyping acquisition pathway that are transitioned to a major capability acquisition program, an assessment of potential global demand needs of such technologies not later than one year after the date of such transition.

(b) ASSESSMENT OF GLOBAL DEMAND.—The Under Secretary shall consult with the heads of relevant Federal agencies and existing databases, including any databases administered by the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls of the Department of State, to issue the guidance required under subsection (a).

(c) REVISION OF GUIDANCE FOR PROGRAM PROTECTION PLANS.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary shall revise the guidance for program protection plans to integrate a requirement to determine global demand for the programs covered by such plans.

AMENDMENT NO. 150 OFFERED BY MR. PASCRELL OF NEW JERSEY

At the end of subtitle B of title VII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 7. STUDY ON LIFTING OUTPATIENT REHABILITATION THERAPY MAXIMUMS.**

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a study to analyze the feasibility of lifting outpatient rehabilitation therapy maximums for active-duty members of covered armed forces who are TRICARE beneficiaries and have suffered a brain injury in the course of performing active duty. The study shall also examine a range of therapy services such as restorative therapies and therapies intended to improve cognitive and functional capabilities.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Congress a report setting forth the findings and conclusions of the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) COVERED ARMED FORCES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered Armed Forces” means the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space Force.

AMENDMENT NO. 151 OFFERED BY MR. PASCRELL OF NEW JERSEY

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 7. REPORT ON APPROVING CERTAIN TRANSITIONAL AND RESIDENTIAL BRAIN INJURY TREATMENT PROGRAMS.**

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a study to analyze the feasibility of recognizing transitional and residential

brain injury treatment programs that are approved by non-governmental accreditation bodies solely to provide services to members of covered Armed Forces who sustained a brain injury in the course of performing active duty.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report setting forth the findings and conclusions of the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) COVERED ARMED FORCES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered Armed Forces” means the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space Force.

AMENDMENT NO. 152 OFFERED BY MS. PORTER OF CALIFORNIA

Add at the end of subtitle B of title XVII the following:

**SEC. 17. GAO REPORT ON SETTLEMENTS IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CLAIMS BY MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.**

The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the rates at which Department of Defense awards settlements in medical malpractice claims by members of the uniformed services under part 45 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, including—

(1) a comparison of such rates to the rates at which settlements are awarded in similar civilian medical malpractice claims;

(2) recommendations for improvements to the system for medical malpractice claims by members of the uniformed services.

AMENDMENT NO. 153 OFFERED BY MR. PASCRELL OF NEW JERSEY

At the end of subtitle B of title VII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 7. TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY OVERSIGHT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN.**

(a) STRATEGY AND PLAN REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop and implement a Traumatic Brain Injury Oversight Strategy and Action Plan that includes at a minimum the following:

(1) Standardized monitoring, treatment, and referral guidelines for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) programs across all covered armed forces.

(2) A review and update of the current brain injury diagnostic tools used by such programs.

(3) Standardized, 72-hour follow-up requirements for all TBI patients, including protocols for the treatment and observation during such follow-up appointments.

(4) Oversight and documentation standards to aid in identification, treatment, tracking, and data collection.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE.—The oversight strategy and action plan required by subsection (a) shall be completed and in use not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report setting forth the findings and conclusions of a full review and update on the implementation of the Brain Injury Oversight Strategy and Action Plan required by subsection (a).

(d) COVERED ARMED FORCES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered Armed Forces” means the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space Force.

AMENDMENT NO. 154 OFFERED BY MR. NORMAN OF SOUTH CAROLINA

At the end of subtitle C of title X, insert the following:

**SEC. 10. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING NAMING OF NAVAL VESSEL AFTER MAJOR JAMES CAPERS, JR..**

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of the Navy should name a vessel of the United States Navy the “U.S.S. Major James Capers Jr.” in honor of Major James Capers, Jr., for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor described in this subsection are the actions of James Capers, Jr., as a member of the Marine Corps, during the period of March 31 through April 3, 1967, during the Vietnam War, for which he was previously awarded the Silver Star.

AMENDMENT NO. 155 OFFERED BY MRS. RODGERS OF WASHINGTON

At the end of subtitle J of title V, add the following new section:

**SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING MILITARY SERVICE BY INDIVIDUALS WITH AMPUTATIONS.**

It is the sense of Congress that increasing geopolitical threats, combined with recruitment challenges experienced by the Armed Forces, are a threat to the national security interests of the United States, therefore, the Secretary of Defense should issue medical waivers to an individual seeking to serve in the Armed Forces who is precluded from serving solely because of a non-service-connected amputation.

AMENDMENT NO. 156 OFFERED BY MRS. RODGERS OF WASHINGTON

At the end of subtitle A of title VI, add the following new section:

**SEC. 6. ELIMINATION OF CAP ON ADDITIONAL RETIRED PAY FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE WHO SERVED DURING THE VIETNAM ERA.**

Title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 1402(f)(2), by striking “The amount” and inserting “Except in the case of a member who served during the Vietnam Era (as that term is defined in section 12731 of this title), the amount”;

(2) in section 7361(a)(2), by inserting “(except in the case of a member who served during the Vietnam Era, as that term is defined in section 12731 of this title)” after “based”;

(3) in section 9361(a)(2), by inserting “(except in the case of a member who served during the Vietnam Era, as that term is defined in section 12731 of this title)” after “based”.

AMENDMENT NO. 157 OFFERED BY MR. CURTIS OF UTAH

At the end of subtitle B of title XII, add the following:

**SEC. 12. MODIFICATION OF REPORT ON THE MILITARY CAPABILITIES OF IRAN AND RELATED ACTIVITIES.**

Section 1227 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117–81) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by inserting “all branches of” before “the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps”;

(II) by inserting “including” before “the Quds Force”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “, and technologies as described in the Missile Technology Control Regime” before “, including”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by adding at the end before the period the following: “, and on the proliferation, procurement, and production networks of Iran’s drone program”;

(ii) in subparagraph (F), by adding at the end before the period the following: “, and the effect of its expiration on these Iranian proliferation activities”;

(iii) in subparagraph (H)—

(I) in clause (ii), by inserting “, and any of their precursors,” after “narcotics”;

(II) in clause (iv), by inserting “and the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS)” after “IRGC”;

(III) in clause (v), by adding at the end before the period the following: “and MOIS”;

and

(iv) in subparagraph (I)—

(I) by inserting “and MOIS agents” after “operatives”;

(II) by adding at the end before the period the following: “, including disinformation operations, recruitment of local assets, and targeting United States nationals and foreign dissidents”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by inserting “and annually thereafter for a period not to exceed 4 years” after “2024”;

(B) by striking “in June 2022” inserting “on the day after the previous report was submitted”.

AMENDMENT NO. 158 OFFERED BY MR. HIGGINS OF LOUISIANA

Add at the end of subtitle A of title VIII the following:

**SEC. 8. PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTING WITH SHIPYARDS CONTROLLED BY A FOREIGN ADVERSARY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may not enter into any contract or other agreement with a shipyard controlled by a foreign adversary.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “controlled by a foreign adversary” means, with respect to a shipyard, that such shipyard is—

(A) a foreign person that is domiciled in, is headquartered in, has its principal place of business in, or is organized under the laws of a foreign adversary country;

(B) an entity with respect to which a foreign person or combination of foreign persons described in subparagraph (A) directly or indirectly own at least a 20 percent stake; or

(C) a person subject to the direction or control of a foreign person or entity described in subparagraph (A) or (B).

(2) The term “foreign adversary country” means a country specified in section 4872(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code.

AMENDMENT NO. 159 OFFERED BY MR. CASTEN OF ILLINOIS

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, insert the following:

**SEC. 7. STUDY AND REPORT ON MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR PILOTS AND AVIATORS.**

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall collaborate on a study on the barriers to mental health care for military pilots, aviators, and military air traffic controllers. The study shall include the development of a set of recommendations to ensure that pilots and aviators who need mental health care have—

(1) no more barriers to care;

(2) no more consequences for seeking care;

and

(3) no less scientifically-robust bases for being treated and re-cleared for duty than pilots and aviators who need physical health care.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall jointly submit to Congress a report that contains the results of the study required under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 160 OFFERED BY MRS. RADEWAGEN OF AMERICAN SAMOA

At the end of subtitle B of title V, add the following:

**SEC. 5. FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL GUARD IN AMERICAN SAMOA AND IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.**

(a) **DETERMINATION REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of Defense shall determine the feasibility of establishing—

(1) a unit of the National Guard in American Samoa; and

(2) a unit of the National Guard in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(b) **FORCE STRUCTURE ELEMENTS.**—In making the feasibility determination under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall consider the following:

(1) The allocation of National Guard force structure and manpower to American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the event of the establishment of a unit of the National Guard in American Samoa and in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the impact of this allocation on existing National Guard units in the 50 States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and the District of Columbia.

(2) The Federal funding that would be required to support pay, benefits, training operations, and missions of members of a unit of the National Guard in American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, based on the allocation derived from paragraph (1), and the equipment, including maintenance, required to support such force structure.

(3) The presence of existing infrastructure to support a unit of the National Guard in American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the requirement for additional infrastructure, including information technology infrastructure, to support such force structure, based on the allocation derived from paragraph (1).

(4) How a unit of the National Guard in American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island would accommodate the National Guard Bureau's "Essential Ten" homeland defense capabilities (i.e., aviation, engineering, civil support teams, security, medical, transportation, maintenance, logistics, joint force headquarters, and communications) and reflect regional needs.

(5) The manpower cadre, both military personnel and fulltime support, including National Guard technicians, required to establish, maintain, and sustain a unit of the National Guard in American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to support demographically a unit of the National Guard at each location.

(6) The ability of a unit of the National Guard in American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to maintain unit readiness and the logistical challenges associated with transportation, communications, supply/resupply, and training operations and missions.

(c) **SUBMISSION OF CONCLUSION.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees of the results of the feasibility determination made under subsection (a). If the Secretary determines that establishment of a unit of the National Guard in American Samoa or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (or both) is feasible, the Secretary shall include in the notification the following:

(1) A determination of whether the executive branch of American Samoa and of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-

lands has enacted and implemented statutory authorization for an organized militia as a prerequisite for establishing a unit of the National Guard, and a description of any other steps that such executive branches must take to request and carry out the establishment of a National Guard unit.

(2) A list of any amendments to titles 10, 32, and 37, United States Code, that would have to be enacted by Congress to provide for the establishment of a unit of the National Guard in American Samoa and in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(3) A description of any required Department of Defense actions to establish a unit of the National Guard in American Samoa and in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(4) A suggested timeline for completion of the steps and actions described in the preceding paragraphs.

**AMENDMENT NO. 161 OFFERED BY MR. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS**

At the end of subtitle D of title VI, add the following:

**SEC. 6. ADOPTION OR GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS.**

Section 1052 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "qualifying adoption expenses" each place it appears and inserting "qualifying expenses";

(2) by striking the section heading and inserting "**Adoption or guardianship expenses**";

(3) in subsection (a)—  
(A) in the heading, by striking "TO REIMBURSE";

(B) by striking "carry out a program under which a member of the armed forces may be reimbursed" and inserting "pay"; and

(C) by striking "adoption of a child" and inserting "adoption or guardianship of a child";

(4) in subsection (b)—  
(A) in the heading, by inserting "AND GUARDIANSHIPS" after "ADOPTIONS";

(B) by striking "adoption" each place it appears and inserting "adoption or guardianship"; and

(C) by striking "reimbursed" and inserting "paid";

(5) in subsection (d), by striking "adoption benefits" and inserting "adoption or guardianship";

(6) in subsection (e)—  
(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking "\$2,000" and inserting "\$5,000"; and

(ii) by striking "adoption of a child" and inserting "adoption or guardianship of a child"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—  
(i) by striking "\$5,000" and inserting "\$10,000"; and

(ii) by striking "adoptions" and inserting "adoptions or guardianships";

(7) in subsection (g)—  
(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "adoption" each place it appears and inserting "adoption or guardianship";

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking "adoption" each place it appears and inserting "adoption or guardianship";

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking "adoption" each place it appears and inserting "adoption or guardianship"; and

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

"(4) The term 'guardianship' means a legal guardianship, as such term is defined in section 475 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675)."; and

(8) by striking subsection (c) and redesignating subsections (d), (e), (f), and (g) as subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f), respectively.

**AMENDMENT NO. 162 OFFERED BY MR. PASCRELL OF NEW JERSEY**

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

**SEC. 7. STUDY ON TOOLS TO DIAGNOSE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY IN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

(a) **STUDY REQUIRED; ELEMENTS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a study of commercially available diagnostic tools that screen for traumatic brain injury (in this section referred to as "TBI") and may be used by forward-deployed units and in combat zones. Such study shall include the following elements:

(1) Whether such tools can distinguish mild traumatic brain injury from moderate or severe TBI.

(2) How such tools could be used with other approved diagnostics (including neuroimaging biomarkers used in computed tomography or magnetic resonance imaging, blood-based biomarkers, electrophysiological biomarkers, oculomotor tracking systems, and integrated measures of physiological deficits), to enhance the health, survival, and long-term conditions of members and former members of the Armed Forces.

(3) How such tools would improve military readiness and address concerns regarding the growing medical burden of TBI.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the following:

(1) The results of the study.

(2) Determinations of the Secretary regarding whether to procure and use such tools in addition to other tools already used in the Department of Defense to screen for TBI.

(3) Recommendations of the Secretary regarding legislation that may be necessary to action regarding such tools.

**AMENDMENT NO. 163 OFFERED BY MR. STAUBER OF MINNESOTA**

At the end of subtitle C of title II, add the following new section:

**SEC. 2. FUNDING FOR DEMONSTRATION OF HIGH-PRESSURE WATERJET CUT AND CAPTURE SYSTEM TO DEMILITARIZE UNDERWATER MUNITIONS.**

(a) **INCREASE.**—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 201 for research, development, test and evaluation, Army, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4201, for advanced component development and prototypes, environmental quality technology—DEM/VAL, line 060 (PE 0603779A) is hereby increased by \$5,000,000 (to be available for the demonstration of high-pressure waterjet cut and capture system to demilitarize underwater munitions).

(b) **OFFSET.**—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 201 for research, development, test and evaluation, Defense-wide, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4201, for basic research, defense research sciences, line 002 (PE 0601101E) is hereby reduced by \$5,000,000.

**AMENDMENT NO. 164 OFFERED BY MS. PORTER OF CALIFORNIA**

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

**SEC. 7. STUDY ON USE OF ROUTINE NEUROIMAGING MODALITIES IN DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, AND PREVENTION OF BRAIN INJURY DUE TO BLAST PRESSURE EXPOSURE DURING COMBAT AND TRAINING.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a study on the feasibility and effectiveness of the use of routine

neuroimaging modalities in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of brain injury among members of the Armed Forces due to one or more blast pressure exposures during combat and training.

(b) **REPORTS.**—

(1) **INTERIM REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives an interim report on the methods and action plan for the study under subsection (a).

(2) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than two years after the date on which the Secretary begins the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the results of such study.

AMENDMENT NO. 165 OFFERED BY MR. ALFORD OF MISSOURI

At the end of subtitle F of title VIII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 8. MODIFICATION TO INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL BASE.**

Section 861 of William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (10 U.S.C. 4901 note; Public Law 116-283; 134 Stat. 3775) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting “the Secretary of Defense” before “shall update”; and

(ii) by inserting “, the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate” after “congressional defense committees”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(i) by striking “biennially” and inserting “annually”; and

(ii) by inserting “, the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate” after “congressional defense committees”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(3) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than October 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report that includes the following for the year covered by the report:

“(A) A description of activities undertaken pursuant to this section.

“(B) An analysis of effect on the participation of small businesses in Department of Defense contracts as a result of implementation of the small business strategy required under section 4901 of title 10, United States Code.

“(C) A description of efforts by the Secretary of Defense to increase participation of small businesses in Department of Defense contracts through the small business strategy.

“(4) **SMALL BUSINESS STRATEGY REPORT.**—Beginning with the report due October 1, 2029, and every four years thereafter, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report on overall efficacy of the small business strategy required under such section 4901, including trends and data analysis for the period covered by the report relating to implementation and outcomes of the strategy.”

AMENDMENT NO. 166 OFFERED BY MR. GROTHMAN OF WISCONSIN

At the end of title XI, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 11. EXPAND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Defense shall ensure that, to the extent practicable, each commercial position in the Department of Defense or an element of the Department is—

(1) filled by a civilian employee of the Department; or

(2) performed by a contractor of the Department.

(b) **COMMERCIAL POSITION DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “commercial position” means a position the functions of which are determined by the Department of Defense to be commercial pursuant to Department of Defense Instruction 1100.22 (or any successor instruction).

AMENDMENT NO. 167 OFFERED BY MS. PORTER OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle G of title VIII, add the following:

**SEC. 8. IMPLEMENTATION OF GAO RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO SPARE PARTS IN GLOBAL SPARES POOL RELATING TO F-35 PROGRAM.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense, acting through the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, shall take such actions as may be necessary to implement the recommendations of the Comptroller General of the United States contained in the report entitled, “F-35 Program: DOD Needs Better Accountability for Global Spare Parts and Reporting of Losses Worth Millions”.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress on the progress of the implementation required by subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 168 OFFERED BY MR. CARTER OF GEORGIA

At the end of subtitle E of title X, insert the following:

**SEC. 10. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO CUT SERVICES PROVIDED AT CERTAIN COMBAT TRAINING READINESS CENTERS.**

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2025 may be used to cut any service provided by a combat training readiness center operated by the Air Force National Guard at any of the following locations:

- (1) Savannah, Georgia.
- (2) Gulfport, Mississippi.
- (3) Alpena, Michigan.
- (4) Volk Field, Wisconsin.

AMENDMENT NO. 169 OFFERED BY MR. MAST OF FLORIDA

At the appropriate place in title VII, insert the following:

**SEC. 7. CLARIFICATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING THE INTEGRATED DISABILITY EVALUATION SYSTEM.**

(a) **CLARIFICATION.**—Subsection (h) of section 1073c of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “SECRETARIES CONCERNED AND MEDICAL EVALUATION BOARDS” and inserting “AUTHORITY OVER MEMBERS”; and

(2) by inserting “(1)” before “Nothing”; and

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

“(2) Notwithstanding the responsibilities and authorities of the Defense Health Agency with respect to the administration of military medical treatment facilities as set

forth in this section (including medical evaluations of members of the armed forces under the jurisdiction of the military department concerned), the Secretary of each military department shall maintain personnel authority over, and responsibility for, any member of the armed forces under the jurisdiction of the military department concerned while the member is being considered by a medical evaluation board or is otherwise subject to the integrated disability evaluation system. Such responsibility shall include the following:

“(A) Responsibility for administering the morale and welfare of the member.

“(B) Responsibility for determinations of fitness for duty of the member under chapter 61 of this title.

“(3) Notwithstanding the responsibilities and authorities of the Defense Health Agency with respect to the administration of the integrated disability evaluation system, a commander shall, at all times, maintain absolute responsibility for, and authority over, a member of the armed forces referred to the integrated disability evaluation system. Such responsibility and authority include the following:

“(A) The authority to pause any process of the integrated disability evaluation system regarding the member.

“(B) The authority to withdraw the member from the integrated disability evaluation system if the commander determines that any policy, procedure, regulation, or other guidance has not been followed in the member’s case.

“(4) Pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, a member referred to the integrated disability evaluation system may file an appeal of such referral with the Secretary of the military department concerned. Such an appeal—

“(A) shall be in addition to any appeals process established as part of the integrated disability evaluation system;

“(B) shall include a hearing before an officer who may convene a general court-martial and who is in the chain of command of the member; and

“(C) shall be adjudicated not later than 90 days after such filing.”

(b) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to carry out paragraphs (2) through (4) of such subsection, as added by this section, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than February 1, 2025, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a briefing on the implementation of such paragraphs.

AMENDMENT NO. 170 OFFERED BY MR. STANTON OF ARIZONA

At the end of subtitle D of title VIII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 8. STUDY ON USE OF OFF-THE-SHELF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS FROM FOREIGN ADVERSARY COUNTRIES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall carry out a study on the use by the Department of Defense of off-the-shelf information technology products that were manufactured, produced, or assembled by a covered company, including goods used by the Department that contain such an off-the-shelf information technology product.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the study required by subsection (a).



(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “commercially available off-the-shelf item” has the meaning given such term in section 104 of title 41, United States Code.

(2) The term “covered company” means—

(A) an entity that is organized under the laws of or located in a foreign adversary country;

(B) a parent, subsidiary, or affiliate of an entity described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) an entity otherwise directly or indirectly owned by or subject to the control of an entity described in subparagraph (A) or (B), as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

(3) The term “foreign adversary country” has the meaning given the term “covered nation” in section 4872(d) of title 10, United States Code.

(4) The term “off-the-shelf information technology product” means a commercially available off-the-shelf item that can process, store, or transmit digital data.

AMENDMENT NO. 171 OFFERED BY MR. SCHNEIDER OF ILLINOIS

At the end of subtitle F of title VIII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 8. BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.**

Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.—

“(1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘covered individual’ means—

“(A) a member of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserves;

“(B) an individual who is participating in the Transition Assistance Program established under section 1144 of title 10, United States Code;

“(C) an individual who—

“(i) served on active duty in any branch of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserves; and

“(ii) was discharged or released from such service under conditions other than dishonorable; and

“(D) a spouse or dependent of an individual described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C).

“(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—During the period beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection and ending on September 30, 2028, the Administrator shall carry out a program to be known as the ‘Boots to Business Program’ to provide entrepreneurship training to covered individuals.

“(3) GOALS.—The goals of the Boots to Business Program are to—

“(A) provide assistance and in-depth training to covered individuals interested in business ownership; and

“(B) provide covered individuals with the tools, skills, and knowledge necessary to identify a business opportunity, draft a business plan, identify sources of capital, connect with local resources for small business concerns, and start up a small business concern.

“(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Boots to Business Program may include—

“(i) a presentation providing exposure to the considerations involved in self-employment and ownership of a small business concern;

“(ii) an online, self-study course focused on the basic skills of entrepreneurship, the language of business, and the considerations involved in self-employment and ownership of a small business concern;

“(iii) an in-person classroom instruction component providing an introduction to the foundations of self employment and ownership of a small business concern; and

“(iv) in-depth training delivered through online instruction, including an online

course that leads to the creation of a business plan.

“(B) COLLABORATION.—The Administrator may—

“(i) collaborate with public and private entities to develop course curricula for the Boots to Business Program; and

“(ii) modify program components in coordination with entities participating in a Warriors in Transition program, as defined in section 738(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (10 U.S.C. 1071 note).

“(C) USE OF RESOURCE PARTNERS AND DISTRICT OFFICES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

“(I) ensure that Veteran Business Outreach Centers regularly participate, on a nationwide basis, in the Boots to Business Program; and

“(II) to the maximum extent practicable, use district offices of the Administration and a variety of other resource partners and entities in administering the Boots to Business Program.

“(ii) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying out clause (i), the Administrator may make grants, subject to the availability of appropriations in advance, to Veteran Business Outreach Centers, other resource partners, or other entities to carry out components of the Boots to Business Program.

“(D) AVAILABILITY TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.—The Administrator shall make available to the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Labor information regarding the Boots to Business Program, including all course materials and outreach materials related to the Boots to Business Program, for inclusion on the websites of the Department of Defense and the Department of Labor relating to the Transition Assistance Program, in the Transition Assistance Program manual, and in other relevant materials available for distribution from the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Labor.

“(E) AVAILABILITY TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—In consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Administrator shall make available for distribution and display on the website of the Department of Veterans Affairs and at local facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs outreach materials regarding the Boots to Business Program, which shall, at a minimum—

“(i) describe the Boots to Business Program and the services provided; and

“(ii) include eligibility requirements for participating in the Boots to Business Program.

“(F) AVAILABILITY TO OTHER PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—The Administrator shall ensure information regarding the Boots to Business program, including all course materials and outreach materials related to the Boots to Business Program, is made available to other participating agencies in the Transition Assistance Program and upon request of other agencies.

“(5) COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCEDURES.—The Administration shall use relevant competitive bidding procedures with respect to any contract or cooperative agreement executed by the Administration under the Boots to Business Program.

“(6) PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.—Not later than 30 days before the deadline for submitting applications for any funding opportunity under the Boots to Business Program, the Administration shall publish a notice of the funding opportunity.

“(7) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Com-

mittee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the performance and effectiveness of the Boots to Business Program, which—

“(A) may be included as part of another report submitted to such committees by the Administrator related to the Office of Veterans Business Development; and

“(B) shall summarize available information relating to—

“(i) grants awarded under paragraph (4)(C);

“(ii) the total cost of the Boots to Business Program;

“(iii) the number of program participants using each component of the Boots to Business Program;

“(iv) the completion rates for each component of the Boots to Business Program;

“(v) to the extent possible—

“(I) the demographics of program participants, to include gender, age, race, ethnicity, and relationship to military;

“(II) the number of program participants that connect with a district office of the Administration, a Veteran Business Outreach Center, or another resource partner of the Administration;

“(III) the number of program participants that start a small business concern;

“(IV) the results of the Boots to Business and Boots to Business Reboot course quality surveys conducted by the Office of Veterans Business Development before and after attending each of those courses, including a summary of any comments received from program participants;

“(V) the results of the Boots to Business Program outcome surveys conducted by the Office of Veterans Business Development, including a summary of any comments received from program participants; and

“(VI) the results of other germane participant satisfaction surveys;

“(C) an evaluation of the overall effectiveness of the Boots to Business Program based on each geographic region covered by the Administration during the most recent fiscal year;

“(D) an assessment of additional performance outcome measures for the Boots to Business Program, as identified by the Administrator;

“(E) any recommendations of the Administrator for improvement of the Boots to Business Program, which may include expansion of the types of individuals who are covered individuals;

“(F) an explanation of how the Boots to Business Program has been integrated with other transition programs and related resources of the Administration and other Federal agencies; and

“(G) any additional information the Administrator determines necessary.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 172 OFFERED BY MR. LARSEN OF WASHINGTON

At the end of subtitle H of title V, add the following new section:

**SEC. 5. INSTRUCTION IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MACHINE LEARNING IN SCHOOLS OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, acting through the Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity, shall require that each student of a high school operated by the Activity receives instruction in artificial intelligence and machine learning, including instruction in—

(1) the foundational concepts of artificial intelligence and machine learning;

(2) definitions of artificial intelligence and machine learning;

(3) the responsible and ethical use of artificial intelligence and machine learning applications; and

(4) such other topics relating to artificial intelligence and machine learning as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(b) **FORM OF INSTRUCTION.**—The instruction required under subsection (a) may be incorporated into one or more existing courses taught at high schools operated by the Department of Defense Education Activity.

(c) **APPLICABILITY.**—The requirement to provide the instruction described in subsection (a) shall apply beginning with the first school year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the term “high school” has the meaning given that term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

AMENDMENT NO. 173 OFFERED BY MS. ESHOO OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle C of title X, insert the following:

**SEC. 10. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING NAMING A NAVAL VESSEL AFTER WILLIAM B. GOULD.**

It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of the Navy should name a commissioned naval vessel after formerly enslaved sailor and Civil War veteran, William B. Gould, to honor his strength of character and faithful service to the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 174 OFFERED BY MR. LARSEN OF WASHINGTON

At the end of subtitle C of title II, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 2. MODIFICATION TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE EDUCATION STRATEGY.**

Section 256 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92; 133 Stat. 1290) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MACHINE LEARNING EDUCATION PLATFORMS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, each Secretary of a military department shall provide personnel in that Secretary’s department with distance education courses on—

“(A) the foundational concepts of artificial intelligence and machine learning; and

“(B) the responsible and ethical use of artificial intelligence and machine learning applications.

“(2) **REPORT.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the progress of the Secretaries of the military departments in implementing paragraph (1).”

AMENDMENT NO. 175 OFFERED BY MR. CARTWRIGHT OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of subtitle C of title III, insert the following:

**SEC. 3. INVESTMENT PLAN FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEPOTS AND INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES.**

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the current state of Department of Defense depots and industrial facilities is concerning;

(2) charged with maintaining critical equipment and complex weapons systems, these Government-owned, Government-operated installations are vital to supporting military readiness and conflict deterrence;

(3) robust funding should be provided for sustained facilities modernization; and

(4) facilities and equipment modernization will cost hundreds of billions and require

sustained management attention over many years.

(b) **INVESTMENT PLAN.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of each of the military departments, shall submit to the congressional defense committees an investment plan that includes detailed information about the minimum annual investment in Department of Defense depots and industrial facilities that is needed to prevent further infrastructure deterioration. The minimum investment level included in the plan shall reflect a percentage of the 3-year rolling average of maintenance, repair, and overhaul workload funded at all Department depots and industrial facilities. Modernization efforts addressed in the plan shall account for future technological demands, labor needs, and threats to facility security including those posed by extreme weather and natural disasters.

AMENDMENT NO. 176 OFFERED BY MS. KUSTER OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In subtitle J of title V, add at the end the following:

**SEC. 599C. REPORT ON NATIONAL GUARD SEXUAL ASSAULT AND RESPONSE PREVENTION TRAINING.**

The Chief of the National Guard Bureau shall submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives containing the number of national guard members, aggregated by State, that received sexual assault and response prevention training in the preceding calendar year—

(1) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) annually, beginning in 2026, by not later than March 30 of each year.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, my amendment really should be called the define the mission act for Ukraine or the define the mission amendment.

We voted on this last summer as part of the National Defense Authorization Act, and 129 of our colleagues agreed that the administration should define the mission.

Before this, this might have been summarized as the Powell doctrine for years. Before we get into a war, we should decide what we are trying to achieve with the war. The administration has gotten by in Ukraine since the inception by saying as much as it takes, as long as it takes.

We searched for that phrase and found it back in 2004 when the administration at that time decided that we were going to shift from going after the terrorists that bombed the United States on 9/11, or used airplanes to target our citizens, to rebuilding Afghanistan. The phrase they used was “as much as it takes, as long as it takes.” That was used to keep the mission going all the way until the Biden administration left in the most disastrous way possible by taking the mili-

tary out first and leaving civilians behind and getting them out.

That was on August 31, 2021. The very next day, on September 1, 2021, the Biden administration entered into a strategic partnership agreement with Ukraine to support their membership in the European Union and NATO. This led to an escalation, and the Biden administration, rather than using leverage to create a peaceful resolution and prevent a war in Ukraine, fostered that war.

Nothing excuses Putin’s invasion of Ukraine. The question is, what are we going to do about it? To this date, apparently, we are just going to keep cutting checks. For the American people, a lot of times people say of course, and what they really mean is to get the Russians out of Ukraine. Why not state that that is the objective? Why not state whether it is to get all the Russians out of Ukraine, including Crimea, or not?

Mr. Chair, you have seen the State Department say variations on that. In fact, you have seen Under Secretary Nuland say that the actual mission is that we get war crimes tribunals for Vladimir Putin and regime change in Russia. Is that the mission?

Recently, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, a Republican, said that the mission is actually about rare earth minerals that Ukraine has. In that sense, if it is about minerals, does this really go back to when Yanukovich in November 2013 said that he is going to do a trade deal with Russia instead of a trade deal with the European Union?

Shortly after that, there was a coup, a regime change, and an actual insurrection that resulted in a new government in Ukraine.

None of this excuses what Vladimir Putin has done. We should be rightly rejecting what Putin has done in Ukraine.

So far, the United States has spent more than \$170 billion on the war, but we still haven’t defined the mission. You can’t really hold the administration accountable for success or, in this sense, potentially for failure.

The reality is that if we keep cutting checks, Ukraine does not have the resources, the manpower, the skill to deploy all the weapons it will take to extract all the Russians from Ukraine. They just don’t.

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We want them to be able to do that, but we have also taken off the table a path to a peaceful resolution.

In the spring of 2022, in the early days of the war, the Biden administration scuttled peace negotiations. Well, presumably, because they had a mission that they were actually trying to achieve in mind.

I have sent questions to them. I finally got a response, and I wanted them to define what it is.

They came up with something, finally, that says the United States’ goal is an independent, democratic, and economically stable Ukraine, governed by

the rule of law and integrated into Euro-Atlantic institutions. That is an answer, but they could give us a classified answer.

The point of this bill is to say: Tell us exactly what you are trying to do. That is not something you can have that you can hold accountable.

In fact, I asked former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Milley this in the House Foreign Affairs Committee. I said: General, does this qualify as a mission statement in the military? He said: Absolutely not. You would want more precision on that.

All I am asking is the same thing that our military already knows how to do: define the mission. Do it in a classified setting, by all means, but do it in a way where we can hold you accountable for the results.

That is the point of amendment No. 38. I encourage all of our colleagues to support it. I thank the chairman and the committee for their support in this en bloc, and I thank the chairman for this time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Chair, there is so much completely wrong about what the gentleman just said about that amendment that it really needs to be corrected.

First of all, just on the last point about what Chairman Milley had to say about this, the United States military is not fighting in Ukraine. We have not sent the United States military to accomplish a mission, and the specificity is an entirely different place.

Second, there has been a clear mission from day one that the Biden administration has articulated on two points: Number one, preserve a sovereign, democratic Ukraine; number two, don't get into a war with Russia.

They have said that from day one over and over and over again. I have heard people who don't want to support Ukraine continually generate this excuse: Oh, it is not clear. We don't know what we are doing there.

We have known what we were doing there from day one. We are trying to stop Russia from destroying Ukraine. We could not possibly be more clear. That is what we are trying to do. The resources that we provided Ukraine have helped make that possible. Ukraine still exists as a sovereign, democratic country.

There was also all throughout that speech all kinds of Russian propaganda that is untrue. Neither the United States nor any NATO allies blocked this mythical peace deal that existed in April 2022. Putin never agreed to any such peace deal and neither did Zelenskyy. We didn't block it. Our strategy in Ukraine is crystal clear: stop Russia from destroying it.

Now, in an ideal world, we would like Russia completely out of all of Ukraine as it existed post-1991. That is not the stated goal or stated strategy.

The stated goal and stated strategy are to preserve a sovereign, democratic

Ukraine. I hope everybody on this floor recognizes, number one, that that is a really important goal. It is worth fighting for. To make sure that Russia can't simply destroy a sovereign, democratic nation because if they destroy one, they will be sorely tempted to destroy more, and Ukraine is worth preserving.

Number two, for the 2-plus years we have been engaged in this, we have been pushing that strategy effectively against tall odds. We seem to have forgotten now that in the immediate days after the Russian invasion, the assumption of everyone was Ukraine was finished. They were gone. They were done. There was no way they could stand up to Russia. Yet for 2-plus years they have, and they are capable of continuing to do that if we don't back off on our support for them.

Now, the amendment that is in the en bloc, I am not thrilled about. It asks for a strategy. My opinion is the strategy already exists, so that has been met. The administration is, once again, going to send up their strategy in the next couple of months, which will meet the requirements and concerns of this amendment and will stop us from cutting off our support for Ukraine.

Please don't believe every piece of anti-American, anti-Ukraine, pro-Russian propaganda that gets put out there about what is going on. It is really rather simple.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield myself an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. Chair, Putin wants Ukraine. He has said over and over again that Ukraine should not exist as a country, that it should be part of Russia. We are helping Ukraine stop him from doing that.

At the end of the day, that is what is happening. It is not complicated, and we ought to support that effort.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN).

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to require the Department of Defense and HHS to examine barriers to access for military pilots and air traffic controllers seeking mental health care.

Today, when military and civilian aviators report that they have sought mental health care, they are faced with delays, confusion, and overbroad regulations in the process of returning to work.

What that means practically is that even minor mental health concerns can derail careers for safe, well-trained pilots and air traffic controllers who just want to get better. That has created a culture of silence and has disincentivized aviators from seeking care and ultimately made our skies less safe.

In May, the Air Force took a good first step forward by allowing these pilots and air traffic controllers to receive an extra 60 days of treatment without losing their wings. My bipar-

tisan amendment builds on that to help destigmatize mental health care and ensure that those who seek care face no more consequence nor any less scientifically robust standards for being re-cleared for duty than they would if they were seeking physical healthcare.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting access for mental health care for pilots and protecting the health and readiness of our Armed Forces and keeping our skies safe.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF), my friend and colleague.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Chair, today, I rise in support of my amendment, which would name a Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport vessel after Lieutenant General Richard E. Carey, U.S. Marine Corps.

During General Carey's 38-year military career, he served during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He rose from enlisted man to lieutenant by the age of 20.

Carey participated in the Inchon landing, captured communist forces, and led his rifle platoon to Seoul. Three months later at the infamous Chosin Reservoir, Carey and his fellow marines were outnumbered 8-1 but they held their ground and broke through the Chinese trap.

While in Korea, Carey was badly wounded. Over his decorated career, General Carey became a pilot, flew 204 combat sorties, received 41 medals, and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross.

He later commanded the evacuation from Saigon, received promotion to lieutenant general, and was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this en bloc package to honor General Carey and his service to America.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield myself an additional 1 minute.

Mr. Chair, I forgot to mention one thing about the Ukraine amendment. The gentleman referenced a number of different people, including Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM and what he thought the strategy was. I will make sure that people understand that that is the thing about a democracy. We know what Russia's strategy is because Vladimir Putin doesn't let anybody else have an opinion.

In the United States of America, we have got 535 Members of Congress. If you ask all 535 Members of Congress, I don't doubt that you would get a wide variety of different answers as to what our strategy is in Ukraine. Again, that is living in a democracy, where people are free to have their own opinions. If you ask the administration what our policy is, it has been consistent and clear: A sovereign, democratic Ukraine must be preserved and don't stumble into a war with Russia.

It is not an easy policy to implement, but they have successfully done it for 2-plus years now. That is clear. Don't be confused by a whole bunch of other

opinions from independent contractors who absolutely have a right to their opinion about what the strategy ought to be, but that is different than what the strategy is.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Chair, I thank my good colleague for yielding.

Mr. Chair, my colleagues are about to ram through yet another record-breaking military budget, nearly a trillion dollars, packed with bullets, bombs, and giveaways to defense contractors. They also had time to sprinkle in some antiwomen policies.

Mr. Chair, 2023 marks the sixth year in a row that the Pentagon has failed its audit. My colleagues continue to approve record-breaking military budgets, but the Pentagon literally cannot pass an audit. It is absurd. The Navy's LCS ships, with a lifetime cost of \$100 billion, Mr. Chair, are literally broken down and rusting in the harbor.

Meanwhile, my residents are worried. They are worried that there is lead in the water they are drinking and toxic chemicals in the air they breathe, all issues that my colleagues claim there isn't enough funding to solve.

On top of that, it is incredibly disturbing that many of my colleagues in this Chamber are actively profiting financially, directly, personally when they vote to pass more funding for weapons in war because they personally own stock in war manufacturing.

Enough is enough. I am proud to oppose this wasteful bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. FONG), the newest Member of the House of Representatives.

Mr. FONG. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of Mr. OBERNOLTE's amendment to the fiscal year 2025 National Defense Authorization Act.

From Navy missile systems to Air Force aircraft, the might of the American warfighter can often be traced to the testing and development that occurs in my congressional district. The last thing that the remarkable individuals at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake and Edwards Air Force Base need to worry about is whether the hospital doors supporting these communities remain open.

In Ridgecrest in the Indian Wells Valley, a hospital that supports China Lake and the Ridgecrest community is struggling financially.

At Edwards Air Force Base, significant growth is anticipated, but it is unclear whether the installation has the supporting healthcare system in place.

This amendment would require the Secretary of Defense to explore this critical healthcare issue for the installations within the R-2508 airspace in the Western United States and report back to Congress. This would ensure that we have the information needed so that we can best support this critical endeavor.

We need to ensure that we have a stable healthcare system so that the workforce at these legendary installations remain open to the creativity and the innovative spirit that has kept America safe for generations.

Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. OBERNOLTE for his leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER).

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Chair, our servicemembers deserve the best medical care and often they get world-class care, but sometimes military doctors fail our servicemembers, making grave errors.

In the civilian world, patients can file malpractice claims in court against doctors and have a jury hear their claims, but military doctors are immune from that scrutiny.

Instead, several years ago, Congress and the DOD developed a process for evaluating servicemember malpractice claims, but that process is clearly broken.

We all have constituents who have been victims of military medical malpractice, and we need to hold DOD and its doctors accountable.

That is why I cosponsored Congressman ISSA's HERO Act and that is why we need this amendment. We need an independent, objective analysis of how military medicine is failing our servicemembers.

My bipartisan amendment would address servicemember traumatic brain injury stemming from blast pressure in combat and in training.

Brain injuries among servicemembers are on the rise. Just last month, there were reports that artillery soldiers are also suffering these career-altering injuries. Whether injuries are the result of training or combat, our servicemembers and their families need the best healthcare we can offer. That is what this amendment does by requiring the DOD to explore new technologies for the treatment and prevention of brain injuries.

Last year, this amendment passed the House with bipartisan support. We must do it again because it was not included in the final legislation with the Senate.

Mr. Chair, I urge my House colleagues to pass it again and my Senate colleagues not to delay this important amendment.

Too often, our servicemembers rely on decades-old equipment that can't be updated at a fair price. Open system interfaces solve that problem. These systems are already in our daily lives. They are in our phones and in our cars. They have been embraced by some defense programs because open systems promise faster and cheaper upgrades. That is because they allow the government to embrace competition for new parts and software that make equipment more effective.

For small and innovative companies to offer their solutions to the Pen-

tagon, they need to know what standards the government is using.

This amendment will give businesses access to the information they need to compete. My amendment would grow small businesses and give our servicemembers the tools they need to win.

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Mr. Chair, I rise to support our military families. Military child development centers are a lifeline for our servicemembers who move frequently and often work long hours, past when childcare centers are open.

Serving more than 20,000 children, the military has offered childcare on its bases for decades. Yet, like many families, military families struggle to find childcare. A shortage of providers has left roughly 9,000 children waiting months for a spot at a military childcare center.

Childcare is a quality-of-life concern for Active-Duty servicemembers, including those in my district at Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach. My amendment would provide a strategy to construct an adequate number of child development centers to support our military families as they tirelessly serve our country.

Mr. Chair, I urge Members to support this amendment.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I encourage my colleagues to support this en bloc package, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of the amendments en bloc, and I, too, yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc 2 offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS).

The en bloc amendments 2 were agreed to.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF ALABAMA

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 1287, I offer amendments en bloc.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 3 consisting of amendment Nos. 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, and 234, printed in part B of House Report 118-551, offered by Mr. ROGERS of Alabama:

AMENDMENT NO. 177 OFFERED BY MS. PORTER OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle G of title VIII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 8. OPEN INTERFACE STANDARDS FOR CONTRACTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall make publicly available the open interface standards for contracts awarded by the Secretary, unless the service acquisition executive (as defined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code) with respect to a specific contract submits to the

Secretary a request to not disclose such standards.

AMENDMENT NO. 178 OFFERED BY MR. WALTZ OF FLORIDA

Page 448, after line 17, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 8. ASSESSMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH GLOBAL HOUSEHOLD GOODS CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Commander of the United States Transportation Command shall carry out an assessment of the performance of contractors under the Global Household Goods Contract in meeting the applicable requirements for capacity and quality in such contract during the period beginning on May 1, 2025, and ending on August 31, 2025.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 11 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Commander of the United States Transportation Command shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the assessment required under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 179 OFFERED BY MR. CALVERT OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle B of title II, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 2. MODIFICATION TO INNOVATORS INFORMATION REPOSITORY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

Section 220 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232; 10 U.S.C. 2364 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office, Defense Innovation Unit, and” before “Defense Technical Information Center”;

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting “in accordance with subsection (e)” before the period at the end;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) be coordinated across the Department of Defense enterprise to focus on small business innovators that are small, independent United States businesses, including—

“(A) those participating in the Small Business Innovation Research program or the Small Business Technology Transfer program;

“(B) those participating in the Pilot Program to Accelerate the Procurement and Fielding of Innovative Technologies and the Rapid Defense Enterprise Research program; and

“(C) nontraditional defense companies that are working with research, innovation, and advanced project entities;”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(E) the date of the initial award to the participant from the Department of Defense; and

“(F) the dates of any additional awards made to the participant, including the dates of any contracts or other agreements entered into between the participant the Department of Defense; and”;

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) UPDATES REQUIRED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once each fiscal quarter, the head of the Defense Technical Information Center, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, shall update the innovators information repository established under this section.

“(2) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after making an update to the innovators information repository under paragraph (1), the head of the Defense Technical Information Center shall submit to the congressional defense committees notice of such update together with instructions for electronically accessing the updated repository.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 180 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle F of title X, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 10. REPORT ON TRAINING AND SAFETY PROGRAM FOR OPERATION OF ASSAULT AMPHIBIOUS VEHICLES.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the feasibility, advisability, and potential benefits of establishing a training and safety program for the operation of assault amphibious vehicles.

AMENDMENT NO. 181 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle B of title I the following:

**SEC. 113. REPORT ON BLACK HAWK HELICOPTER PROGRAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the budget of the President for fiscal year 2026 is submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on Modernization of the Black Hawk helicopter program of the Army.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Identification of the program elements and level of funding requested for the Black Hawk Modernization program for the period of fiscal years 2026 through 2030 set forth separately by fiscal year and appropriations account.

(2) Requirements for the program that are sufficient to ensure the Black Hawk helicopters of the Army are systematically modernized to address obsolescence, improve performance, and provide capabilities that ensure relevance in the joint all domain operational environment.

(3) A program acquisition strategy for Black Hawk Modernization.

AMENDMENT NO. 182 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following new section:

**SEC. 10. UPDATES TO NATIONAL BIODEFENSE STRATEGY.**

(a) UPDATES REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall revise and update the most recent version of the national biodefense strategy and associated implementation plan required under section 1086 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 6 U.S.C. 104). In revising and updating the strategy and implementation plan, the Secretaries shall address—

(1) current and potential biological threats against the United States, both naturally occurring and man-made, either accidental or deliberate;

(2) the potential for catastrophic biological threats; and

(3) such other matters as the Secretaries determine appropriate.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional de-

fense committees the updated strategy and implementation plan required under subsection (a).

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” has the meaning given that term in section 1086(f) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 6 U.S.C. 104).

AMENDMENT NO. 183 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle D of title V, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 5. EXPANSION OF REPORT ON FUTURE SERVICEMEMBER PREPARATORY COURSE.**

Section 546(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31; 10 U.S.C. 520 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (6); and

(2) by inserting, after paragraph (3), the following new paragraphs:

“(4) The determination of the Secretary regarding the effectiveness of the preparatory course.

“(5) Recommendations of the Secretary regarding—

“(A) how to improve the preparatory course;

“(B) whether to expand the preparatory course.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 184 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle C of title II, add the following new section:

**SEC. 2. REPORT ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WORKFORCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that includes—

(1) an assessment of the effectiveness of the artificial intelligence workforce of the Department of Defense;

(2) identification of any gaps in the skills and training of such workforce; and

(3) a description of any actions that may be carried out to preserve and enhance such workforce to ensure the global technological competitiveness of the United States.

(b) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WORKFORCE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “artificial intelligence workforce” means members of the Armed Forces and civilian personnel of the Department Defense with responsibilities relating to the research, development, procurement, or operational use of artificial intelligence technology.

AMENDMENT NO. 185 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle G of title V, add the following:

**SEC. 5. TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION REGARDING MEMBER'S OPIOID USE DISORDER TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

Section 1142(d) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “TRANSMITTAL” and inserting “TRANSMISSION”;

(2) by inserting “(1)” before “In the case”; and

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

“(2) In the case of a member whom the Secretary concerned knows has a history of opioid use disorder, such Secretary concerned shall notify the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of such history within 60 days of the separation, retirement, or discharge of such member.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 186 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 7. STUDY ON ACCESSIBILITY OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND SERVICES FOR ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

(a) **STUDY.**—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a study determine whether and to what extent members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty have adequate access to mental health care providers and services.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 187 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle C of title VI, add the following new section:

**SEC. 6. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INCREASE TO THE FAMILY SEPARATION ALLOWANCE.**

It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should raise the family separation allowance to the maximum allowable amount of \$400 per month as authorized under section 427 of title 37, United States Code (as amended by section 626 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31; 137 Stat. 294)).

AMENDMENT NO. 188 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 7. REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN PRESCRIPTION DROP BOXES AT MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.**

The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that each military installation under the jurisdiction of the Secretary has one or more prescription drop boxes to facilitate the safe disposal of unused prescription drugs, including opioids.

AMENDMENT NO. 189 OFFERED BY MR. JAMES OF MICHIGAN

At the end of subtitle B of title I, add the following new section:

**SEC. 1. PLAN FOR PROVIDING CERTAIN AIRCRAFT TO THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD.**

(a) **PLAN REQUIRED.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for providing the aircraft described in subsection (b) to relevant aviation units of the Army National Guard in a manner that is concurrent with and in proportion to the manner in which such aircraft are provided to active duty Army aviation units.

(b) **AIRCRAFT DESCRIBED.**—The aircraft described in this subsection are the following:

- (1) AH-64E aircraft.
- (2) MQ-1C M25 aircraft.
- (3) CH-47 aircraft.
- (4) UH-60M aircraft.
- (5) Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft.

AMENDMENT NO. 191 OFFERED BY MR. RESCHENTHALER OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 17. REPORT ON SECURITY COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.**

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House Representatives a report on security cooperation with the Government of the Turks

and Caicos Islands and the treatment of detained Americans on Turks and Caicos Islands, including—

(1) the efforts of such Departments to counter threats from transnational criminal organizations, violent extremist organizations, and malign regional and external state actors in cooperation with the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands;

(2) United States taxpayer assistance made available for the Turks and Caicos Islands since October 1, 2014; and

(3) efforts by such Departments to address the treatment of and human rights abuses committed against United States individuals and others detained by the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands and to advocate for changes in policy related to their detention of Americans, during fiscal years 2022 through 2024.

AMENDMENT NO. 192 OFFERED BY MR. CASAR OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle H of title V, insert the following:

**SEC. 5. GAO STUDY ON CHILD CARE SERVICES PROVIDED OR PAID FOR BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

(a) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall carry out a study to assess the child care programs of the Department of Defense, including military child development centers, family home day care, Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood, and Child Care in Your Home.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report regarding the results of the study under subsection (a). Such report shall include the following information, disaggregated by covered Armed Force:

(1) The period of time military families in each priority category are on a waiting list from the time of submitting a request on militarychildcare.com until the time of final approval.

(2) The percentage of military families that submitted a request for child care services through militarychildcare.com and did not receive an offer within three months of the date requested.

(3) The average percentage of annual income a military family spends on child care per child.

(4) The percentage of military families that require more than one such child care program to meet child care needs.

(5) The current amount allocated to each covered Armed Force for the Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood and Child Care in Your Home programs.

(6) How much of the amount described in paragraph (5) is spent on—

- (A) administration;
- (B) child care services for military families.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “covered Armed Force” means the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Space Force.

(2) The terms “military child development center” and “family home day care” have the meanings given such terms in section 1800 of title 10, United States Code.

AMENDMENT NO. 193 OFFERED BY MR. GROTHMAN OF WISCONSIN

At the end of subtitle E of title XXVIII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. . QUARTERLY REPORT ON INFILTRATIONS OF CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROPERTY BY FOREIGN ACTORS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on instances of infiltra-

tion, or attempted infiltration, of a military installation, facility, or real property under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense by a foreign actor during the period covered by the report.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—Each report required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a summary of each instance of infiltration or attempted infiltration;

(2) an identification of the foreign actor the Secretary determines is responsible for such infiltration or attempted infiltration; and

(3) with respect to each foreign actor included in such report, an statement of—

- (A) immigration status, if any;
- (B) country of origin;
- (C) method and date of entry into the United States, if known;
- (D) criminal background, if known; and
- (E) any other information obtained during the applicable Department of Defense investigation that the Secretary of Defense determines appropriate.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Relations of the Senate;

(F) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(G) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(H) the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives.

(2) The term “foreign actor” means an individual who is not a citizen or national of the United States.

(3) The term “infiltration” includes, with respect to a military installation, facility, or real property under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense, unauthorized photo or video recording.

AMENDMENT NO. 194 OFFERED BY MS. JACOBS OF CALIFORNIA

Page 571, after line 11, insert the following:

**SEC. 12. ASSESSMENT, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.**

Section 383(d)(1)(B) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting “, including a description of challenges in executing the program,” after “lessons learned”.

AMENDMENT NO. 195 OFFERED BY MS. MENG OF NEW YORK

Page 803, line 9, insert “(including in-person, remote, and hybrid fellowships)” after “fellowships”.

AMENDMENT NO. 196 OFFERED BY MRS. SPARTZ OF INDIANA

Add at the end of subtitle D of title XII the following:

**SEC. 1236. REPORT ON CERTAIN ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall submit to Congress a report reconciling all United States assistance to Ukraine, including all normal and supplemental Ukraine appropriations and drawdowns, from January 1, 2022, through the date of such submission. The report shall specifically detail the countries, entities, and individuals who received such assistance.



(b) ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall also detail the following:

(1) All contracts awarded to third parties with enumerated amounts, including an identification of each such third party recipient and a specification of the amount awarded to each such third party.

(2) The total of appropriated or authorized amounts that have been obligated or expended, as well as the total amounts of authorized or appropriated funds that have not been so obligated or expended.

(c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

AMENDMENT NO. 197 OFFERED BY MR. CASE OF HAWAII

At the end of subtitle D of title III, insert the following:

**SEC. 3. REPORT ON WILDFIRE FIGHTING CAPABILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IN HAWAII.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report that contains—

(1) an assessment of the wildfire fighting capabilities of the Department of Defense in Hawaii, including any shortfalls in firefighting equipment, facilities, training, plans, or personnel;

(2) a determination of the feasibility of establishing a wildfire training institute on O'ahu;

(3) an identification of any additional authorities or resources required to integrate the capabilities of the Department of Defense with the capabilities of other Federal, State, and local emergency responders; and

(4) an identification of any memoranda or other agreements between the Department and State, local, Federal, or other disaster response organizations regarding wildland fire mitigation, prevention, response, and recovery.

AMENDMENT NO. 198 OFFERED BY MS. CROCKETT OF TEXAS

Add at the end of subtitle C of title XVII of division A the following:

**SEC. . REPORT ON MILITARY SPOUSE SECURITY CLEARANCE.**

Not later than May 1, 2025, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, shall provide a report to Congress on the technical, operational, human resources, and legal challenges that would result from accelerating security clearance reviews of military spouses by using information, including address verification, from the spousal review of their connected service member's security clearance, as well as the anticipated benefits of such a change.

AMENDMENT NO. 199 OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF NEVADA

At the end of subtitle E of title XXVIII, add the following new section:

**SEC. . DESIGNATION OF CREECH AIR FORCE BASE, NEVADA, AS REMOTE OR ISOLATED INSTALLATION.**

The Secretary of Defense shall designate Creech Air Force Base located at Indian Springs Nevada, as a remote or isolated installation.

AMENDMENT NO. 200 OFFERED BY MR. SCHNEIDER OF ILLINOIS

At the end of subtitle A of title VI, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 6. EXPANSION OF BEREAVEMENT LEAVE.**

Section 701(1)(A) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “two weeks” and inserting “12 weeks”.

AMENDMENT NO. 201 OFFERED BY MR. MOSKOWITZ OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 17. ASSESSMENT OF THE ACCURACY OF GAZA MINISTRY OF HEALTH CASUALTY REPORTING.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report assessing the accuracy of the reporting of the Gaza Ministry of Health regarding—

(1) the total casualty figures reported by the Ministry; and

(2) the information disseminated by the Ministry of casualties grouped by age and gender.

(b) FORM.—The assessment required by paragraph (1) shall be transmitted in an unclassified manner, and any supporting documentation may be transmitted in a classified annex.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after the submission of the report required by subsection (a), the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency shall brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the contents of the report.

AMENDMENT NO. 202 OFFERED BY MRS. TORRES OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle G of title V, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 5. REPORT ON THE NUMBER OF VETERANS WHO HAVE THEIR MILITARY ACQUIRED CREDENTIALS RECOGNIZED AT THE STATE-LEVEL FOR THE CIVILIAN WORKFORCE.**

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Labor, shall submit to Congress a report that builds on the data reported in the “DoD Credentialing Utilization” report from 2018 (3-BB02A16) to better assess the effectiveness of the Credentialing Programs for post-military civilian employment.

(b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the number of veterans who successfully transfer their eligible professional credentials to civilian jobs.

(2) An assessment of which certifications were most commonly used for post-military civilian employment, such as airplane mechanics.

(3) An assessment on any other barriers veterans face to transferring military mechanical skills to State certifications.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “applicable licensing authority” means the licensing authority by a State for a given vocation in which the veteran works or would like to work.

(2) The term “eligible professional credential” means a professional credential, including a professional credential in the field of airplane mechanics, obtained using expenses paid pursuant to the program under section 2015 of title 10, United States Code.

(3) The term “expenses” has the meaning given such term in this section.

(4) The term “State” means each of the several States and territories and the District of Columbia.

AMENDMENT NO. 203 OFFERED BY MR. BARR OF KENTUCKY

At the end of subtitle C of title XVII, insert the following:

**SEC. 17. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR BLUE GRASS CHEMICAL AGENT-DESTRUCTION PILOT PLANT.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Joint Explanatory Statement to accompany the James M. Inhofe National

Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) directed the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of the Army, to conduct a feasibility study to assess potential missions, plants, or industries feasible for Army or Department of Defense needs at the Blue Grass Army Depot following the completion of the mission at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.

(2) House Report 118-301 to accompany the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) directed the Secretary of the Army, in coordination with the Commanding General, Army Materiel Command and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology to provide a briefing on the costs and estimated funding profile associated with the organic industrial base modernization strategy and the efforts required to support opportunities for augmenting the organic industrial base at Blue Grass Army Depot.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense and the Secretary of the Army, in coordination with the Commanding General of the Army Materiel Command and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology, should work with Congress and the local community near the Blue Grass Army Depot to build upon the findings of the feasibility study and House Report referred to in subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 204 OFFERED BY MR. FITZPATRICK OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of subtitle E of title I, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 1. MODIFICATION TO MULTIYEAR PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CRITICAL MINERALS.**

Section 152 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31; 137 Stat. 180; 50 U.S.C. 98e-2) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by inserting “STRATEGIC AND” after “DOMESTICALLY PROCESSED”;

(2) in subsection (a), by striking “the procurement of” and all that follows and inserting the following: “the procurement of strategic and critical materials that are mined, processed, or produced in the United States.”;

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “the domestically processed critical minerals” and inserting “the strategic and critical materials”;

(4) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f);

(5) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection:

“(e) PRIORITY.—In carrying out the activities described in this section, the Secretary may give priority to the procurement of strategic and critical materials that are derived from recycled and reused minerals and metals to the maximum extent practicable, and from terrestrial mines that do not cause harm to the natural or cultural resources of Tribal communities or sovereign nations or result in degraded ground or surface water.”; and

(6) in subsection (f), as so redesignated—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) The term ‘strategic and critical material’ means a material determined to be a strategic or critical material under section 3(a) of the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act (50 U.S.C. 98b(a)).”; and

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

“(4) The term ‘produced’ means formed, assembled, manufactured, or systems integrated.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 205 OFFERED BY MRS. SPARTZ OF INDIANA

Add at the end of subtitle A of title X the following:

**SEC. 1004. OVERSIGHT REQUIREMENTS FOR FINANCIAL IMPROVEMENT AND AUDIT REMEDIATION PLAN.**

Section 240b(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate” after “congressional defense committees”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by amending the paragraph heading to read as follows: “BRIEFINGS”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) Not later than June 30, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) shall provide 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 briefing on the status of the corrective action plan. Such briefing shall include an assessment of the progress of the Secretary of Defense in achieving an unqualified audit opinion as described in subsection (a)(2)(iv).”

AMENDMENT NO. 206 OFFERED BY MR. DAVIDSON OF OHIO

Page 370, insert after line 6 the following:

**SEC. 734. WITHHOLDING OF FUNDS FOR FAILURE TO SUBMIT REPORTS ON HEALTH CONDITIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ON ACTIVE DUTY DEVELOPED AFTER ADMINISTRATION OF COVID-19 VACCINE.**

(a) WITHHOLDING.—Section 725(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31; 137 Stat. 309) is amended—

(1) by striking “Not later than” and inserting “(1) Not later than”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) If the Secretary fails to submit a report required under paragraph (1) prior to the deadline applicable under such paragraph, the amount otherwise authorized to be appropriated for the Office of the Secretary of Defense for the next fiscal year which begins after the deadline shall be reduced by 5 percent.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024.

AMENDMENT NO. 207 OFFERED BY MR. WENSTRUP OF OHIO

At the end of subtitle B of title VII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 7. EXPANSION OF RECOGNITION BY THE DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY OF CERTIFYING BODIES FOR PHYSICIANS.**

(a) EXPANSION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Defense Health Agency shall revise the policy of the Defense Health Agency regarding the credentialing and privileging under the military health system to expand the recognition of certifying bodies for physicians under such policy to a wide range of additional board certifications in medical specialties and subspecialties. The following certifying bodies shall be so recognized:

(1) The member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties.

(2) The Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists of the American Osteopathic Association.

(3) The American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery.

(4) The American Board of Podiatric Medicine.

(5) The American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

(b) STANDARDS FOR RECOGNITION OF OTHER CERTIFYING BODIES.—To be recognized under subsection (a), a certifying body shall—

(1) be an organization described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code;

(2) maintain a process to define, periodically review, enforce, and update specific standards regarding knowledge and skills of the specialty or subspecialty;

(3) administer a psychometrically valid assessment to determine whether a physician meets standards for initial certification, recertification, or continuing certification;

(4) establish and enforce a code of professional conduct; and

(5) require that, in order to be considered a board certified specialty physician, a physician must satisfy—

(A) the certifying body’s applicable requirements for initial certification; and

(B) any applicable recertification or continuing certification requirements of the certifying body that granted the initial certification.

AMENDMENT NO. 208 OFFERED BY MR. BARR OF KENTUCKY

At the end of subtitle B of title I, add the following new section:

**SEC. 1. DEVELOPMENT OF REQUIREMENT FOR SHIPPING CONTAINER PRODUCTION FACILITY AT DOMESTIC ARMY INSTALLATION.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) House Report 118-301 accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) directed the Secretary of the Army, in coordination with the Commanding General, Army Materiel Command and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology to provide a briefing on the costs and estimated funding profile as it relates to the organic industrial base modernization strategy, and facility efforts required to support opportunities for organic industrial base augmentation at Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky.

(2) The briefing was directed to explore Blue Grass Army Depot as a potential site for the production of metal shipping containers.

(3) Limited domestic production, coupled with the concentration of global shipping container manufacturing in and around China, is a strategic deployment and sustainment risk for United States forces.

(4) China produces most shipping containers and the Department of Defense sources nearly all containers from Asia or assembles container kits in the United States from foreign-producers.

(5) Establishing a domestic source for metal shipping containers would reduce reliance on foreign sources.

(b) SHIPPING CONTAINER REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of the Army, the Commanding General of the Army Materiel Command, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology, shall develop a requirement for the establishment of a shipping container production facility within the United States at an Army installation found to meet feasibility and readiness goals.

AMENDMENT NO. 209 OFFERED BY MS. SHERRILL OF NEW JERSEY

In subtitle G of title V, add at the end the following:

**SEC. 5. TRAINING AND INTERNSHIPS FOR TRANSITIONING MEMBERS THROUGH INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

(a) SKILLBRIDGE.—The Secretary of Defense may conduct outreach to institutions of higher education in order to enter into more agreements with such institutions of higher education that may provide training or internships to members of the Armed Forces pursuant to the Skillbridge program established under section 1143(e) of title 10, United States Code.

(b) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

AMENDMENT NO. 210 OFFERED BY MS. PETERSEN OF COLORADO

Add at the end of subtitle C of title VII the following:

**SEC. 7. HEALTH CARE STRATEGY FOR MEMBERS WHO PERFORM DUTY IN A COLD WEATHER LOCATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs shall convene a working group of subject matter experts from the extramural community and military health system to develop a strategy and the medical research and development requirements to deliver pre-hospital, life-saving interventions for members of the Armed Forces who perform duty in cold weather locations. Not later than July 1, 2025, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees such strategy and associated requirements, which shall include the following:

(1) An overarching plan addressing unique pre-hospital lifesaving and sustainment interventions required in cold weather locations and research required to advance medical care in cold weather locations.

(2) A review of laboratory and medical product development capabilities of the Department of Defense to conduct research and development and support the transition and fielding of medical products for cold weather locations.

(3) Identification of and recommendations to amend clinical practice guidelines to treat combat casualties in cold weather locations.

(4) Initial capabilities documents identifying gaps and requirements to support pre-hospital, life-saving interventions during operations in cold weather locations.

(5) A recommended investment plan to address clinical and medical research and development capability gaps identified in initial capabilities documents.

(6) Engagement of academic medical centers and institutions to support public-private partnerships for research and development to address the pre-hospital needs of members following injury in cold weather locations.

(b) COLD WEATHER LOCATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term “cold weather location” means a location for which a member may receive special duty pay—

(1) under section 352 of title 37, United States Code; and

(2) pursuant to section 315 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31; 37 U.S.C. 352 note).

AMENDMENT NO. 211 OFFERED BY MR. CISCOMANI OF ARIZONA

Page 915, after line 12, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 28. LAND CONVEYANCE, FORT HUACHUCA, SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA.**

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army may convey, without consideration, to

the City of Sierra Vista, Arizona (in this section referred to as the "City"), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, including any improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 203 acres, comprising a portion of Fort Huachuca, Arizona, for the purpose of compatible development of the municipal airport located in the City.

(2) CONTINUATION OF EXISTING EASEMENTS, RESTRICTIONS, AND COVENANTS.—The conveyance of the property under paragraph (1) shall be subject to any easement, restriction, or covenant of record applicable to the property and in existence on the date of the enactment of this section.

(b) REVISIONARY INTEREST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of the Army determines at any time that the real property conveyed under subsection (a) is not being used in accordance with the purpose of the conveyance specified in such subsection, all right, title, and interest in and to the property, including any improvements thereto, may, at the option of the Secretary, revert to and become the property of the United States, and the United States may have the right of immediate entry onto such property.

(2) DETERMINATION.—A determination by the Secretary of the Army under paragraph (1) shall be made on the record after an opportunity for a hearing.

(c) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—

(1) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Army shall require the City to cover all costs (except costs for environmental remediation of the property) to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for costs incurred by the Secretary, to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a), including costs for environmental and real estate due diligence and any other administrative costs related to the conveyance.

(2) REFUND OF EXCESS AMOUNTS.—If amounts collected by the Secretary of the Army from the City under paragraph (1) in advance exceed the costs actually incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a), the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the City.

(d) LIMITATION ON SOURCE OF FUNDS.—The City may not use Federal funds to cover any portion of the costs required to be paid by the City under this section.

(e) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the property to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary of the Army.

(f) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary of the Army may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

AMENDMENT TO NO. 212 OFFERED BY MS. PETERSEN OF COLORADO

Page 780, insert after line 7 the following:  
**SEC. 1818. BRIEFING ON ACCESS OF MEMBERS OF NATIONAL GUARD TO CHILD CARE SERVICES AT MILITARY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.**

(a) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the Army and Air Force, shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a briefing regarding the access of members of the Army National Guard and the Air Force National Guard to child care services at military child development centers.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The briefing under this section shall include the following elements:

(1) The number of families in the Army National Guard and the Air Force National Guard with children under 12 years of age.

(2) The number of families in the Army National Guard and the Air Force National Guard with children under 12 years in which both parents are members of either the Army National Guard or the Air Force National Guard.

(3) The number of single parent households in which the parent is a member of the Army National Guard or the Air Force National Guard.

(4) The average number of days during the year in which a member of the Army National Guard or the Air Force National Guard who has a child under 12 years of age is on active duty.

(5) The number of members of the Army National Guard or the Air Force National Guard Number who have a child under 12 years of age who live within the following distance of a military child development center:

- (A) 10 miles.
- (B) 25 miles.
- (C) 50 miles.
- (D) Over 100 miles.

(6) The number of Army National Guard armories and Air Force National Guard armories within the following distance of a military child development center:

- (A) 10 miles.
- (B) 25 miles.
- (C) 50 miles.
- (D) Over 100 miles.

(7) The number of Army National Guard families who have successfully obtained a voucher for child care funding cost assistance through the Childcare Aware and Upwards programs.

(8) The number of Air Force National Guard families who have successfully obtained a voucher for child care funding cost assistance through the Childcare Aware and Upwards programs.

(9) The amount of funds currently spent on vouchers under the Childcare Aware program for Army National Guard families and Air Force National Guard families, and the amount of funds currently spent on vouchers for Army National Guard families and Air Force National Guard families under the Upwards program.

(10) An overview of State laws that affect the ability of military child development centers to provide 24-hour and overnight child care services.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "military child development center" has the meaning given such term in section 1800 of title 10, United States Code.

AMENDMENT NO. 213 OFFERED BY MR. PFLUGER OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle G of title X, insert the following:

**SEC. 10\_\_ . PSYCHOLOGICAL PERFORMANCE TRAINING IN PERFORMANCE MINDSET.**

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that long-term exposure to high-stress environments leaves many individuals in a suboptimal performance state, creating an environment for maladaptive coping mechanisms, compromised performance abilities, and a potential increase in anxiety, depression, suicide, domestic violence, and substance abuse.

(b) REQUIRED TRAINING.—All training provided to a member of the Armed Forces, including at a Service Academy (as defined section 347 of title 10, United States Code), or a school operated under chapter 107 or 108 of title 10, United States Code, shall include training on the development of proactive psychological performance skills and strategies for psychological flexibility and mental strength. Such training shall include each of the following:

(1) Training in scientifically researched and evidence-based mindset skills designed

to prepare members of the Armed Forces for the physical and mental stressors associated with service in the Armed Forces.

(2) Performance mindset training designed to create psychological flexibility and mental strength to reduce the effects of potential trauma.

(3) Interactive and contextualized training provided by specialized training teams with expert knowledge of psychological performance and how to apply the skills covered by the training across the phases of a career of a member of the Armed Forces.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the implementation of this section. Each such report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

AMENDMENT NO. 214 OFFERED BY MR. SOTO OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle C of title II, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 2\_\_ . INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR HIGH-HYPERSONIC DETONATION PROPULSION RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY.**

(a) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 201 for RDT&E, Air Force for Aerospace Propulsion, line 008 as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4201, for high-hypersonic detonation propulsion research and technology is hereby increased by \$5,000,000; and

(b) OFFSET.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for O&M, Air Force for Administration, line 410, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for program decrease is hereby reduced by \$5,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 215 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle J of title V, insert the following:

**SEC. 5\_\_ . COMMERCIAL TRANSITION FOR MILITARY AVIATION MECHANICS.**

The Secretary of Defense shall create a strategy to support the transition of military aviation mechanics to commercial aviation mechanics after active duty service.

AMENDMENT NO. 216 OFFERED BY MR. SOTO OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle C of title II, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 2\_\_ . INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR ADAPTIVE AND INTELLIGENT ADVERSARY-THREAT MODELS.**

(a) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 201 for RDT&E, Army for Soldier Lethality Technology, line 010 as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4201, for adaptive and intelligent adversary-threat models is hereby increased by \$5,000,000.

(b) OFFSET.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for O&M, Army for Other Personnel Support, line 470 as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for program decrease is hereby reduced by \$5,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 217 OFFERED BY MR. AUSTIN SCOTT OF GEORGIA

At the end of subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

**SEC. 10\_\_ . REPORT ON MODIFICATIONS OF EXPEDITIONARY TRANSFER DOCK SHIPS.**

Not later than March 1, 2025, the Chief of Naval Operations, in consultation with the

Commandant of the Coast Guard, shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on recommended modifications to the Expeditionary Transfer Dock Ships that will best enable at-sea sustainment of Joint Inter-agency Task Force South partner nation patrol vessels and United States Coast Guard Fast Response Cutters.

AMENDMENT NO. 218 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

**SEC. 10 . . . REPORT ON MILITARY AND WEAPONS LOST DURING WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN.**

The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that includes an accounting of all the military equipment and weapons lost to the Taliban during the withdrawal of the United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan.

AMENDMENT NO. 219 OFFERED BY MR. SCHNEIDER OF ILLINOIS

At the end of subtitle B of title XII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 12 . . . BRIEFING ON IRANIAN SUPPORT FOR NON-STATE ACTORS IN NORTH AFRICA.**

(a) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide the appropriate congressional committees a briefing on—

(1) Iran's material support for non-state actors in North Africa;

(2) threats to the security of United States allies in the region posed by this Iranian support; and

(3) recommendations for actions the United States may take to deter Iran from providing this support.

(b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(1) the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 220 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

**SEC. 10 . . . SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING COOPERATION WITH THE PHILIPPINES ON MARITIME SECURITY.**

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should remain committed to helping the Philippines maintain the safety and security of the Philippines, including helping the Philippines to defend against threats to such safety and security from China; and

(2) to help the Philippines defend against such threats, the United States should expand cooperation between the United States and the Philippines with respect to maritime security.

AMENDMENT NO. 221 OFFERED BY MR. OBERNOLTE OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following new section:

**SEC. 10 . . . ASSESSMENT OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM SUPPORTING MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN THE R-2508 AIRSPACE.**

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments con-

cerned, shall develop an assessment of the health care system supporting the military installations within the R-2508 Airspace to ensure adequate health care for the civilian and military workforce.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the results of the assessment conducted under subsection (a). Such report shall include an explanation of—

(1) any challenges to the health care system covered by the report within the private and public sector—

(A) including any challenges relating to funding and authorization;

(B) including any potential obstacles to access health care services for both civilian and military populations;

(C) whether there exists a provider shortage for emergency care personnel and certain other specialties; and

(D) including consideration of the potential impacts on the mission of the military installations covered by the report;

(2) recommendations with respect to legislative proposals to improve such health care system; and

(3) the plans of the Secretary to address the issues identified under paragraphs (1) through (2).

AMENDMENT NO. 222 OFFERED BY MR. SCHNEIDER OF ILLINOIS

At the end of subtitle C of title XVII, add the following:

**SEC. 17 . . . REWARDS FOR INFORMATION REGARDING LEADERS OF HAMAS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Secretary of Defense shall advocate in their respective roles on the Foreign Threat Intelligence Committee to request the Rewards for Justice Program to offer \$25,000,000 each in incentives for information regarding Hamas terrorists Yahya Sinwar and Mohammed Deif.

(b) OTHER REWARDS.—The Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Secretary of Defense should advocate for significant rewards for information regarding other leaders Iran-backed entities designated as Foreign Terrorist Organizations under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189) or Specially Designated Global Terrorists under section 594.310 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

AMENDMENT NO. 223 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

**SEC. 7 . . . STUDY ON INCREASED TELEHEALTH SERVICES OF THE DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY.**

Not later than September 30, 2025, the Director of the Defense Health Agency shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the results of a study to determine how to increase access of TRICARE beneficiaries to telehealth services of the Defense Health Agency.

AMENDMENT NO. 224 OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY

Add at the end of subtitle F of title X the following:

**SEC. 10 . . . GAO REVIEW AND REPORT ON BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS EXPERIMENTS ON AND IN RELATION TO TICKS, TICK-BORNE DISEASE.**

(a) REVIEW.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of research conducted during the period beginning on January 1, 1945, and ending on December 31, 1972, by the Department of Defense, including by the Department of Defense in consultation with the National In-

stitutes of Health, the Department of Agriculture, or any other Federal agency on—

(1) the use of ticks as hosts or delivery mechanisms for biological warfare agents, including experiments involving Spirochaetales and Rickettsiales; and

(2) any efforts to improve the effectiveness and viability of Spirochaetales and Rickettsiales as biological weapons through combination with other diseases or viruses.

(b) LOCATION OF RESEARCH.—In conducting the review under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall review research conducted at facilities located inside United States and facilities located outside the United States, including laboratories and field work locations.

(c) INFORMATION TO BE REVIEWED.—

(1) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—In conducting the review under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall review any relevant classified information.

(2) DOCUMENTS FOR REVIEW.—In conducting the review under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall review, among other sources, the following documents:

(A) Technical Reports related to The Summary of Major Events and Problems, US Army Chemical Corps, FY 1951 – FY1969.

(B) Site Holding: CB DT DW 48158 Title: Virus and Rickettsia Waste Disposal Study. Technical Report No. 103, January 1969. Corp Author Name: FORT DETRICK FREDERICK MD Report Number: SMUFD-TR-103 Publish Date: 19690101.

(C) Site Holding: CB DT DW 60538 Title: A Plaque Assay System for Several Species of Rickettsia. Corp Author Name: FORT DETRICK FREDERICK MD Report Number: SMUFD-TM-538 Publish Date: 19690601.

(D) Site Holding: CB DW 531493 Title: Progress Report for Ecology and Epidemiology and Biological Field Test Technology, Third Quarter FY 1967. Corp Author Name: ARMY DUGWAY PROVING GROUND UT Publish Date: 19670508.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report that includes the following:

(A) The scope of any research described in subsection (a).

(B) Whether any ticks used in such research were released outside of any facility (including any ticks that were released unintentionally).

(C) Whether any records related to such research were destroyed, and whether such destruction was intentional or unintentional.

(2) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

AMENDMENT NO. 225 OFFERED BY MR. BARR OF KENTUCKY

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following new section:

**SEC. 10 . . . ASSESSMENT OF INFLUENCE OF CHINA IN PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS.**

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and each year thereafter, the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency shall publish in the annual China military power report required by section 1202 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Public Law 106-65), or other relevant publication, an assessment of the following:

(1) Investments and influence of China in Pacific Island nations.

(2) How China's activities have or have not impacted United States military strategy in the Pacific region, as it relates to Pacific Island nations.

AMENDMENT NO. 226 OFFERED BY MR. WALBERG OF MICHIGAN

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, insert the following:

**SEC. 17. ANNUAL REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ASSISTANCE TO U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION AND DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ON NORTHERN BORDER SECURITY.**

The Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress an annual report on the assistance the Department of Defense provides to U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Homeland Security to secure the northern border of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 227 OFFERED BY MS. SLOTKIN OF MICHIGAN

At the end of subtitle G of title VIII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 8. REPORTS ON NATIONAL SECURITY RISKS.**

(a) GAO REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of a study on the national security risks posed by consulting firms who simultaneously contract with the Federal Government and the Chinese government or its proxies or affiliates.

(2) CONTENTS.—In performing the study under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall—

(A) assess the extent to which Federal agencies collect information on contracts performed on behalf of the Chinese government or its proxies or affiliates by consulting firms that hold or have held contracts with the Federal Government, and whether such information includes specific projects and deliverables of such contracts;

(B) evaluate the extent to which selected Federal agencies, to include at a minimum the Department of Defense and elements of the Intelligence Community, have assessed the risks posed by American consulting firms' work for the Chinese government and its proxies or affiliates, including an assessment of risk of deliberate or inadvertent sharing of Federal Government information that may be used for Chinese economic or military advantage;

(C) identify relevant contract clauses, procedures, and information used by Federal agencies to identify, evaluate and resolve organizational conflicts of interest when awarding consulting contracts;

(D) assess the extent to which agencies experience challenges when identifying, evaluating and resolving organizational conflicts of interest, including determining whether the offeror or potential contractor also performs work for China; and

(E) identify steps federal agencies take to monitor contractor compliance with any contract clauses, terms or conditions intended to resolve identified conflicts of interest.

(b) REPORT ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—The Secretary of Defense shall annually submit to Congress a report on—

(1) the implementation of section 812 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (10 U.S.C. 4501 note prec.); and

(2) how the Department of Defense is defining the term “entities related to the Chinese or Russian governments” and whether, and to what extent, the Secretary is investigating conflicts of interest between prime contractors of the Department of Defense and subsidiary companies of such contractors.

AMENDMENT NO. 229 OFFERED BY MR. BURLISON OF MISSOURI

At the end of subtitle I of title V, insert the following:

**SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO GREGORY MCMANUS FOR ACTS OF VALOR.**

(a) WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 7274 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President is authorized to award the Medal of Honor, under section 7271 of such title, to Gregory McManus for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor described in this subsection are the following:

(1) Chief Warrant Officer Gregory McManus distinguished himself for his brave acts of valor while serving in the United States Army by risking his life to save the lives of his fellow servicemembers.

(2) Chief Warrant Officer McManus deserves recognition for his acts of valor while serving as the commander of a single helicopter gunship on an important mission north of Chai Duc.

(3) Discovering an envoy of hundreds of enemy troops along the Cambodian border, Chief Warrant Officer McManus attacked the enemy without hesitation.

(4) Chief Warrant Officer McManus disregarded the tracers that rose to meet him, firing rockets the entire length of the convoy, confusing the enemy, and scattering the troop column.

(5) Chief Warrant Officer McManus then attacked an armored vehicle with a mounted machine gun, destroying it and a large artillery piece which it was towing.

(6) Over and over, Chief Warrant Officer McManus flew through heavy automatic weapons and machine gun fire to attack the enemy, only deciding to return when his ordinance was expended, and his ship had taken so much damage that further flight was inadvisable.

(7) With this noble deed, Chief Warrant Officer McManus was able to destroy the enemy unit and scattered the rest in disorder with a single ship.

(8) Disregarding the size and scope of the enemy troop's convoy, Chief Warrant Officer McManus put his own life in danger, all in the service of his country and members of the Armed Forces.

(9) Because of the heroic actions of Chief Warrant Officer McManus, countless American soldier's lives were saved.

(10) These actions of heroism by Chief Warrant Officer McManus deserves recognition and demonstrates this hero of the United States more than deserve the medal of honor.

AMENDMENT NO. 230 OFFERED BY MR. SCHNEIDER OF ILLINOIS

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

**SEC. . MILITARY COOPERATION WITH MOROCCO.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States recognizes the 20th anniversary of the African Lion exercise hosted by Morocco, a key United States ally in Africa and the Middle East.

(2) The African Lion exercise is United States Africa Command's largest annual combined joint exercise.

(3) African Lion builds and maintains interoperability with our African and North Atlantic Treaty Organization partners and improves our ability to meet security related challenges together to address the growing threats from nation states, private military corporations, militias, non-state armed groups and violent extremist organizations, given the increasing presence of malign ac-

tors in Africa, including the Iranian regime and its proxies, particularly in North Africa and the Sahel.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to—

(1) support strengthening security cooperation with Morocco given increasing instability in Africa and the Middle East and provide for close cooperation between the United States and Morocco in order to contribute to the region's broader security; and

(2) provide for the continuation of the African Lion exercise in future years will support the crucial efforts to address security challenges facing NATO's southern flank.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing how the United States can improve its interoperability and cooperation with Morocco through the African Lion exercise to continue to address the growing threats in Africa, including the Iranian regime and its proxies, particularly in North Africa and the Sahel.

(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(B) and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

AMENDMENT NO. 231 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle F of title XVIII, add the following new section:

**SEC. . DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PLAN TO CONSTRUCT MEMORIAL AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY IN COMMEMORATION OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES KILLED IN CERTAIN ATTACK AT HAMID KARZAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KABUL, AFGHANISTAN.**

The Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a plan and strategy to construct a memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, to commemorate the thirteen members of the Armed Forces killed in the attack at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, in August of 2021.

AMENDMENT NO. 232 OFFERED BY MR. GOLDEN OF MAINE

At the end of subtitle G of title V, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 5. OPT-OUT SHARING OF INFORMATION ON MEMBERS RETIRING OR SEPARATING FROM THE ARMED FORCES WITH COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND RELATED ENTITIES.**

Section 570F of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92; 10 U.S.C. 1142 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “out the form to indicate an email address” and inserting the following: “out the form to indicate—

“(1) an email address; and”;

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

“(2) if the individual would like to opt-out of the transmittal of the individual's information to and through a State veterans agency as described in subsection (a).”;

(2) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) OPT-OUT OF INFORMATION SHARING.—Information on an individual shall be transmitted to and through a State veterans agency as described in subsection (a) unless the individual indicates pursuant to subsection (c)(2) that the individual would like to opt out of such transmittal.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 233 OFFERED BY MR.  
WESTERMAN OF ARKANSAS

At the end of subtitle D of title XXVIII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 28. REMOVAL OF USE CONDITIONS AND CONDITIONS ON REVERSION FOR THE FORMER ARMY AND NAVY GENERAL HOSPITAL, HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK, HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS.**

(a) **REMOVAL OF USE CONDITIONS.**—Section 3(a) of Public Law 86-323 (73 Stat. 594; Sept. 21, 1959) is amended by striking “as a vocational rehabilitation center or for other public health or educational purposes” and inserting “for appropriate purposes, as determined by the Governor of the State of Arkansas”.

(b) **CONDITIONS ON REVERSION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding the provisions contained in section 3 of Public Law 86-323 (73 Stat. 594; Sept. 21, 1959) any reversionary interest retained by the United States in the Covered Property may be extinguished by occurrence of the following conditions:

(A) Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Governor of the State of Arkansas submits to the Secretary of the Army a written request to extinguish any reversionary or other future interest in the surface rights held by the United States in the covered property.

(B) The Secretary of the Army, in consultation with the Administrator of the General Services Administration and the Secretary of the Interior, concurs in writing with the said request.

(2) **QUITCLAIM DEED.**—If the conditions described in paragraph (1) are met, the Secretary of the Army shall extinguish by quitclaim deed any reversionary or other future interest in the surface rights held by the United States in the covered property.

(3) **RIGHTS AND INTERESTS RESERVED TO THE UNITED STATES.**—In exercising the authority under this section, the Secretary of the Army may not convey or extinguish any interests reserved to the United States—

(A) pursuant to section 2 of Public Law 86-323 (73 Stat. 594; Sept. 21, 1959) in—

(i) all mineral rights (including gas and oil), together with necessary rights of ingress, egress, and surface use; or

(ii) thermal waters or other hot waters, together with necessary rights of ingress, egress, and surface use; and

(B) relating to the location, installation, and relocation of utility facilities for such mineral rights, thermal waters, or other hot waters; and

(C) in the conditions set forth in paragraphs (2) and (3) of the Deed of Conveyance.

(4) **REVERSION.**—If the Governor of the State of Arkansas does not submit a request described in subsection (b)(2) before the deadline in such subsection, all right, title and interest held by the State of Arkansas in the covered property shall revert to the United States in accordance with section 3 of Public Law 86-323 (73 Stat. 594; Sept. 21, 1959).

(c) **DEFINITION.**—In this section:

(1) The term “covered property” means the real property conveyed by the Deed of Conveyance pursuant to Public Law 86-323 (73 Stat. 594; Sept. 21, 1959).

(2) The term “Deed of Conveyance” means the quitclaim deed between the United States of America and the State of Arkansas dated March 10, 1960, recorded in the land records of the County of Garland, State of Arkansas, at book 480, page 77.

AMENDMENT NO. 234 OFFERED BY MR.  
MAGAZINER OF RHODE ISLAND

At the end of subtitle B of title VII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 7. IMPROVEMENTS TO TRICARE PROVIDER DIRECTORIES.**

(a) **VERIFICATION; UPDATES.**—A managed support contractor that supports TRICARE and maintains a directory of health care providers shall verify and update such directory not less than once every 90 days.

(b) **DATABASES.**—A managed support contractor described in subsection (a) shall update a database not later than two days after receipt of information that affects such database.

(c) **ANNUAL REVIEWS.**—The Director of the Defense Health Agency shall review directories described in subsection (a) not less than once each year.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I encourage my colleagues to support the en bloc package, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I, too, urge Members to adopt the en bloc package and yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc 3 offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS).

The en bloc amendments 3 were agreed to.

VACATING ORDERING OF RECORDED VOTE ON  
AMENDMENT NO. 47 OFFERED BY MRS. LUNA

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent that the request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 47 be withdrawn to the end that the amendment stand disposed of by the earlier voice vote thereon.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FONG) having assumed the chair, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 8070) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

**RECESS**

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

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

□ 1631

**AFTER RECESS**

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OWENS) at 4 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

**SERVICEMEMBER QUALITY OF LIFE IMPROVEMENT AND NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 8070.

Will the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG) kindly take the chair.

□ 1632

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 8070) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with Mr. ARMSTRONG (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, the request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 47 printed in part B of House Report 118-551 offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. LUNA) had been withdrawn to the end that the amendment stand adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part B of House Report 118-551 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 37 by Ms. GREENE of Georgia.

Amendment No. 52 by Mr. ROSENDALE of Montana.

Amendment No. 55 by Ms. VAN DUYN of Texas.

Amendment No. 40 by Mr. GAETZ of Florida.

Amendment No. 41 by Mr. GROTHMAN of Wisconsin.

Amendment No. 42 by Mr. NORMAN of South Carolina.

Amendment No. 43 by Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.

Amendment No. 44 by Mr. CLYDE of Georgia.

Amendment No. 45 by Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

Amendment No. 46 by Mr. STEUBE of Florida.

Amendment No. 48 by Ms. BOEBERT of Colorado.

Amendment No. 49 by Mr. MILLS of Florida.



Amendment No. 50 by Mr. WALTZ of Florida.

Amendment No. 53 by Mr. NORMAN of South Carolina.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 37 OFFERED BY MS. GREENE OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 37, printed in part B of House Report 118-551, offered by the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 74, noes 343, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 261]

AYES—74

Alford	Fry	Mast
Banks	Fulcher	Miller (IL)
Biggs	Gaetz	Miller (WV)
Billirakis	Good (VA)	Mills
Boebert	Gooden (TX)	Mooney
Bost	Gosar	Moore (AL)
Brecheen	Greene (GA)	Nehls
Burchett	Guest	Norman
Burgess	Hageman	Ogles
Burlison	Harshbarger	Perry
Cammack	Hern	Posey
Cline	Higgins (LA)	Rosendale
Cloud	Hunt	Roy
Clyde	Jordan	Self
Collins	Joyce (PA)	Smith (MO)
Comer	Langworthy	Spartz
Crane	Lee (FL)	Stauber
Davidson	Lesko	Steube
De La Cruz	Letlow	Tenney
Donalds	Luna	Tiffany
Duncan	Luttrell	Timmons
Ezell	Mace	Van Drew
Finstad	Malliotakis	Weber (TX)
Fischbach	Mann	Williams (TX)
Fitzgerald	Massie	

NOES—343

Adams	Budzinski	Craig
Aderholt	Bush	Crawford
Aguiar	Calvert	Crenshaw
Allen	Caraveo	Crockett
Allred	Carbajal	Crow
Amo	Cárdenas	Cuellar
Amodei	Carey	Curtis
Armstrong	Carl	D'Esposito
Arrington	Carson	Daids (KS)
Auchincloss	Carter (GA)	Davis (IL)
Babin	Carter (LA)	Davis (NC)
Bacon	Carter (TX)	Dean (PA)
Baird	Cartwright	DeGette
Balderson	Casar	DeLauro
Balint	Case	DeBene
Barr	Casten	Deluzio
Barragán	Castor (FL)	DeSaulnier
Beatty	Castro (TX)	DesJarlais
Bentz	Chavez-DeRemer	Diaz-Balart
Bera	Cherfilus	Doggett
Bergman	McCormick	Duarte
Beyer	Chu	Dunn (FL)
Bice	Ciscomani	Edwards
Bishop (GA)	Clark (MA)	Ellzey
Blumenauer	Clarke (NY)	Emmer
Blunt Rochester	Cleaver	Escobar
Bonamici	Clyburn	Eshoo
Boyle (PA)	Cohen	Espallat
Brown	Cole	Estes
Brownley	Connolly	Fallon
Buchanan	Correa	Feenstra
Bucshon	Courtney	Ferguson

Fitzpatrick	Lawler	Ryan
Fleischmann	Lee (CA)	Sablan
Fletcher	Lee (PA)	Salazar
Flood	Leger Fernandez	Salinas
Fong	Levin	Sánchez
Foster	Lieu	Sarbanes
Foushee	Lofgren	Scalise
Fox	Loudermilk	Scanlon
Frankel, Lois	Lucas	Schakowsky
Franklin, Scott	Luetkemeyer	Schiff
Frost	Lynch	Schneider
Gallego	Magaziner	Scholten
Garbarino	Maloy	Schrier
García (IL)	Manning	Schweikert
García (TX)	Matsui	Scott (VA)
García, Mike	McBath	Scott, Austin
García, Robert	McCaul	Scott, David
Gimenez	McClain	Sessions
Golden (ME)	McClellan	Sewell
Goldman (NY)	McClintock	Sherman
Gomez	McCollum	Sherrill
Gonzales, Tony	McCormick	Simpson
Gonzalez,	McGarvey	Slotkin
Gonzalez,	McGovern	Smith (NE)
Vicente	Meeke	Smith (NJ)
Gottheimer	Menendez	Smith (WA)
Granger	Meng	Smucker
Graves (LA)	Meuser	Sorensen
Graves (MO)	Mfume	Soto
Green (TN)	Miller (OH)	Spanberger
Green, Al (TX)	Griffith	Stansbury
Griffith	Miller-Meeks	Stanton
Grothman	Molinaro	Steel
Guthrie	Moolenaar	Stefanik
Harder (CA)	Moore (UT)	Steil
Harris	Moore (WI)	Stevens
Hayes	Moran	Strickland
Hill	Morelle	Strong
Himes	Moskowitz	Suozzi
Hinson	Moulton	Swalwell
Horsford	Moylan	Sykes
Houchin	Mrvan	Takano
Houlahan	Mullin	Thanedar
Hoyer	Nadler	Thompson (CA)
Hoyle (OR)	Napolitano	Thompson (MS)
Hudson	Neal	Thompson (PA)
Huffman	Neguse	Titus
Huizenga	Newhouse	Tlaib
Issa	Norcross	Tokuda
Ivey	Norton	Tonko
Jackson (IL)	Nunn (IA)	Torres (CA)
Jackson (NC)	Obermole	Torres (NY)
Jackson (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez	Trahan
Jacobs	Omar	Trone
James	Owens	Turner
Jeffries	Pallone	Underwood
Johnson (GA)	Palmer	Valadao
Johnson (SD)	Panetta	Van Duyn
Joyce (OH)	Pappas	Van Orden
Kamlager-Dove	Pascrell	Vargas
Kaptur	Pelosi	Vasquez
Kean (NJ)	Peltola	Veasey
Keating	Pence	Velázquez
Kelly (IL)	Perez	Wagner
Kelly (MS)	Peters	Walberg
Kelly (PA)	Petterson	Waltz
Kennedy	Pfluger	Wasserman
Khanna	Phillips	Schultz
Kiggans (VA)	Pingree	Waters
Kildee	Plaskett	Webster (FL)
Kiley	Pocan	Wenstrup
Kimler	Porter	Westerman
Kim (CA)	Pressley	Wexton
Kim (NJ)	Quigley	Wild
Krishnamoorthi	Ramirez	Williams (GA)
Kuster	Raskin	Williams (NY)
Kustoff	Rodgers (WA)	Wilson (FL)
LaHood	Rogers (AL)	Wilson (SC)
LaLota	Rogers (KY)	Wittman
Lamborn	Rose	Womack
Landsman	Ross	Yakim
Landsman	Rouzer	Zinke
Larsen (WA)	Ruiz	
Larsen (CT)	Ruppersberger	
Latta	Rutherford	
Latta		
LaTurner		

NOT VOTING—19

Bean (FL)	González-Colón	Murphy
Bishop (NC)	Grijalva	Nickel
Bowman	Jackson Lee	Radewagen
Costa	Jayapal	Reschenthaler
Dingell	LaMalfa	Watson Coleman
Evans	Lee (NV)	
Garamendi	McHenry	

□ 1705

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mrs. BEATTY,

Messrs. CRAWFORD, JEFFRIES, TAKANO, and SIMPSON, Mrs. STEEL, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Messrs. ROGERS of Kentucky and BABIN changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mmes. SPARTZ and MILLER of West Virginia changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Chair, had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 261.

AMENDMENT NO. 52 OFFERED BY MR. ROSENDALE

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. ELLZEY). The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 52, printed in part B of House Report 118-551, offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 213, noes 206, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 262]

AYES—213

Aderholt	DesJarlais	Hill
Alford	Diaz-Balart	Hinson
Allen	Donalds	Houchin
Amodei	Duarte	Hudson
Armstrong	Duncan	Huizenga
Arrington	Dunn (FL)	Hunt
Babin	Edwards	Issa
Bacon	Ellzey	Jackson (TX)
Baird	Emmer	James
Balderson	Estes	Johnson (LA)
Banks	Ezell	Johnson (SD)
Barr	Fallon	Jordan
Bean (FL)	Feenstra	Joyce (OH)
Bentz	Ferguson	Joyce (PA)
Bergman	Finstad	Kean (NJ)
Bice	Fischbach	Kelly (MS)
Biggs	Fitzgerald	Kelly (PA)
Billirakis	Fleischmann	Kiggans (VA)
Boebert	Flood	Kiley
Bost	Fong	Kim (CA)
Brecheen	Fox	Kustoff
Buchanan	Fox	LaHood
Bucshon	Franklin, Scott	LaLota
Burchett	Fry	Lamborn
Burgess	Fulcher	Langworthy
Burlison	Gaetz	Latta
Calvert	Garbarino	LaTurner
Cammack	García, Mike	Lawler
Carey	Gimenez	Lee (FL)
Carl	González-Colón	Lesko
Carter (GA)	Good (VA)	Letlow
Carter (TX)	Gooden (TX)	Loudermilk
Chavez-DeRemer	Gosar	Lucas
Ciscomani	Granger	Luetkemeyer
Cline	Graves (LA)	Luna
Cloud	Graves (MO)	Luttrell
Clyde	Green (TN)	Mace
Cole	Greene (GA)	Malliotakis
Collins	Griffith	Maloy
Comer	Grothman	Mann
Crane	Guest	Massie
Crawford	Guthrie	Mast
Crenshaw	Hageman	McCaul
Cuellar	Harris	McClain
Curtis	Harshbarger	McClintock
D'Esposito	Hern	McCormick
Davidson	Higgins (LA)	McHenry

Meuser  
Miller (IL)  
Miller (OH)  
Miller (WV)  
Miller-Meeks  
Mills  
Molinaro  
Moolenaar  
Mooney  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (UT)  
Moran  
Moylan  
Nehls  
Newhouse  
Norman  
Nunn (IA)  
Oberholte  
Ogles  
Owens  
Palmer  
Pence  
Perry  
Pfluger

Reschenthaler  
Rodgers (WA)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Thompson (PA)  
Rose  
Rosendale  
Rouzer  
Salazar  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Self  
Sessions  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smucker  
Spartz  
Stauber  
Steel  
Stefanik

Steil  
Steube  
Strong  
Tenney  
Thompson (PA)  
Tiffany  
Timmons  
Turner  
Valadao  
Van Drew  
Van Duyn  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Williams (NY)  
Williams (TX)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Yakym  
Zinke

NOES—206

Adams  
Aguilar  
Allred  
Amo  
Auchincloss  
Balint  
Barragan  
Beatty  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Boyle (PA)  
Brown  
Brownley  
Budzinski  
Bush  
Caraveo  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson  
Carter (LA)  
Cartwright  
Casar  
Case  
Casten  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Cherfilus-McCormick  
Chu  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Craig  
Crockett  
Crow  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (NC)  
Dean (PA)  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Deluzio  
DeSaulnier  
Doggett  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Españlat  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Foushee  
Frankel, Lois  
Frost  
Gallego  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Garcia, Robert  
Golden (ME)  
Goldman (NY)  
Gomez

Gonzales, Tony  
Gonzalez,  
Vicente  
Gottheimer  
Green, Al (TX)  
Harder (CA)  
Hayes  
Himes  
Horsford  
Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Hoyle (OR)  
Huffman  
Ivey  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson (NC)  
Jacobs  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Kamlager-Dove  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Khanna  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kim (NJ)  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster  
Landsman  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (PA)  
Leger Fernandez  
Levin  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Lynch  
Magaziner  
Manning  
Matsui  
McBath  
McClellan  
McCollum  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
Meeks  
Menendez  
Meng  
Mfume  
Moore (WI)  
Morelle  
Moskowitz  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Mullin  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Norcross  
Norton  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pascrell

Pelosi  
Peltola  
Perez  
Peters  
Pettersen  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Plaskett  
Pocan  
Porter  
Pressley  
Quigley  
Ramirez  
Raskin  
Ross  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Ryan  
Sabian  
Salinas  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Scholten  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Slotkin  
Smith (WA)  
Sorensen  
Spanberger  
Stansbury  
Stanton  
Stevens  
Strickland  
Suozi  
Swalwell  
Sykes  
Takano  
Thanedar  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tlaib  
Tokuda  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres (NY)  
Ciscomani  
Trahan  
Trone  
Underwood  
Vargas  
Vasquez  
Veasey  
Velázquez  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Wexton  
Wild  
Williams (GA)  
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—18

Bishop (NC)  
Bowman  
De La Cruz  
Dingell  
Evans  
Garamendi

Grijalva  
Jackson Lee  
Jayapal  
LaMalfa  
Lee (NV)  
Murphy

Nickel  
Posey  
Radewagen  
Van Orden  
Waltz  
Watson Coleman

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).  
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1709

So the amendment was agreed to.  
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 55 OFFERED BY MS. VAN DUYN  
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 55, printed in part B of House Report 118-551, offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYN), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.  
The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 214, noes 207, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 263]

AYES—214

Aderholt  
Alford  
Allen  
Amodei  
Armstrong  
Arrington  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Balderson  
Banks  
Barr  
Bean (FL)  
Bentz  
Bergman  
Bice  
Biggs  
Bilirakis  
Boebert  
Bost  
Brecheen  
Buchanan  
Bucshon  
Burchett  
Burgess  
Burlison  
Calvert  
Cammack  
Carey  
Carl  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Chavez-DeRemer  
Ciscomani  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyde  
Cole  
Collins  
Comer  
Crane  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Cuellar  
Curtis  
D'Esposito  
Davidson  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart

Donalds  
Duncan  
Dunn (FL)  
Edwards  
Ellzey  
Emmer  
Estes  
Ezell  
Fallon  
Feenstra  
Ferguson  
Finstad  
Fischbach  
Fitzgerald  
Fleischmann  
Flood  
Fong  
Foxy  
Franklin, Scott  
Fry  
Fulcher  
Gaetz  
Garbarino  
Garcia, Mike  
Gimenez  
Gonzales, Tony  
González-Colón  
Good (VA)  
Gooden (TX)  
Gosar  
Granger  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Greene (GA)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Hageman  
Harris  
Harshbarger  
Hern  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill  
Hinson  
Houchin  
Hudson  
Huizenga

Hunt  
Issa  
Jackson (TX)  
James  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (SD)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kean (NJ)  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kiggans (VA)  
Kiley  
Kim (CA)  
Kustoff  
LaHood  
LaLota  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Langworthy  
Latta  
LaTurner  
Lawler  
Lee (FL)  
Lesko  
Letlow  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Luna  
Luttrell  
Mace  
Malliotakis  
Maloy  
Mann  
Massie  
Mast  
McCaul  
McClain  
McClintock  
McCormick  
Meuser  
Miller (IL)  
Miller (OH)  
Miller (WV)  
Miller-Meeks  
Mills  
Molinaro

Moolenaar  
Mooney  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (UT)  
Moran  
Moylan  
Nehls  
Newhouse  
Norman  
Nunn (IA)  
Oberholte  
Ogles  
Owens  
Palmer  
Pence  
Perry  
Pfluger  
Posey  
Reschenthaler  
Rodgers (WA)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rose

Rosendale  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Rutherford  
Salazar  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Self  
Sessions  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smucker  
Spartz  
Stauber  
Steel  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Steube  
Strong  
Tenney

Thompson (PA)  
Tiffany  
Timmons  
Turner  
Valadao  
Van Drew  
Van Duyn  
Van Orden  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Smucker  
Williams (NY)  
Williams (TX)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Yakym  
Zinke

NOES—207

Adams  
Aguilar  
Allred  
Amo  
Auchincloss  
Balint  
Barragan  
Beatty  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Boyle (PA)  
Brown  
Brownley  
Budzinski  
Bush  
Caraveo  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson  
Carter (LA)  
Cartwright  
Casar  
Case  
Casten  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Cherfilus-McCormick  
Chu  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Craig  
Crockett  
Crow  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (NC)  
Dean (PA)  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Deluzio  
DeSaulnier  
Doggett  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Españlat  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Foushee  
Frankel, Lois  
Frost  
Gallego  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Garcia, Robert  
Golden (ME)

Goldman (NY)  
Pascrell  
Pelosi  
Peltola  
Perez  
Peters  
Pettersen  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Plaskett  
Pocan  
Porter  
Pressley  
Quigley  
Ramirez  
Raskin  
Ross  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Ryan  
Sablan  
Salinas  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Scholten  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Slotkin  
Smith (WA)  
Sorensen  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Stansbury  
Stanton  
Stevens  
Strickland  
Manning  
Matsui  
McBath  
McClellan  
McCollum  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
Meeks  
Menendez  
Meng  
Mfume  
Moore (WI)  
Morelle  
Moskowitz  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Mullin  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Norcross  
Norton  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pappas

Pascarell  
Pelosi  
Peltola  
Perez  
Peters  
Pettersen  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Plaskett  
Pocan  
Porter  
Pressley  
Quigley  
Ramirez  
Raskin  
Ross  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Ryan  
Sablan  
Salinas  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Scholten  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Slotkin  
Smith (WA)  
Sorensen  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Stansbury  
Stanton  
Stevens  
Strickland  
Manning  
Matsui  
McBath  
McClellan  
McCollum  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
Meeks  
Menendez  
Meng  
Mfume  
Moore (WI)  
Morelle  
Moskowitz  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Mullin  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Norcross  
Norton  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pappas

NOT VOTING—16

Bishop (NC)  
Bowman

De La Cruz  
Dingell

Evans  
Garamendi

Grijalva  
Jackson Lee  
Jayapal  
Lee (NV)

McHenry  
Murphy  
Nickel  
Radewagen

Waltz  
Watson Coleman

Barr  
Beatty  
Bentz  
Bera  
Bergman  
Beyer  
Bice  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (GA)  
Blunt Rochester  
Bost  
Boyle (PA)  
Brown  
Brownley  
Bucshon  
Budzinski  
Calvert  
Caraveo  
Carbajal  
Carey  
Carl  
Carson  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (LA)  
Carter (TX)  
Cartwright  
Case  
Casten  
Castor (FL)  
Chavez-DeRemer  
Ciscomani  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clyburn  
Clyde  
Cohen  
Cole  
Costa  
Courtney  
Craig  
Crenshaw  
Crow  
Cuellar  
D'Esposito  
Davids (KS)  
Davidson  
Davis (NC)  
De La Cruz  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Duarte  
Dunn (FL)  
Edwards  
Ellzey  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Espallat  
Estes  
Fallon  
Feenstra  
Ferguson  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fletcher  
Flood  
Fong  
Foster  
Foushee  
Foxy  
Frankel, Lois  
Franklin, Scott  
Fulcher  
Gallego  
Garbarino  
Garcia (TX)  
Garcia, Mike  
Gimenez  
Golden (ME)  
Goldman (NY)  
Gonzales, Tony  
Gonzalez,  
Vicente  
González-Colón  
Gooden (TX)  
Gottheimer  
Granger  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)

Green, Al (TX)  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Harder (CA)  
Hill  
Himes  
Hinson  
Horsford  
Houchin  
Hoyer  
Hudson  
Huffman  
Huizenga  
Ivey  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson (NC)  
Jackson (TX)  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (SD)  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kaptur  
Kean (NJ)  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kennedy  
Kiggans (VA)  
Kiley  
Kilmer  
Kim (CA)  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster  
Kustoff  
LaHood  
LaLota  
Lamborn  
Landsman  
Larson (CT)  
Latta  
LaTurner  
Lawler  
Lee (FL)  
Lesko  
Letlow  
Levin  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lynch  
Magaziner  
Malliotakis  
Mann  
Manning  
Mast  
Matsui  
McBath  
McCaul  
McClain  
McClellan  
McClintock  
McCormick  
McGarvey  
Meeks  
Menendez  
Meng  
Mfume  
Miller (WV)  
Miller-Meeks  
Molinaro  
Moran  
Morelle  
Moskowitz  
Moulton  
Moylan  
Mrvan  
Mullin  
Napolitano  
Neguse  
Newhouse  
Norcross  
Norton  
Obermolete  
Pallone  
Palmer

Panetta  
Pappas  
Pascrell  
Pelosi  
Pence  
Perez  
Perry  
Peters  
Petterson  
Pfluger  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Plaskett  
Quigley  
Rodgers (WA)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rose  
Ross  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Ruppersberger  
Rutherford  
Ryan  
Salazar  
Sánchez  
Scalise  
Schneider  
Scholten  
Schrier  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Self  
Sessions  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Simpson  
Slotkin  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (WA)  
Smucker  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Spartz  
Stansbury  
Stanton  
Steel  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Stevens  
Strickland  
Strong  
Suozzi  
Swalwell  
Sykes  
Thanedar  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Timmons  
Titus  
Torres (CA)  
Torres (NY)  
Trone  
Turner  
Underwood  
Valadao  
Van Drew  
Van Duyne  
Van Orden  
Vasquez  
Veasey  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Waltz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Weber (TX)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Weston  
Williams (NY)  
Williams (TX)  
Wilson (FL)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Yakym

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).  
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1717

Mses. LEGER FERNANDEZ and OCASIO-CORTEZ changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. MENG. Mr. Chair, during Roll Call Vote No. 264, I mistakenly recorded my vote as no when I should have voted aye on Gaetz Amendment No. 40.

AMENDMENT NO. 41 OFFERED BY MR. GROTHMAN  
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 41, printed in part B of House Report 118-551, offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 216, noes 206, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 265]

AYES—216

Aderholt	Diaz-Balart	Hinson
Alford	Donalds	Houchin
Allen	Duarte	Hudson
Amodei	Duncan	Huizenga
Armstrong	Dunn (FL)	Hunt
Arrington	Edwards	Issa
Babin	Ellzey	Jackson (TX)
Bacon	Emmer	James
Baird	Estes	Johnson (LA)
Balderson	Ezell	Johnson (SD)
Banks	Fallon	Jordan
Barr	Feenstra	Joyce (OH)
Bean (FL)	Ferguson	Joyce (PA)
Bentz	Finstad	Kean (NJ)
Bergman	Fischbach	Kelly (MS)
Bice	Fitzgerald	Kelly (PA)
Biggs	Fleischmann	Kiggans (VA)
Bilirakis	Flood	Kiley
Boebert	Fong	Kim (CA)
Bost	Foxy	Kustoff
Brecheen	Franklin, Scott	LaHood
Buchanan	Fry	LaLota
Bucshon	Fulcher	LaMalfa
Burchett	Gaetz	Lamborn
Burgess	Garbarino	Landsman
Burlison	Garcia, Mike	Langworthy
Calvert	Gimenez	Latta
Cammaack	Gonzales, Tony	LaTurner
Carey	González-Colón	Lawler
Carl	Good (VA)	Lee (FL)
Carter (GA)	Gooden (TX)	Lesko
Carter (TX)	Gosar	Letlow
Ciscomani	Granger	Loudermilk
Cline	Graves (LA)	Lucas
Cloud	Graves (MO)	Luetkemeyer
Clyde	Green (TN)	Luna
Cole	Greene (GA)	Luttrell
Collins	Griffith	Mace
Comer	Grothman	Malliotakis
Crane	Guest	Maloy
Crawford	Guthrie	Mann
Crenshaw	Hageman	Massie
Curtis	Harris	Mast
D'Esposito	Harshbarger	McCaul
Davidson	Hern	McClain
De La Cruz	Higgins (LA)	McClintock
DesJarlais	Hill	McCormick

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR  
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).  
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1713

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MR. GAETZ

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 40, printed in part B of House Report 118-551, offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 134, noes 286, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 264]

AYES—134

Balint	Fry	Moore (UT)
Barragán	Gaetz	Moore (WI)
Bean (FL)	García (IL)	Nadler
Biggs	García, Robert	Neal
Blumenauer	Gomez	Nehls
Boebert	Good (VA)	Nunn (IA)
Bonamici	Gosar	Ocasio-Cortez
Brecheen	Greene (GA)	Ogles
Buchanan	Griffith	Omar
Burchett	Hageman	Owens
Burgess	Harris	Peltola
Burlison	Harshbarger	Pocan
Bush	Hayes	Porter
Cammaack	Hern	Posey
Cárdenas	Higgins (LA)	Pressley
Casar	Houlihan	Ramirez
Castro (TX)	Hoyle (OR)	Raskin
Cherfilus-	Hunt	Reschenthaler
McCormick	Issa	Rosendale
Chu	Jacobs	Ruiz
Cleaver	James	Sablan
Cline	Jordan	Salinas
Cloud	Kamlager-Dove	Sarbanes
Collins	Khanna	Scanlon
Comer	Kildee	Schakowsky
Connolly	Kim (NJ)	Schiff
Correa	LaMalfa	Scott (VA)
Crane	Langworthy	Smith (NJ)
Crawford	Larsen (WA)	Sorensen
Crockett	Lee (CA)	Stauber
Curtis	Lee (PA)	Steube
Davis (IL)	Leger Fernandez	Takano
Dean (PA)	Luna	Tenney
DeGette	Luttrell	Thompson (PA)
Deluzio	Maloy	Tiffany
DeSaulnier	Massie	Tlaib
Doggett	McColumm	Tokuda
Donalds	McGovern	Tonko
Duncan	Meuser	Trahan
Emmer	Miller (IL)	Vargas
Ezell	Miller (OH)	Velázquez
Finstad	Mills	Webster (FL)
Fischbach	Moolenaar	Wild
Fitzgerald	Mooney	Williams (GA)
Frost	Moore (AL)	Zinke

NOES—286

Adams	Allred	Auchincloss
Aderholt	Amo	Bacon
Aguilar	Amodei	Baird
Alford	Armstrong	Balderson
Allen	Arrington	Banks

Babin	Grijalva	Nickel
Bishop (NC)	Jackson Lee	Norman
Bowman	Jayapal	Radewagen
Dingell	Lee (NV)	Watson Coleman
Evans	McHenry	
Garamendi	Murphy	

NOT VOTING—16

Meuser  
Miller (IL)  
Miller (OH)  
Miller (WV)  
Miller-Meeks  
Mills  
Molinaro  
Moolenaar  
Mooney  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (UT)  
Moran  
Moylan  
Nehls  
Newhouse  
Norman  
Nunn (IA)  
Obernolte  
Ogles  
Owens  
Palmer  
Pence  
Perry  
Pfluger  
Posey

Resenthaler  
Rodgers (WA)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rose  
Rosendale  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Rutherford  
Salazar  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Self  
Sessions  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smucker  
Spartz  
Stauber  
Steel  
Stefanik  
Steil

Steube  
Strong  
Tenney  
Thompson (PA)  
Tiffany  
Timmons  
Turner  
Valadao  
Van Drew  
Van Dune  
Van Orden  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Waltz  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Williams (NY)  
Williams (TX)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Yakym  
Zinke

NOES—206

Adams  
Aguilar  
Allred  
Amo  
Auchincloss  
Balint  
Barragán  
Beatty  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Boyle (PA)  
Brown  
Brownley  
Budzinski  
Bush  
Caraveo  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson  
Carter (LA)  
Cartwright  
Casar  
Case  
Casten  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chavez-DeRemer  
Cherfilus-  
McCormick  
Chu  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Craig  
Crockett  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (NC)  
Dean (PA)  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Deluzio  
DeSaulnier  
Doggett  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Espallat  
Fitzpatrick  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Foushee  
Frankel, Lois  
Frost  
Gallego  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Garcia, Robert

Golden (ME)  
Goldman (NY)  
Gomez  
Gonzalez,  
Vicente  
Gottheimer  
Green, Al (TX)  
Harder (CA)  
Hayes  
Himes  
Horsford  
Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Hoyle (OR)  
Huffman  
Ivey  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson (NC)  
Jacobs  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Kamlager-Dove  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Khanna  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kim (NJ)  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (PA)  
Leger Fernandez  
Levin  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Lynch  
Magaziner  
Manning  
Matsui  
McBath  
McClellan  
McCollum  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
Meeks  
Menendez  
Meng  
Mfume  
Moore (WI)  
Morelle  
Moskowitz  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Mullin  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Norcross  
Norton  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pascrell

Pelosi  
Peltola  
Perez  
Peters  
Pettersen  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Plaskett  
Pocan  
Porter  
Pressley  
Ramirez  
Raskin  
Ross  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Ryan  
Sablan  
Salinas  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Scholten  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Slotkin  
Smith (WA)  
Sorensen  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Stansbury  
Stanton  
Stevens  
Strickland  
Biggs  
Bilirakis  
Swalwell  
Sykes  
Takano  
Thanedar  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tlaib  
Tokuda  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres (NY)  
Trahan  
Trone  
Underwood  
Vargas  
Vasquez  
Veasey  
Velázquez  
Cole  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Wexton  
Wild  
Williams (GA)  
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—15

Bishop (NC)  
Bowman  
Dingell  
Evans  
Garamendi

Grijalva  
Jackson Lee  
Jayapal  
Kaptur  
Lee (NV)

McHenry  
Murphy  
Nickel  
Radewagen  
Watson Coleman

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR  
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).  
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1720

So the amendment was agreed to.  
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.  
Stated against:  
Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Chair, during Roll Call Vote No. 265, I mistakenly recorded my vote as aye when I should have voted no on the Grothman No. 41 Amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 42 OFFERED BY MR. NORMAN  
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 42, printed in part B of House Report 118–551, offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.  
The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.  
The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.  
A recorded vote was ordered.  
The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.  
The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 212, noes 212, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 266]

AYES—212

Aderholt  
Alford  
Allen  
Amodei  
Larmstrong  
Arrington  
Babin  
Baird  
Balderson  
Banks  
Barr  
Bean (FL)  
Bentz  
Bergman  
Bice  
Biggs  
Bilirakis  
Boebert  
Sykes  
Bost  
Brecheen  
Buchanan  
Bucshon  
Burchett  
Burgess  
Burlison  
Calvert  
Cammack  
Carey  
Carl  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Ciscomani  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyde  
Cole  
Collins  
Comer  
Crane  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Curtis  
D'Esposito

Davidson  
De La Cruz  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Donalds  
Duarte  
Duncan  
Dunn (FL)  
Edwards  
Ellzey  
Emmer  
Estes  
Ezell  
Fallon  
Feenstra  
Ferguson  
Finstad  
Fischbach  
Fitzgerald  
Fleischmann  
Flood  
Fong  
Foxy  
Franklin, Scott  
Fry  
Fulcher  
Gaetz  
Garbarino  
Garcia, Mike  
Gimenez  
Gonzales, Tony  
Good (VA)  
Gooden (TX)  
Gosar  
Granger  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Greene (GA)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie

Hageman  
Harris  
Harshbarger  
Hern  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill  
Hinson  
Houchin  
Hudson  
Huizenga  
Hunt  
Issa  
Jackson (TX)  
James  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (SD)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kean (NJ)  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kiggans (VA)  
Kiley  
Kim (CA)  
Kustoff  
LaHood  
LaLota  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Langworthy  
Latta  
LaTurner  
Lawler  
Lee (FL)  
Lesko  
Letlow  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Luna  
Luttrell  
Mace

Malliotakis  
Maloy  
Mann  
Massie  
Mast  
McCaul  
McClain  
McClintock  
McCormick  
McHenry  
Meuser  
Miller (IL)  
Miller (OH)  
Miller (WV)  
Miller-Weeks  
Mills  
Molinaro  
Moolenaar  
Mooney  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (UT)  
Moran  
Moylan  
Nehls  
Newhouse  
Norman  
Nunn (IA)  
Ogles

Owens  
Palmer  
Pence  
Perry  
Pfluger  
Posey  
Resenthaler  
Rodgers (WA)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rose  
Rosendale  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Rutherford  
Salazar  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Self  
Sessions  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smucker  
Spartz  
Stauber

Steel  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Pence  
Perry  
Pfluger  
Posey  
Resenthaler  
Rodgers (WA)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rose  
Rosendale  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Rutherford  
Salazar  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Self  
Sessions  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smucker  
Spartz  
Stauber

NOES—212

Adams  
Aguilar  
Allred  
Amo  
Auchincloss  
Bacon  
Balint  
Barragán  
Beatty  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Boyle (PA)  
Brown  
Brownley  
Budzinski  
Bush  
Caraveo  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson  
Carter (LA)  
Cartwright  
Casar  
Case  
Casten  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chavez-DeRemer  
Cherfilus-  
McCormick  
Chu  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Craig  
Crockett  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (NC)  
Dean (PA)  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Deluzio  
DeSaulnier  
Doggett  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Espallat  
Fitzpatrick  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Foushee  
Frankel, Lois  
Frost  
Gallego  
Garcia (IL)

Garcia (TX)  
Garcia, Robert  
Golden (ME)  
Goldman (NY)  
Gomez  
Gonzalez,  
Vicente  
González-Colón  
Gottheimer  
Green, Al (TX)  
Harder (CA)  
Hayes  
Himes  
Horsford  
Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Hoyle (OR)  
Huffman  
Ivey  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson (NC)  
Jacobs  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Kamlager-Dove  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Khanna  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kim (NJ)  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster  
Landsman  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (PA)  
Leger Fernandez  
Levin  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Lynch  
Magaziner  
Manning  
Matsui  
McBath  
McClellan  
McCollum  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
Meeks  
Menendez  
Meng  
Mfume  
Moore (WI)  
Morelle  
Moskowitz  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Mullin  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Norcross  
Norton

Obernolte  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pascrell  
Pelosi  
Peltola  
Perez  
Peters  
Pettersen  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Plaskett  
Pocan  
Porter  
Pressley  
Quigley  
Ramirez  
Raskin  
Ross  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Ryan  
Sablan  
Salinas  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Scholten  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Slotkin  
Smith (WA)  
Sorensen  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Stansbury  
Stanton  
Stevens  
Strickland  
Suozi  
Swalwell  
Sykes  
Takano  
Thanedar  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tlaib  
Tokuda  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres (NY)  
Trahan  
Trone  
Turner  
Underwood  
Vargas  
Vasquez

Velázquez	Waters	Williams (GA)
Wasserman	Wexton	Wilson (FL)
Schultz	Wild	

NOT VOTING—13

Bishop (NC)	Grijalva	Nickel
Bowman	Jackson Lee	Radewagen
Dingell	Jayapal	Watson Coleman
Evans	Lee (NV)	
Garamendi	Murphy	

Estes	Kelly (PA)	Pfluger
Ezell	Kiggans (VA)	Posey
Fallon	Kiley	Reschenthaler
Feenstra	Kim (CA)	Rodgers (WA)
Ferguson	Kustoff	Rogers (AL)
Finstad	LaHood	Rogers (KY)
Fischbach	LaLota	Rose
Fitzgerald	LaMalfa	Rosendale
Fleischmann	Lamborn	Rouzer
Flood	Langworthy	Roy
Fong	Latta	Rutherford
Fox	LaTurner	Salazar
Franklin, Scott	Lawler	Scalise
Fry	Lee (FL)	Schweikert
Fulcher	Lesko	Scott, Austin
Gaetz	Letlow	Self
Garbarino	Loudermilk	Sessions
Garcia, Mike	Lucas	Simpson
Gimenez	Luetkemeyer	Smith (MO)
Gonzales, Tony	Luna	Smith (NE)
Good (VA)	Luttrell	Smith (NJ)
Gooden (TX)	Mace	Smucker
Gosar	Malliotakis	Spartz
Granger	Maloy	Staubert
Graves (LA)	Mann	Steel
Graves (MO)	Massie	Stefanik
Green (TN)	Mast	Steil
Greene (GA)	McCaul	Steube
Griffith	McClain	Strong
Grothman	McClintock	Tenney
Guest	McCormick	Thompson (PA)
Guthrie	McHenry	Tiffany
Hageman	Meuser	Timmons
Harris	Miller (IL)	Valadao
Harshbarger	Miller (OH)	Van Drew
Hern	Miller (WV)	Van Duyne
Higgins (LA)	Miller-Meeks	Van Orden
Hill	Mills	Wagner
Hinson	Molinaro	Walberg
Houchin	Moolenaar	Waltz
Hudson	Mooney	Weber (TX)
Huizenga	Moore (AL)	Webster (FL)
Hunt	Moore (UT)	Wenstrup
Issa	Moran	Westerman
Jackson (TX)	Nehls	Williams (NY)
James	Newhouse	Williams (TX)
Johnson (LA)	Norman	Wilson (SC)
Johnson (SD)	Nunn (IA)	Wittman
Jordan	Ogles	Womack
Joyce (OH)	Owens	Yakym
Joyce (PA)	Palmer	Zinke
Kean (NJ)	Pence	
Kelly (MS)	Perry	

Napolitano	Ryan	Takano
Neal	Salinas	Thanedar
Neguse	Sánchez	Thompson (CA)
Norcross	Sarbanes	Thompson (MS)
Obermoite	Scanlon	Titus
Ocasio-Cortez	Schakowsky	Tlaib
Omar	Schiff	Tokuda
Pallone	Schneider	Tonko
Panetta	Scholten	Torres (CA)
Pappas	Schrier	Torres (NY)
Pascrell	Scott (VA)	Trahan
Pelosi	Scott, David	Trone
Peltola	Sewell	Turner
Perez	Sherman	Underwood
Peters	Sherrill	Vargas
Pettersen	Slotkin	Vasquez
Phillips	Smith (WA)	Veasey
Pingree	Sorensen	Velázquez
Pocan	Soto	Wasserman
Porter	Spanberger	Schultz
Pressley	Stansbury	Waters
Quigley	Stanton	Wexton
Ramirez	Stevens	Wild
Raskin	Strickland	Williams (GA)
Ross	Suozzi	Wilson (FL)
Ruiz	Swalwell	
Ruppersberger	Sykes	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR  
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).  
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1728

So the amendment was rejected.  
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6(h) of rule XVIII, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE) having assumed the chair, Mr. ELLZEY, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported to the House that during consideration of the bill (H.R. 8070) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the votes cast by the Delegates and the Resident Commissioner were decisive on a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The Clerk designated the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 6(h) of rule XVIII, the Chair will put the question to the House de novo.

The question is on the amendment.

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 211, noes 208, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 267]

AYES—211

Aderholt	Bost	Collins
Alford	Brecheen	Comer
Allen	Buchanan	Crane
Amodi	Bucshon	Crawford
Armstrong	Burchett	Crenshaw
Arrington	Burgess	Curtis
Babin	Burlison	D'Esposito
Baird	Calvert	Davidson
Balderson	Cammack	De La Cruz
Banks	Carey	DesJarlais
Barr	Carl	Diaz-Balart
Bean (FL)	Carter (GA)	Donalds
Bentz	Carter (TX)	Duarte
Bergman	Ciscomani	Duncan
Bice	Cline	Dunn (FL)
Biggs	Cloud	Edwards
Billirakis	Clyde	Ellzey
Boebert	Cole	Emmer

NOES—208

Adams	Craig
Aguilar	Crockett
Allred	Crow
Amo	Cuellar
Auchincloss	David (KS)
Bacon	Davis (IL)
Balint	Davis (NC)
Barragán	Dean (PA)
Beatty	DeGette
Bera	DeLauro
Beyer	DelBene
Bishop (GA)	Deluzio
Blumenauer	DeSaunier
Blunt Rochester	Doggett
Bonamici	Escobar
Boyle (PA)	Eshoo
Brown	Espaillet
Brownley	Fitzpatrick
Budzinski	Fletcher
Bush	Foster
Caraveo	Foushee
Carbajal	Frankel, Lois
Cárdenas	Frost
Carson	Gallego
Carter (LA)	Garcia (IL)
Cartwright	Garcia (TX)
Case	Garcia, Robert
Casten	Golden (ME)
Castor (FL)	Goldman (NY)
Castro (TX)	Gomez
Chavez-DeRemer	Gonzalez,
Cherfilus-	Vicente
McCormick	Gottheimer
Chu	Green, Al (TX)
Clark (MA)	Harder (CA)
Clarke (NY)	Hayes
Cleaver	Himes
Clyburn	Horsford
Cohen	Houlahan
Connolly	Hoyer
Correa	Hoyle (OR)
Costa	Huffman
Courtney	Ivey
	Jackson (IL)

Jackson (NC)	Jacobs
Jeffries	Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove	Kaptur
Kelly (IL)	Keating
Kennedy	Kelly (IL)
Khanna	Kilmer
Kildee	Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi	Kuster
Landsman	Landsman
Larsen (WA)	Larsen (CT)
Lee (CA)	Lee (CA)
Lee (PA)	Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez	Levin
Lieu	Lofgren
Lynch	Lynch
Magaziner	Manning
Matsui	McBath
McClellan	McCollum
McGovern	McGovern
Meeks	Menendez
Meng	Mfume
Morelle	Moore (WI)
Moskowitz	Moulton
Murphy	Murphy
Mullin	Nadler

NOT VOTING—12

Bishop (NC)	Garamendi	Lee (NV)
Bowman	Grijalva	Murphy
Dingell	Jackson Lee	Nickel
Evans	Jayapal	Watson Coleman

□ 1734

So the amendment was agreed to.  
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 6(h) of rule XVIII, the Committee will resume its sitting.

□ 1738

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 8070) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with Mr. ELLZEY (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) had been rejected on a recorded vote on which the votes cast by the Delegates and the Resident Commissioner were decisive.

That result has since been rejected by the House.

AMENDMENT NO. 43 OFFERED BY MR. HIGGINS OF LOUISIANA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 43, printed in part B of House Report 118-551, offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 214, noes 210, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 268]

AYES—214

Aderholt	Garcia, Mike	Miller-Meeks
Alford	Jimenez	Mills
Allen	Gonzales, Tony	Molinaro
Amodei	González-Colón	Moolenaar
Armstrong	Good (VA)	Mooney
Arrington	Gooden (TX)	Moore (AL)
Babin	Gosar	Moore (UT)
Bacon	Granger	Moran
Baird	Graves (LA)	Moylan
Balderson	Graves (MO)	Nehls
Banks	Green (TN)	Newhouse
Barr	Greene (GA)	Norman
Bean (FL)	Griffith	Nunn (IA)
Bentz	Grothman	Obernolte
Bergman	Guest	Ogles
Bice	Guthrie	Owens
Biggs	Hageman	Palmer
Billirakis	Harris	Pence
Boebert	Harshbarger	Perry
Bost	Hern	Pfleger
Brecheen	Higgins (LA)	Posay
Buchanan	Hill	Reschenthaler
Buchson	Hinson	Rodgers (WA)
Burchett	Houchin	Rodgers (AL)
Burgess	Hudson	Rodgers (KY)
Burlison	Huizenga	Rose
Calvert	Hunt	Rosendale
Cammack	Issa	Rouzer
Carey	Jackson (TX)	Roy
Carl	James	Rutherford
Carter (GA)	Johnson (LA)	Salazar
Carter (TX)	Johnson (SD)	Scalise
Ciscomani	Jordan	Schweikert
Cline	Joyce (OH)	Scott, Austin
Cloud	Joyce (PA)	Self
Clyde	Kelly (MS)	Sessions
Cole	Kelly (PA)	Simpson
Collins	Kiggans (VA)	Smith (MO)
Comer	Kiley	Smith (NE)
Crane	Kim (CA)	Smith (NJ)
Crawford	Kustoff	Smucker
Crenshaw	LaHood	Spartz
Curtis	LaLota	Stauber
D'Esposito	LaMalfa	Steel
Davidson	Lamborn	Stefanik
De La Cruz	Langworthy	Steil
DesJarlais	Latta	Steupe
Diaz-Balart	LaTurner	Strong
Donalds	Lawler	Lee (FL)
Duarte	Lee (FL)	Tenney
Duncan	Lesko	Thompson (PA)
Dunn (FL)	Letlow	Tiffany
Edwards	Loudermilk	Timmons
Ellzey	Lucas	Valadao
Emmer	Luetkemeyer	Van Drew
Estes	Luna	Van Duyne
Ezell	Luttrell	Van Orden
Fallon	Mace	Wagner
Feenstra	Malliotakis	Walberg
Ferguson	Maloy	Waltz
Finstad	Mann	Weber (TX)
Fischbach	Massie	Webster (FL)
Fitzgerald	Mast	Wenstrup
Fleischmann	McCaul	Westerman
Flood	McClain	Williams (NY)
Fong	McClintock	Williams (TX)
Foxx	McCormick	Wilson (SC)
Franklin, Scott	McHenry	Wittman
Fry	Meuser	Womack
Fulcher	Miller (IL)	Yakym
Gaetz	Miller (OH)	Zinke
Garbarino	Miller (WV)	

NOES—210

Adams	Boyle (PA)	Castor (FL)
Aguilar	Brown	Castro (TX)
Allred	Brownley	Chavez-DeRemer
Amo	Budzinski	Cherfilus-
Auchincloss	Bush	McCormick
Balint	Caraveo	Chu
Barragán	Carbajal	Clark (MA)
Beatty	Cárdenas	Clarke (NY)
Bera	Carson	Cleaver
Beyer	Carter (LA)	Clyburn
Bishop (GA)	Cartwright	Cohen
Blumenauer	Casar	Connolly
Blunt Rochester	Case	Correa
Bonamici	Casten	Costa

Courtney	Kilmer	Raskin
Craig	Kim (NJ)	Ross
Crockett	Krishnamoorthi	Ruiz
Crow	Kuster	Ruppersberger
Cuellar	Landsman	Ryan
Dauids (KS)	Larsen (WA)	Sablan
Davis (IL)	Larson (CT)	Salinas
Davis (NC)	Lee (CA)	Sánchez
Dean (PA)	Lee (PA)	Sarbanes
DeGette	Scanlon	Allen
DeLauro	Leger Fernandez	Scanlon
DelBene	Levin	Schakowsky
Deluzio	Lieu	Schiff
DeSaulnier	Lofgren	Schneider
Doggett	Lynch	Scholten
Escobar	Magaziner	Schrier
Eshoo	Manning	Scott (VA)
Espallat	Matsui	Scott, David
Fitzpatrick	McBath	Sewell
Fletcher	McClellan	Sherman
Foster	McColum	Sherrill
Foushee	McGarvey	Slotkin
Frankel, Lois	McGovern	Smith (WA)
Frost	Meeks	Smith (WA)
Gallego	Menendez	Sorensen
Garcia (IL)	Meng	Soto
Garcia (TX)	Mfume	Spanberger
Garcia, Robert	Moore (WI)	Stansbury
Golden (ME)	Morelle	Stanton
Goldman (NY)	Moskowitz	Stevens
Gomez	Moulton	Strickland
Gonzalez,	Mrvan	Suozi
Vicente	Mullin	Swalwell
Gottheimer	Nadler	Sykes
Green, Al (TX)	Napolitano	Takano
Harder (CA)	Neal	Thanedar
Hayes	Neguse	Thompson (CA)
Himes	Norcross	Thompson (MS)
Horsford	Norton	Titus
Houlihan	Ocasio-Cortez	Tlaib
Hoyer	Omar	Tokuda
Hoyle (OR)	Pallone	Tonko
Huffman	Panetta	Torres (CA)
Ivey	Pappas	Torres (NY)
Jackson (IL)	Pascrell	Trahan
Jackson (NC)	Pelosi	Trone
Jacobs	Peltola	Turner
Jeffries	Perez	Underwood
Johnson (GA)	Peters	Vargas
Kamlager-Dove	Pettersen	Vasquez
Kaptur	Phillips	Veasey
Kean (NJ)	Pingree	Velázquez
Keating	Plaskett	Wasserman
Kelly (IL)	Pocan	Schultz
Kennedy	Porter	Waters
Khanna	Porter	Weston
Kildee	Pressley	Wild
	Quigley	Williams (GA)
	Ramirez	Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—13

Bishop (NC)	Grijalva	Nickel
Bowman	Jackson Lee	Radewagen
Dingell	Jayapal	Watson Coleman
Evans	Lee (NV)	
Garamendi	Murphy	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1739

So the amendment was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 44 OFFERED BY MR. CLYDE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 44, printed in part B of House Report 118–551, offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 192, noes 230, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 269]

AYES—192

Aderholt	Fulcher	Molinaro
Alford	Jimenez	Moolenaar
Allen	González-Colón	Mooney
Amodei	Good (VA)	Moore (AL)
Armstrong	Gooden (TX)	Moore (UT)
Arrington	Gosar	Moran
Babin	Granger	Moylan
Baird	Graves (LA)	Nehls
Balderson	Graves (MO)	Norman
Banks	Green (TN)	Nunn (IA)
Barr	Greene (GA)	Obernolte
Bean (FL)	Griffith	Ogles
Bentz	Grothman	Owens
Bergman	Guest	Palmer
Bice	Guthrie	Pence
Biggs	Hageman	Perry
Billirakis	Harris	Pfleger
Boebert	Harshbarger	Posay
Bost	Hern	Reschenthaler
Brecheen	Higgins (LA)	Rodgers (WA)
Buchanan	Hill	Rodgers (AL)
Buchson	Houchin	Rodgers (KY)
Burchett	Hudson	Rose
Burlison	Huizenga	Rosendale
Calvert	Hunt	Rouzer
Cammack	Issa	Roy
Carey	Jackson (TX)	Rutherford
Carl	Johnson (LA)	Salazar
Carter (GA)	Johnson (SD)	Scalise
Carter (TX)	Jordan	Schweikert
Ciscomani	Joyce (PA)	Self
Cline	Kelly (MS)	Sessions
Cloud	Kelly (PA)	Simpson
Clyde	Kiggans (VA)	Smith (MO)
Cole	Kiley	Smith (NE)
Collins	Kim (CA)	Smith (NJ)
Comer	Kustoff	Smucker
Crane	LaHood	Spartz
Crawford	LaLota	Stauber
Crenshaw	LaMalfa	Steel
Curtis	Lamborn	Stefanik
D'Esposito	Langworthy	Steil
Davidson	Latta	Steupe
De La Cruz	LaTurner	Strong
DesJarlais	Lawler	Lee (FL)
Diaz-Balart	Lee (FL)	Tenney
Donalds	Lesko	Thompson (PA)
Duncan	Letlow	Tiffany
Dunn (FL)	Loudermilk	Timmons
Edwards	Lucas	Valadao
Ellzey	Luetkemeyer	Van Drew
Emmer	Luna	Van Duyne
Estes	Luttrell	Van Orden
Ezell	Mace	Wagner
Fallon	Malliotakis	Walberg
Ferguson	Maloy	Waltz
Finstad	Mann	Weber (TX)
Fischbach	Massie	Webster (FL)
Fitzgerald	Mast	Wenstrup
Fleischmann	McCaul	Westerman
Flood	McClain	Williams (NY)
Fong	McClintock	Williams (TX)
Foxx	McCormick	Wilson (SC)
Franklin, Scott	McHenry	Wittman
Fry	Meuser	Womack
Fulcher	Miller (IL)	Yakym
Gaetz	Miller (OH)	Zinke
Garbarino	Miller (WV)	

NOES—230

Adams	Cartwright	Davis (NC)
Aguilar	Casar	Dean (PA)
Allred	Case	DeGette
Amo	Casten	DeLauro
Auchincloss	Castor (FL)	DelBene
Bacon	Castro (TX)	Deluzio
Balint	Chavez-DeRemer	DeSaulnier
Barragán	Cherfilus-	Doggett
Beatty	McCormick	Duarte
Bera	Chu	Escobar
Beyer	Ciscomani	Eshoo
Bishop (GA)	Clark (MA)	Espallat
Blumenauer	Clarke (NY)	Feenstra
Blunt Rochester	Cleaver	Fitzpatrick
Bonamici	Clyburn	Fletcher
Boyle (PA)	Cohen	Poster
Brown	Connolly	Foushee
Brownley	Correa	Frankel, Lois
Budzinski	Costa	Frost
Burgess	Courtney	Gallego
Bush	Craig	Garbarino
Caraveo	Crockett	Garcia (IL)
Carbajal	Crow	Garcia (TX)
Cárdenas	Cuellar	Garcia, Mike
Carson	Dauids (KS)	Garcia, Robert
Carter (LA)	Davis (IL)	Golden (ME)



Goldman (NY)      McBeth  
Gomez                McClain  
Gonzalez,          McClellan  
    Vicente          McCollum  
Gottheimer        McGarvey  
Green, Al (TX)    McGovern  
Harder (CA)        Meeks  
Hayes                Menendez  
Himes                Meng  
Hinson              Mfume  
Horsford           Miller-Meeks  
Houlahan           Moore (WI)  
Hoyer                Morelle  
Hoyle (OR)        Moskowitz  
Huffman            Moulton  
Ivey                 Mrvan  
Jackson (IL)       Mullin  
Jackson (NC)       Nadler  
Jacobs              Napolitano  
James                Neal  
Jeffries             Neguse  
Johnson (GA)     Newhouse  
Joyce (OH)        Norcross  
Kamlager-Dove    Norton  
Kaptur              Ocasio-Cortez  
Kean (NJ)          Omar  
Keating             Pallone  
Kelly (IL)          Panetta  
Kennedy            Pappas  
Khanna             Pascrell  
Kildee              Pelosi  
Kiley                Peltola  
Kilmer              Perez  
Kim (CA)           Peters  
Kim (NJ)            Pettersen  
Krishnamoorthi   Phillips  
Kuster              Pingree  
LaLota              Plaskett  
Landsman          Pocan  
Larsen (WA)       Porter  
Larson (CT)        Pressley  
Lawler              Quigley  
Lee (CA)            Ramirez  
Lee (PA)            Raskin  
Leger Fernandez   Ross  
Levin                Ruiz  
Lieu                 Ruppertsberger  
Lofgren            Ryan  
Lynch               Sablan  
Magaziner         Salinas  
Manning            Sánchez  
Matsui              Sarbanes

Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Scholten  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Simpson  
Slotkin  
Smith (WA)  
Sorensen  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Stansbury  
Stanton  
Steil  
Stevens  
Strickland  
Suozi  
Swalwell  
Sykes  
Takano  
Thanedar  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tlaib  
Tokuda  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres (NY)  
Ciscomani  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyde  
Cole  
Collins  
Comer  
Crane  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Curtis  
D'Esposito  
Davidson  
De La Cruz  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Donalds  
Duarte  
Duncan  
Dunn (FL)  
Edwards  
Elizy  
Emmer  
Estes  
Ezell  
Fallon  
Feenstra  
Ferguson  
Finstad  
Fischbach  
Fitzgerald  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Flood  
Fong  
Foxy  
Franklin, Scott  
Fry  
Fulcher  
Gaetz

NOT VOTING—15

Bishop (NC)      Garamendi      Lee (NV)  
Bowman            Gonzales, Tony    Murphy  
Dingell            Grijalva          Nickle  
Evans              Jackson Lee        Radewagen  
Gaetz                Jayapal            Watson Coleman

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).  
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1742

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced  
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 45 OFFERED BY MR. WILLIAMS  
OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished  
business is the demand for a recorded  
vote on amendment No. 45, printed in  
part B of House Report 118-551, offered  
by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WIL-  
LIAMS), on which further proceedings  
were postponed and on which the ayes  
prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the  
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-  
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote  
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-  
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-  
vice, and there were—ayes 218, noes 206,  
not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 270]  
AYES—218  
Garbarino  
Garcia, Mike  
Gimenez  
Gonzales, Tony  
Moolenaar  
Good (VA)  
Gooden (TX)  
Gossar  
Granger  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Greene (GA)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Hageman  
Harris  
Harshbarger  
Hern  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill  
Hinson  
Houchin  
Hudson  
Huizenga  
Hunt  
Issa  
Jackson (TX)  
James  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (SD)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kean (NJ)  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kiggans (VA)  
Kiley  
Kim (CA)  
Kustoff  
LaHood  
LaLota  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Langworthy  
Latta  
LaTurner  
Lawler  
Lee (FL)  
Lesko  
Letlow  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Luna  
Luttrell  
Mace  
Malliotakis  
Maloy  
Mann  
Massie  
Mast  
McCaul  
McClain  
McClintock  
McCormick  
McHenry  
Meuser  
Miller (IL)  
Miller (OH)

NOES—206

Adams  
Aguilar  
Allred  
Amo  
Auchincloss  
Balint  
Barragán  
Beatty  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Boyle (PA)  
Brown  
Brownley  
Budzinski  
Bush  
Caraveo  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson  
Carter (LA)  
Cartwright  
Casar  
Case  
Casten  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Cherfilus-  
    McCormick  
Chu  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Craig  
Crockett  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (NC)  
Dean (PA)  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Deluzio  
DeSaulnier  
Doggett  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Españolat  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Foushee  
Frankel, Lois

Frost  
Gallego  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Garcia, Robert  
Golden (ME)  
Goldman (NY)  
Gomez  
Gonzalez,  
    Vicente  
Gottheimer  
Green, Al (TX)  
Harder (CA)  
Hayes  
Himes  
Horsford  
Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Hoyle (OR)  
Huffman  
Ivey  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson (NC)  
Jacobs  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Kamlager-Dove  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Khanna  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kim (NJ)  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster  
Landsman  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (PA)  
Leger Fernandez  
Levin  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Lynch  
Magaziner  
Manning  
Matsui  
McBeth  
McClellan  
McCollum  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
Meeks  
Menendez  
Meng  
Mfume  
Moore (WI)  
Morelle  
Moskowitz  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Mullin  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Norcross  
Norton  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pascrell  
Pelosi  
Peltola  
Perez  
Peters  
Pettersen  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Plaskett  
Pocan  
Porter  
Pressley  
Quigley  
Ramirez  
Raskin  
Ross  
Ruiz  
Ruppertsberger  
Ryan  
Sablan  
Salinas  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Scholten  
Scholten  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Slotkin  
Smith (WA)  
Sorensen  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Stansbury  
Stanton  
Steil  
Stevens  
Strickland  
Suozi  
Swalwell  
Sykes  
Takano  
Thanedar  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tlaib  
Tokuda  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres (NY)  
Trahan  
Trone  
Underwood  
Vargas  
Vasquez  
Veasey  
Velázquez  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Wexton  
Wild  
Williams (GA)  
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—13

Bishop (NC)      Grijalva          Nickle  
Bowman            Jackson Lee        Radewagen  
Dingell            Jayapal            Watson Coleman  
Evans              Lee (NV)  
Garamendi        Murphy

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).  
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1745

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced  
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 46 OFFERED BY MR. STEUBE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished  
business is the demand for a recorded  
vote on amendment No. 46, printed in  
part B of House Report 118-551, offered  
by the gentleman from Florida (Mr.  
STEUBE), on which further proceedings  
were postponed and on which the ayes  
prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the  
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-  
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote  
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-  
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-  
vice, and there were—ayes 221, noes 202,  
not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 271]

AYES—221

Aderholt	Garza	Miller (IL)
Alford	Garbarino	Miller (OH)
Allen	Garcia, Mike	Miller (WV)
Amodei	Gimenez	Miller-Meeeks
Armstrong	Gonzales, Tony	Mills
Arrington	Gonzalez,	Molinaro
Babin	Vicente	Moolenaar
Bacon	González-Colón	Mooney
Baird	Good (VA)	Moore (AL)
Balderson	Gooden (TX)	Moore (UT)
Banks	Gosar	Moran
Barr	Granger	Moylan
Bean (FL)	Graves (LA)	Nehls
Bentz	Graves (MO)	Newhouse
Bergman	Green (TN)	Norman
Bice	Greene (GA)	Nunn (IA)
Biggs	Griffith	Oberholte
Bilirakis	Grothman	Ogles
Boebert	Guest	Owens
Bost	Guthrie	Palmer
Brecheen	Hageman	Pence
Buchanan	Harris	Perry
Bucshon	Harshbarger	Pfluger
Burchett	Hern	Posey
Burgess	Higgins (LA)	Reschenthaler
Burlison	Hill	Rodgers (WA)
Calvert	Hinson	Rogers (AL)
Cammack	Houchin	Rogers (KY)
Carey	Hudson	Rose
Carl	Huizenga	Rosendale
Carter (GA)	Hunt	Rouzer
Carter (TX)	Issa	Roy
Chavez-DeRemer	Jackson (TX)	Rutherford
Ciscomani	James	Salazar
Cline	Johnson (LA)	Scalise
Cloud	Johnson (SD)	Schweikert
Clyde	Jordan	Scott, Austin
Cole	Joyce (OH)	Self
Collins	Joyce (PA)	Sessions
Comer	Kean (NJ)	Simpson
Crane	Kelly (MS)	Smith (MO)
Crawford	Kelly (PA)	Smith (NE)
Crenshaw	Kiggans (VA)	Smith (NJ)
Cuellar	Kiley	Smucker
Curtis	Kim (CA)	Spartz
D'Esposito	Kustoff	Stauber
Davidson	LaHood	Steel
Davis (NC)	LaLota	Stefanik
De La Cruz	LaMalfa	Steil
DesJarlais	Lamborn	Steube
Diaz-Balart	Langworthy	Strong
Donalds	Latta	Tenney
Duarte	LaTurner	Thompson (PA)
Duncan	Lawler	Tiffany
Dunn (FL)	Lee (FL)	Timmons
Edwards	Lesko	Turner
Ellzey	Letlow	Valadao
Emmer	Loudermilk	Van Drew
Estes	Lucas	Van Dwyne
Ezell	Luetkemeyer	Van Orden
Fallon	Luna	Wagner
Feenstra	Luttrell	Walberg
Ferguson	Mace	Waltz
Finstad	Malliotakis	Weber (TX)
Fischbach	Maloy	Webster (FL)
Fitzgerald	Mann	Wenstrup
Fitzpatrick	Massie	Westerman
Fleischmann	Mast	Williams (NY)
Flood	McCaul	Williams (TX)
Fong	McClain	Wilson (SC)
Foxx	McClintock	Wittman
Franklin, Scott	McCormick	Womack
Fry	McHenry	Yakym
Fulcher	Meuser	Zinke

NOES—202

Adams	Carbajal	Costa
Aguilar	Cárdenas	Courtney
Allred	Carson	Craig
Amo	Carter (LA)	Crockett
Auchincloss	Cartwright	Crow
Balint	Casar	Davids (KS)
Barragán	Case	Davis (IL)
Beatty	Casten	Dean (PA)
Bera	Castor (FL)	DeGette
Beyer	Castro (TX)	DeLauro
Bishop (GA)	Cherfilus-	DelBene
Blumenauer	McCormick	Deluzio
Blunt Rochester	Chu	DeSaulnier
Bonamici	Clark (MA)	Doggett
Boyle (PA)	Clarke (NY)	Escobar
Brown	Cleaver	Eshoo
Brownley	Clyburn	Españolat
Budzinski	Cohen	Fletcher
Bush	Connolly	Foster
Caraveo	Correa	Foushee

Frankel, Lois	Matsui	Sarbanes
Frost	McBath	Scanlon
Gallego	McClellan	Schakowsky
Garcia (IL)	McCollum	Schiff
Garcia (TX)	McGarvey	Schneider
Garcia, Robert	McGovern	Scholten
Golden (ME)	Meeks	Schrier
Goldman (NY)	Menendez	Scott (VA)
Gomez	Meng	Scott, David
Gottheimer	Mfume	Sewell
Green, Al (TX)	Moore (WI)	Sherman
Harder (CA)	Morelle	Sherrill
Hayes	Moskowitz	Slotkin
Himes	Moulton	Smith (WA)
Horsford	Mrvan	Sorensen
Houlihan	Mullin	Soto
Hoyer	Nader	Spanberger
Hoyle (OR)	Napolitano	Stansbury
Huffman	Neal	Stanton
Ivey	Neguse	Stevens
Jackson (IL)	Norcross	Strickland
Jackson (NC)	Norton	Suozi
Jacobs	Ocasio-Cortez	Swalwell
Jeffries	Omar	Sykes
Johnson (GA)	Pallone	Takano
Kamlager-Dove	Panetta	Thanedar
Kaptur	Pappas	Thompson (CA)
Keating	Pascrell	Thompson (MS)
Kelly (IL)	Pelosi	Titus
Kennedy	Peltola	Tlaib
Khanna	Perez	Tokuda
Kildee	Peters	Tonko
Kilmer	Pettersen	Torres (CA)
Kim (NJ)	Phillips	Torres (NY)
Krishnamoorthi	Pingree	Trahan
Kuster	Plaskett	Trone
Landsman	Pocan	Underwood
Larsen (WA)	Porter	Vargas
Larsen (CT)	Pressley	Vazquez
Lee (CA)	Quigley	Veasey
Lee (PA)	Ramirez	Velázquez
Leger Fernandez	Raskin	Wasserman
Levin	Ross	Schultz
Lieu	Ruiz	Waters
Lofgren	Ruppersberger	Wexton
Lynch	Ryan	Wild
Magaziner	Salinas	Williams (GA)
Manning	Sánchez	Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—14

Bishop (NC)	Grijalva	Nickel
Bowman	Jackson Lee	Radewagen
Dingell	Jayapal	Sablan
Evans	Lee (NV)	Watson Coleman
Garamendi	Murphy	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1748

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 48 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 48, printed in part B of House Report 118-551, offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. Boebert), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 215, noes 206, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 272]

AYES—215

Aderholt	Garbarino	Miller (OH)
Alford	Garcia, Mike	Miller (WV)
Allen	Gimenez	Mills
Amodei	Gonzales, Tony	Molinaro
Armstrong	González-Colón	Moolenaar
Arrington	Good (VA)	Mooney
Babin	Gooden (TX)	Moore (AL)
Bacon	Gosar	Moore (UT)
Baird	Granger	Moran
Balderson	Graves (LA)	Moylan
Banks	Graves (MO)	Nehls
Barr	Green (TN)	Newhouse
Bean (FL)	Greene (GA)	Norman
Bentz	Griffith	Oberholte
Bergman	Grothman	Ogles
Bice	Guest	Owens
Biggs	Guthrie	Palmer
Bilirakis	Hageman	Pence
Boebert	Harris	Perry
Bost	Harshbarger	Pfluger
Brecheen	Hern	Posey
Buchanan	Higgins (LA)	Reschenthaler
Bucshon	Hill	Rodgers (WA)
Burchett	Hinson	Rogers (AL)
Burgess	Houchin	Rogers (KY)
Burlison	Hudson	Rose
Calvert	Huizenga	Rosendale
Cammack	Hunt	Rouzer
Carey	Issa	Roy
Carl	Jackson (TX)	Rutherford
Carter (GA)	James	Salazar
Carter (TX)	Johnson (LA)	Scalise
Chavez-DeRemer	Johnson (SD)	Schweikert
Ciscomani	Jordan	Scott, Austin
Cline	Joyce (OH)	Self
Cloud	Joyce (PA)	Sessions
Clyde	Kean (NJ)	Simpson
Cole	Kelly (MS)	Smith (MO)
Collins	Kelly (PA)	Smith (NE)
Comer	Kiggans (VA)	Smith (NJ)
Crane	Kim (CA)	Smucker
Crawford	Kustoff	Spartz
Crenshaw	LaHood	Stauber
Curtis	LaLota	Steel
D'Esposito	LaMalfa	Stefanik
Davidson	Lamborn	Steube
De La Cruz	Langworthy	Strong
DesJarlais	Latta	Tenney
Diaz-Balart	LaTurner	Thompson (PA)
Donalds	Lawler	Tiffany
Duarte	Lee (FL)	Timmons
Duncan	Lesko	Turner
Dunn (FL)	Letlow	Valadao
Edwards	Ellzey	Loudermilk
Emmer	Emmer	Lucas
Estes	Ezell	Luetkemeyer
Ezell	Fallon	Luna
Fallon	Feenstra	Luttrell
Ferguson	Ferguson	Mace
Finstad	Finstad	Malliotakis
Fischbach	Fischbach	Maloy
Fitzgerald	Fitzgerald	Mann
Fleischmann	Fleischmann	Massie
Flood	Flood	McCaul
Fong	Fong	McClain
Foxx	Foxx	McClintock
Franklin, Scott	Franklin, Scott	McCormick
Fry	Fry	McHenry
Fulcher	Fulcher	Meuser
	Gaetz	Miller (IL)

NOES—206

Adams	Carson	Crow
Aguilar	Carter (LA)	Cuellar
Allred	Cartwright	Davids (KS)
Amo	Casar	Davis (IL)
Auchincloss	Case	Davis (NC)
Balint	Casten	Dean (PA)
Barragán	Castor (FL)	DeGette
Beatty	Castro (TX)	DeLauro
Bera	Cherfilus-	DelBene
Beyer	McCormick	Deluzio
Bishop (GA)	Chu	DeSaulnier
Blumenauer	Clark (MA)	Doggett
Blunt Rochester	Clarke (NY)	Escobar
Bonamici	Cleaver	Eshoo
Boyle (PA)	Boyle (PA)	Clyburn
Brown	Cohen	Españolat
Brownley	Connolly	Fitzpatrick
Budzinski	Correa	Fletcher
Bush	Costa	Foushee
Caraveo	Courtney	Frankel, Lois
Carbajal	Craig	Frost
Cárdenas	Crockett	Gallego



[Roll No. 274]

AYES—205

Aderholt  
Alford  
Allen  
Amodei  
Armstrong  
Arrington  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Balderson  
Banks  
Barr  
Bean (FL)  
Bentz  
Bergman  
Bice  
Biggs  
Bilirakis  
Boebert  
Bost  
Brecheen  
Buchanan  
Bucshon  
Burchett  
Burgess  
Burlison  
Calvert  
Cammack  
Carey  
Carl  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyde  
Cole  
Collins  
Comer  
Crane  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Curtis  
Davidson  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Donalds  
Duncan  
Dunn (FL)  
Edwards  
Ellzey  
Emmer  
Estes  
Ezell  
Fallon  
Feenstra  
Ferguson  
Finstad  
Fischbach  
Fitzgerald  
Fleischmann  
Flood  
Fong  
Foxy  
Fry  
Fulcher  
Gaetz  
Garbarino  
Garcia, Mike  
Gimenez  
Gonzales, Tony  
González-Colón  
Good (VA)  
Gooden (TX)  
Gosar  
Granger  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Greene (GA)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Hageman  
Harris  
Harshbarger  
Hern  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill  
Houchin  
Hudson  
Hunt  
Huizenga  
Issa  
Jackson (TX)  
James  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (SD)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kean (NJ)  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kiley  
Kim (CA)  
Kustoff  
LaHood  
LaLota  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Langworthy  
Latta  
LaTurner  
Lee (FL)  
Lesko  
Letlow  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Luna  
Luttrell  
Mace  
Maloy  
Mann  
Massie  
Mast  
McCaul  
McClain  
McClintock  
McCormick  
McHenry  
Meuser  
Miller (IL)  
Miller (OH)  
Miller (WV)  
Mills  
Moolenaar  
Mooney  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (UT)  
Moran  
Moylan  
Nehls  
Newhouse  
Norman  
Oberholte  
Ogles  
Owens  
Palmer  
Pence  
Perry  
Pfluger  
Posey  
Reschenthaler  
Rodgers (WA)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rose  
Rosendale  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Rutherford  
Salazar  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Self  
Sessions  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smucker  
Spartz  
Stauber  
Steel  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Steube  
Strong  
Tenney  
Thompson (PA)  
Tiffany  
Timmons  
Turner  
Valadao  
Van Drew  
Van Dуйne  
Van Orden  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Waltz  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Williams (NY)  
Williams (TX)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Yakym  
Zinke

NOES—216

Adams  
Aguilar  
Allred  
Amo  
Auchincloss  
Balint  
Barragán  
Beatty  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Boyle (PA)  
Brown  
Brownley  
Budzinski  
Bush  
Caraveo  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson  
Carter (LA)  
Cartwright  
Casar  
Case  
Casten  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chavez-DeRemer  
Cherfilus-  
McCormick  
Chu  
Ciscomani  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Craig  
Crockett  
Crow  
Cuellar  
D'Esposito  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (NC)  
De La Cruz  
Dean (PA)  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Deluzio  
DeSaulnier  
Doggett  
Duarte  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Españat  
Fitzpatrick  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Foushee  
Frankel, Lois  
Frost  
Gallego  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
García, Robert  
Golden (ME)

Goldman (NY)  
Gomez  
Gonzalez,  
Vicente  
Gottheimer  
Green, Al (TX)  
Harder (CA)  
Hayes  
Himes  
Hinson  
Horsford  
Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Hoyle (OR)  
Huffman  
Ivey  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson (NC)  
Jacobs  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Kamlager-Dove  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Khanna  
Kiggans (VA)  
Roy  
Kilmer  
Kim (NJ)  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster  
Landsman  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawler  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (PA)  
Leger Fernandez  
Levin  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Lynch  
Magaziner  
Manning  
Matsui  
McBath  
McClellan  
McCollum  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
Meeks  
Menendez  
Meng  
Mfume  
Molinaro  
Moore (WI)  
Morelle  
Moskowitz  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Mullin  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Norcross  
Norton  
Nunn (IA)  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pascrell  
Pelosi  
Peltola  
Perez  
Peters  
Petterson  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Plaskett  
Pocan  
Porter  
Pressley  
Quigley  
Ramirez  
Raskin  
Ross  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Ryan  
Salinas  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Scholten  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Slotkin  
Smith (WA)  
Sorensen  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Stansbury  
Stanton  
Stevens  
Strickland  
Suozi  
Swalwell  
Sykes  
Takano  
Thanedar  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tlaib  
Tokuda  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres (NY)  
Trahan  
Trone  
Underwood  
Vargas  
Vasquez  
Veasey  
Velázquez  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Wexton  
Wild  
Williams (GA)  
William (FL)

NOT VOTING—16

Bishop (NC)  
Bowman  
Dingell  
Evans  
Franklin, Scott  
Garamendi  
Grijalva  
Jackson Lee  
Jayapal  
Lee (NV)  
Miller-Meeks  
Murphy  
Nickel  
Radewagen  
Sablan  
Watson Coleman

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR  
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).  
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1759

So the amendment was rejected.  
The result of the vote was announced  
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 53 OFFERED BY MR. NORMAN  
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished  
business is the demand for a recorded  
vote on amendment No. 53, printed in  
part B of House Report 118-551, offered  
by the gentleman from South Carolina  
(Mr. NORMAN), on which further pro-  
ceedings were postponed and on which  
the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the  
amendment.  
The Clerk redesignated the amend-  
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote  
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-  
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-  
vice, and there were—ayes 218, noes 205,  
not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 275]

AYES—218

Aderholt  
Alford  
Allen  
Amodei  
Armstrong  
Arrington  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Balderson  
Banks  
Barr  
Bean (FL)  
Bentz  
Bergman  
Bice  
Biggs  
Bilirakis  
Boebert  
Bost  
Brecheen  
Buchanan  
Bucshon  
Burchett  
Burgess  
Burlison  
Calvert  
Cammack  
Carey  
Carl  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Chavez-DeRemer  
Ciscomani  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyde  
Cole  
Collins  
Comer  
Crane  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Curtis  
Davidson  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Donalds  
Duarte  
Duncan  
Edwards  
Ellzey  
Emmer  
Estes  
Ezell  
Fallon  
Feenstra  
Ferguson  
Finstad  
Fischbach  
Fitzgerald  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Flood  
Fong  
Foxy  
Fry  
Fulcher  
Gaetz  
Garbarino  
Garcia, Mike  
Gimenez  
Miller (WV)  
Miller-Meeks  
Mills  
Molinaro  
Moolenaar  
Mooney  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (UT)  
Moran  
Moylan  
Nehls  
Newhouse  
Norman  
Nunn (IA)  
Oberholte  
Ogles  
Owens  
Palmer  
Pence  
Perry  
Pfluger  
Posey  
Reschenthaler  
Rodgers (WA)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rose  
Rosendale  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Rutherford  
Salazar  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Self  
Sessions  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smucker  
Spartz  
Stauber  
Steel  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Steube  
Strong  
Tenney  
Thompson (PA)  
Tiffany  
Timmons  
Turner  
Valadao  
Van Drew  
Van Dуйne  
Van Orden  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Waltz  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Williams (NY)  
Williams (TX)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Yakym  
Zinke

NOES—205

Adams  
Aguilar  
Allred  
Amo  
Auchincloss  
Balint  
Barragán  
Beatty  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Boyle (PA)  
Brown  
Brownley  
Budzinski  
Bush  
Caraveo  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson  
Carter (LA)  
Cartwright  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (NC)  
Dean (PA)  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Deluzio  
DeSaulnier  
Doggett  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Craig  
Crockett  
Crow  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (NC)  
Dean (PA)  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Deluzio  
DeSaulnier  
Doggett  
Dunn (FL)  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Españat  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Foushee  
Frankel, Lois

Frost	Matsui	Scanlon
Gallego	McBath	Schakowsky
Garcia (IL)	McClellan	Schiff
Garcia (TX)	McCollum	Schneider
Garcia, Robert	McGarvey	Scholten
Golden (ME)	McGovern	Schrier
Goldman (NY)	Meeks	Scott (VA)
Gomez	Menendez	Scott, David
Gonzalez,	Meng	Sewell
Vicente	Mfume	Sherman
Gottheimer	Moore (WI)	Sherrill
Green, Al (TX)	Morelle	Slotkin
Harder (CA)	Moskowitz	Smith (WA)
Hayes	Moulton	Sorensen
Himes	Mrvan	Soto
Horsford	Mullin	Spanberger
Houlahan	Nadler	Stansbury
Hoyer	Napolitano	Stanton
Hoyle (OR)	Neal	Stevens
Huffman	Neguse	Strickland
Ivey	Norcross	Suozi
Jackson (IL)	Norton	Swalwell
Jackson (NC)	Ocasio-Cortez	Sykes
Jacobs	Omar	Takano
Jeffries	Pallone	Thanedar
Johnson (GA)	Panetta	Thompson (CA)
Kamlaiger-Dove	Pappas	Thompson (MS)
Kaptur	Pascrell	Titus
Keating	Pelosi	Tlaib
Kelly (IL)	Peltola	Tokuda
Kennedy	Perez	Tonko
Khanna	Peters	Torres (CA)
Kildee	Pettersen	Torres (NY)
Kilmer	Phillips	Trahan
Kim (NJ)	Pingree	Trone
Krishnamoorthi	Plaskett	Underwood
Kuster	Pocan	Vargas
Landsman	Porter	Vasquez
Larsen (WA)	Pressley	Veasey
Larson (CT)	Quigley	Velázquez
Lee (CA)	Ramirez	Wasserman
Lee (PA)	Raskin	Schultz
Leger Fernandez	Ross	Waters
Levin	Ruiz	Wexton
Lieu	Ruppersberger	Wild
Lofgren	Ryan	Williams (GA)
Lynch	Salinas	Wilson (FL)
Magaziner	Sánchez	
Manning	Sarbanes	

NOT VOTING—14

Bishop (NC)	Grijalva	Nickel
Bowman	Jackson Lee	Radewagen
Dingell	Jayapal	Sablan
Evans	Lee (NV)	Watson Coleman
Garamendi	Murphy	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1804

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Chair, my vote was not recorded today. Had it been recorded, I would have voted NO on Roll Call No. 261, NO on Roll Call No. 262, NO on Roll Call No. 263, NO on Roll Call No. 264, NO on Roll Call No. 265, NO on Roll Call No. 266, NO on Roll Call No. 267, NO on Roll Call No. 268, NO on Roll Call No. 269, NO on Roll Call No. 270, NO on Roll Call No. 271, NO on Roll Call No. 272, NO on Roll Call No. 273, NO on Roll Call No. 274, and NO on Roll Call No. 275.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STRONG) having assumed the chair, Mr. ELLZEY, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 8070) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for

military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REMEMBERING CAROLINE DOWLING

(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 mourn the loss of Caroline Dowling, who tragically passed away at just the age of 11. Caroline passed away on May 18 after sustaining multiple injuries in an accident.

Caroline is from Pierce County, Georgia, where she lived her whole life and attended Patterson Elementary School. In school, she was an A/B honor roll student and received numerous awards. She was awarded the highest achievement in reading, the highest average in social studies, the PBIS award, the PE award, and the young authors winner in 2022.

Caroline also participated in sports, including basketball and softball, where she made the Pierce County 12U all-star softball team.

Caroline also had a love for animals. She enjoyed riding her horse, Honey, and playing with her dog, Rudy, and her cat, Milo.

She was a member of First Baptist Church and attended fourth and fifth grade Sunday School classes.

Caroline Dowling was a loving and caring young lady who made others feel valued, and I send my deepest condolences to the whole Dowling family.

RECOGNIZING ANTI-LYNCHING AWARENESS MONTH IN NORTH CAROLINA

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge a significant part of our journey toward justice and reconciliation in our State. Last month, a historic statewide anti-lynching proclamation was signed by Governor Roy Cooper, designating May as Anti-Lynching Awareness Month in North Carolina.

This proclamation resulted from the efforts of members of the Community Remembrance Project of the Warren County NAACP, which partners with local coalitions and the Equal Justice Initiative.

The proclamation shined a light on the painful and often overlooked history of lynchings in our State. It calls for awareness and recognition of the significance of civil rights to ensure that such atrocities never happen again.

RETURN TO TRUMP BORDER POLICIES

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, the chaos at our borders today is caused by President Biden unilaterally ending the effective policies of President Trump. It was his first act in office, and it has cost our Nation dearly.

Now, we face a crisis. Our cities and States are overwhelmed by millions of illegal immigrants, who are costing taxpayers billions while American citizens are pushed to the back of the line.

Deadly fentanyl is flowing through unchecked, along with violent gang members and terrorists on the FBI's watch list. We witnessed the horrific murder of Laken Riley and the shooting of two NYPD officers. Yet, the President has done nothing.

This is how we end the chaos: One, we must restore the remain in Mexico policy. Two, we end catch and release. Three, we enforce the laws on the books. Four, on top of that, the millions who have entered illegally must be deported to restore order and security.

President Trump's policies worked, and we must return to them. This is not about politics. It is about the safety and sovereignty of our great Nation.

□ 1815

HONORING MORGAN WILLIAMS

(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 today with a heavy heart to honor and remember Mr. Morgan Williams, a remarkable red, white, and blue patriot who loved freeholder agriculture and its connection to liberty.

An experienced agriculturalist with a deep passion for farming, Morgan was a friend and tireless advocate for U.S.-Ukraine relations. For the last four decades of his life, he devoted himself halfway around our world to developing the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation and Business Council, profoundly influencing the growth and strength of business ties between our two nations.

He understood the precious potential of Ukraine to our world. He also compassionately assembled the largest collection of artworks about Stalin's forced famine in Ukraine in the last century, the Holodomor, in which millions upon millions upon millions of innocents perished.

He was a fervent supporter of Ukrainian culture and history. He was one of a kind.

Morgan's efforts and love for Ukraine have left an indelible mark, and his absence leaves a great void in many hearts. We honor his memory and commitment to liberty and his understanding of the land freely held or not

freely held, and when not freely held, how permanent serfdom locks down.

May his legacy inspire us all to strive for a free and prosperous Ukraine.

Rest in peace, Morgan. Your life has made a difference on planet Earth.

#### HONORING WILLIE MIMS

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, on May 22, the community I am fortunate to represent in the San Francisco Bay area lost a community leader and a giant for justice, equity, and inclusion and a good friend, Willie Mims.

Throughout his life, Willie demonstrated his passion for his community, working tirelessly to empower and serve Contra Costa County and the Bay Area. A teacher by training, he spent more than 25 years in the classroom supporting and inspiring young minds and advocating on behalf of Contra Costa parents and students.

As a civil rights leader, Willie was an original member of the Pittsburg, California, Black Political Association and executive board member of the East County Branch of the NAACP and was instrumental in the creation of the Antioch, California, School District's African-American Male Initiative, which sought to address racial disparities between Black students and their peers. For his tireless work, Willie received the Dr. Martin Luther King Freedom Fighter Award in 2008 and was the Contra Costa County 2024 Humanitarian of the Year.

It was an honor and a pleasure, and I am filled with gratitude, to have known Willie and to have been his friend over the years. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and the community.

#### AIRLINE AUTOMATIC REFUNDS

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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, dealing with a flight delay or cancellation is tiring and frustrating, and it often feels like the airlines are working against you rather than treating you as a valued customer. When things go wrong, even getting a refund can be discouraging or impossible.

Not anymore, because thanks to the Biden administration's new rule, airlines must now automatically refund customers for tickets and fees when a flight is canceled or significantly delayed.

I applaud the administration's rule, and Congress should do even more to stand up to the airline industry.

I have consistently taken on airlines who spend tens of millions of dollars each year lobbying Washington to prevent protections for travelers.

This Congress, I introduced four bills to protect Americans from corporate

abuse when they fly, and I will keep working to hold airlines accountable and do right by travelers.

#### A DARK STAIN ON AMERICA'S HISTORY

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

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, June 14, 2017, was a dark stain on America's history. There are several of us in this room today who would not be here for two reasons. Number one, and first and foremost, by the grace of God, and number two, by the fact that then-Majority Whip STEVE SCALISE showed up for practice that morning. Without his security detail, none of us would be here.

The deranged gunman that took, for whatever reason, revenge upon the Republicans on the baseball field that morning sought to give no mercy, just to create havoc.

We know that we are better than the behavior that we saw that day. The bond that brought us all together, especially that day on the baseball field, spread, I believe, throughout the country to bring people together at a time when we needed it. We continue to need it.

When I mention now-Leader SCALISE coming that day, he is only here because of the actions of one of our Members, and that man is Representative BRAD WENSTRUP, combat surgeon, dedicated soldier, and ready for the task at hand. As I personally witnessed BRAD tending to Representative SCALISE on the field, it was truly BRAD's readiness and professionalism that enabled the life flight to occur and SCALISE to successfully make it to the hospital.

I commend Colonel WENSTRUP for what he did and the calm with which he did it. It is the calm, not the excitement, that drives us to the positive results. I cannot thank him enough, as a personal friend, for what he has done for the community as a whole to show what good behavior really means in the face of extreme adversity.

I am honored to be among my colleagues here tonight.

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

#### 6/14/2017—A DAY OF INFAMY IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 9, 2023, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I thank those that are here tonight to speak on the experience from that day.

I thought it would be appropriate that we start with Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. DUNCAN was one of the first to leave practice that day, and he will share his experience at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for actually holding this Special Order to talk about what happened in 2017.

One year ago tomorrow marks the day we had baseball practice right before the game. It was the day before the game, and Ron DeSantis, now Governor of Florida, the Representative from that State, rode to practice with me.

That morning, we were on the field. I was starting shortstop. Ron was starting third baseman. As we did at every practice, we had infield practice and then we had batting practice. During batting practice, many of us were out there shagging balls. Ron was standing at third, I was standing at shortstop, and Ron said: "When are you thinking about leaving, JEFF?" He said: "I have got a meeting I can get to if we could head on." I said: "Well, you have done infield and batting practice, and I have."

Chairman MIKE CONAWAY from Texas was in the batting cage batting, and I said: "Let's let Chairman CONAWAY finish, and then we can go."

CONAWAY finished. We ran off the field. I ran around the pitcher's mound. STEVE SCALISE was at second base. I fist-bumped STEVE as I went off the field and went to the dugout. Tom Rooney was at first base. Tom said: "DUNCAN, what time is it?"

I got my bag. I had a bag that I kept keys, phone and all that in. I came out told him what time it was. Tom had to leave, so he left, and he was the first one out of the gate.

Ron DeSantis went off the field, and then I went off the field. Out in the parking lot, I was stopped by a gentleman who said: "Excuse me. Can you tell me who is practicing today, Republicans or Democrats?" I said: "This is the Republican team practicing." He said: "Thank you."

It turned out that was a shooter. I was face-to-face with him for a brief interlude before he left the parking lot to go into his van by the YMCA and load his weapons and get prepared to fire about 137 rounds at my colleagues who I left on the baseball field that morning as I drove back to the Capitol.

There were a lot of God winks in that event that morning. I can't thank anyone but my Lord and Savior for getting me off that field and away from danger. I would have been standing at shortstop. Ron DeSantis would have been at third base. TRENT KELLY was the third



baseman after Ron left. The first shot was fired at TRENT and hit a chain link fence. One-eighth of an inch definitely saved TRENT's life. It rattled the gentleman, and I think it made him erratic and start shooting my colleagues, spraying bullets across the field that hit STEVE SCALISE, Zack Barth, and Matt Mika, and others.

It turns out that the gentleman had come from Illinois to the Washington area to assassinate Republicans. He had a list in his pocket with six or eight names on it that he wanted to kill. My name was on that list. I was face-to-face with him. Thank God he wasn't prepared at that moment because he had targeted me specifically. He had my name, my address, my age, my physical description, and a number of other things.

There were a lot of God winks on that field that day. We are just thankful that no one died, especially our Majority Leader STEVE SCALISE, my good friend, who the next year, after he recovered from his wounds, came out on the baseball field and had the first pitch in a live pitch baseball game off a bat hit directly to him. He was at second base. I was at shortstop. I came around to back him up behind the bag, and I was the first one there to take him in my arms and hug him and just praise God that he was there for that moment.

As I wrap up here and give others a chance to share their memories, I will give a special shout-out to some heroes of that day. That is David Bailey and Crystal Griner, who were there as STEVE's detail, who actually fended off the shooter and kept, I think, much more harm from being done if that shooter had been able to get on the field. Then the Alexandria Police Department showed up 11 minutes, 12 minutes after the shooting started. That is how quickly it happened. They dispatched the assassin, who the FBI said was hoping to die by suicide by cop.

He was an assassin. Let's call him what he was. He knew he would probably die that day, but he wanted to take out as many Republicans as he could. It was a tragic day that day, but it was special because no one died. Everyone lived. There were so many God winks that were there.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, there clearly was a lot of divine intervention. We titled this event tonight: "6/14/2017—A Day of Infamy in America."

"Infamy" means an evil act, and it truly was that.

I remember watching JEFF DUNCAN leave. I was out in the outfield, and I was thinking to myself: I usually have to leave early. Today I don't. I can stay longer.

There were so many things that were divine intervention.

I met the groundskeeper a couple months later. He said: "I don't know why, but I locked the third-base gate the night before." If that gate was open, he could have walked right in.

The fences are 20-feet high. People can't just hop the fence and get out.

Thank goodness for STEVE SCALISE. He took a bullet for all of us.

The first shot rang out. It hit a link in the fence right by the bullpen. It was our last practice, so our pitchers weren't in the bullpen. That was another divine intervention.

TRENT KELLY, a two-star general who did a couple tours overseas, was at third base, and he immediately cries out: "There is a shooter," and everyone started to disperse. Along the way, everybody was trying to help one another.

A young man, Matt Mika, was hit severely in the side of his chest and out the front of his chest. STEVE went down, and he was crawling towards the outfield. Then he came to a stop, and there he lay.

In the meantime, everyone else was running to try and get out on the first-base side, diving into the dugout, which served as a bunker, as the shooter eventually started shooting above the dugout. You can see the bullet holes there today.

We were blessed that David and Crystal were there as well as the Alexandria Police ultimately. They were both hit, actually, but they were there and saved our lives.

I had changed my mind. For some reason, after I had batting practice, I was on my way back to the outfield. I changed my mind and went down to the batting cage, which is outside the fence of the field on the first-base side.

□ 1830

The shooter started on the third-base side.

A shot rang out at about 7 o'clock in the morning. I got down on the ground.

I served as a combat surgeon in Iraq. My instincts kicked in, and I am thinking: Who is doing the shooting? How many people are doing the shooting?

God put me in a place where I could see the shooter, and I could see the Capitol Police. I could see where everyone was, including STEVE. Thank God for that. I thank God for that. When they eventually took him down, I was able to run out to STEVE.

There were 136 rounds fired that day. Most people don't know that. This went on for a while. Most people think a guy came along and fired a shot. No, it was far more than that.

When I got to STEVE, I was able to recognize that he was hurt worse than people might have thought because he was bleeding internally. We were able to slow down his bleeding. The rest is history, and he was able to make it to the hospital. When he got to the hospital, he no longer had blood pressure, but they were able to save his life.

A lot of miracles and a lot of sacrifices were made. I have always said it is kind of interesting that it happened around a baseball game because baseball is the only sport I know that has a play called a sacrifice where you give of yourself to advance another. I saw so

many people on the field that day doing whatever they could to help those who were hit.

Paul Ryan came on the floor that day and said: "An attack on one of us is an attack on all of us."

I agree. We are fortunate to be here today, all of us. That is part of what we want to talk about today is how grateful we are to God for the divine intervention that occurred for so many as we tell our story. It could have been far worse.

To think that if STEVE SCALISE wasn't there, there would have been no Capitol Police, and this man could have walked onto that field and killed up to 20 or 30 Members of Congress and staff, possibly changing the balance of power in the House of Representatives in one morning.

I contend that is an insurrection. That is an insurrection, but we survived. We are grateful. We stand here today grateful, and we don't want this day to be pushed aside in the books of history. This is bigger than that. God was on our side.

We did everything we could for each other on that day, and that is an important message that we want to share with Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to now introduce the manager of our baseball team—after a very successful stewardship of the baseball game last night. This is Representative ROGER WILLIAMS of Texas, and I shared with him how someone last night before the game asked me, when this game comes around, do you think of the events of that day? I said that I think of the events of that day every day of my life.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS).

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. It is special to be here tonight, and I thank my friend for calling us together to remember this day.

To me, it is like it was yesterday. I got up that morning just like we all did, got ready, and went to practice. My situation was that I was hitting ground balls to TRENT KELLY. I finished with TRENT and went around and started hitting balls. I said to SCALISE: "I am coming at you."

I remember I threw the ball up, and as soon as I hit it with the bat to SCALISE, a shot went off. Little did I know that the shooter was probably 30 feet or 20 feet behind me. I did not know that. A shot went off, and TRENT KELLY yelled: "He has got a gun. Head for cover:

When he said that, my instincts told me to get to the dugout. Fortunately for all of us, the dugouts were dugouts. They were dug into the ground, not like today where they are flat.

I remember I ran to the dugout and jumped, and it was like jumping into a swimming pool with no water. I remember as I was in the air heading into the dugout, what went through my mind was: I am not surprised because of the anger we have up here.

When I hit the dugout, I slid all the way on the concrete to the dugout and slid into the arms of two of my teammates, Jeff Flake and Mo Brooks. We three were in the corner, and as BRAD said, this guy was firing. There were actually some shells going into the dugout.

Two of the coaches, Larry Hardy and Donnie Watson, were in that dugout. We were all trying to stay away from the action.

Out of nowhere came my aide who worked for me and who came with me to every batting practice, Zach Barth, and Zach had been in center field shagging balls.

When the shooting started, he ran to the right-field foul pole to get as far away as he could from the shooter, but the shooter followed him and shot at him 10 times and missed him. Zach decided the only way he was going to stay alive was to get to the dugout, and he ran to the dugout.

During that running from the right-field line to the dugout, he got shot in the leg. He dove into the dugout, as I did, not knowing I was there. He dove into the dugout and dove right into my arms. At that moment, you had a bonding of a 67-year-old man and a 24-year-old kid. I held him in my arms, and he was saying: "I'm hit, I'm hit."

Mo Brooks, Jeff Flake, and I were there. We didn't know what to do. We didn't have the experience that Dr. WENSTRUP and others had had, but God kicked in. Mo Brooks removed his belt, and we tightened it around his leg to stop the bleeding. We all hunkered down.

Then we heard that SCALISE was down. We couldn't see it. We were in the dugout, but we heard that STEVE had been hit.

These shots were going off, and we didn't hear anything from the Capitol Police. In our situation, we thought they had probably been killed. We decided if this guy came around where we were, we were going to charge him. Maybe it would work, maybe it wouldn't, but we had made that commitment to each other that we would do that.

Then, we heard the sirens, and we were praying for sirens. When you are praying for sirens, Mr. Speaker, it takes a long time, but we heard the sirens, which told us people knew we were in trouble. It was the Arlington Police. When they got there, we heard shooting. It was not just an AK-47 going off. We heard 9 millimeters that were going off.

We praised God for Crystal Griner and David Bailey. I remember being in the dugout and looking up, and David Bailey was down in the dugout and shooting like this at the perpetrator to keep him from coming around to the rest of us.

Finally, it ended. I remember somebody started yelling: "Everybody out of the dugout. Everybody out of the dugout."

I told the guys I was with: "I'm not getting out of the dugout. I don't know who that is. I am staying here."

About that time, we saw the police, and we got out of the dugout. A helicopter, I think, had come to get STEVE, if I remember. There was a lot of chaos. People gathered around together. Dr. WENSTRUP saw me, and I had been injured in the ankle, and he called an ambulance for me and said: "Get him to the hospital."

It was the first time I had ever been in an ambulance, and they took me to the hospital. That night I was in the hospital, and BRAD came to see me. I will never forget that. President Trump called me, and Vice President Pence called me. He said: "Should we play the game tomorrow?" I said: "Absolutely. We can't let this end like this."

In my situation, I had got hit with shrapnel, and Dr. WENSTRUP knows exactly what I had, but I had a lot of treatment. There was a decision made that if I didn't get better in 2 weeks that I might lose my leg.

It was a life-changer for all of us. STEVE SCALISE and BRAD WENSTRUP showed courage like I have never seen. Even today, they show that courage. We have—what?—25 guys and gals. We all have our story, and everybody did their thing.

There were angels that day, the angel that my friend talked about, and the angel was as small as something as David Bailey's cell phone.

David reached to get his cell phone and moved it up. Because David thought we were surrounded by ISIS, which would have been another whole story, he reached for it and called for help and got hit. He got hit in the phone.

If it hadn't hit his phone, it might have hit him in the side, and it might have been a whole different story. He may not have made it.

I think that was an angel. I think the lock was an angel. It reminded me God was in charge. It could have been just the opposite.

I remember in the dugout, as the shooting was going on, two things went through my mind. First of all, people asked me: "ROGER, are you afraid to die." I was not afraid of dying, but I did hope that my wife remembered I want the song, "Put me in, coach, I'm ready to play today" at my funeral, and I wanted to make sure I made it because I had a granddaughter coming in October.

God was in charge. He took care of us. The perpetrator paid for his act. The Arlington Police saved us; David Bailey saved us; and Crystal Griner saved us. For that, we are all owing to them for the rest of our lives.

It is not often you get to hug somebody who saved your life and be able to thank him like we were able to.

It is a day I will never forget, but like BRAD and the others said, it just doesn't come along on this day, you wake up every morning thinking about

it. Every time we have baseball practice, you think about it.

Those of us who were there wear bracelets. We wear bracelets today that have the date of the shooting and say, "In God We Trust."

It is a day I will never forget. I am thankful to God for letting us have another chance.

As BRAD said, there were several articles written about the shooting. One article I read talked about if it had gone just the opposite, things politically and things in the world would have been much different. But they weren't.

Because of people like David Bailey, Crystal Griner, BRAD, and others, and the Arlington Police, I get to see my granddaughter. I get to still coach the baseball team. I get to still be in Congress. I get to still love my wife. For that, I am grateful.

At the end of the day, we can do better than this. People should not be that angry, and that is a goal we should have as we are in Congress, to agree to disagree and not go out and kill people.

I will just end this with the way I end all of my speeches: In God we trust. Praise the Lord, and God bless America.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I thank ROGER for his words. I greatly appreciate them.

Now, we will hear from BARRY LOUDERMILK, who was there that day and was one of several who not only was there and survived but participated in helping others throughout that entire time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK).

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for this moment.

Mr. Speaker, I think back to that day. At noon, when we gathered in this Chamber, I sat right over here in the front row. Speaker Paul Ryan went to the podium, and as was said already, he said that an attack on one of us is an attack on all of us.

As I look around the Chamber, not much has changed from that day to today. The carpet is the same. The chairs are the same. Some of the people are the same, but none of us who were on the field that day are the same. It has had an impact on all of us.

As you just heard Coach WILLIAMS tell his story, Mr. Speaker, we all have the same story but different perspectives. Some of it is that, physically, we were in different locations, as I was in a different location than Representative WENSTRUP, who was in a different location than our coach, but we all experienced the same thing.

One thing that you will hear, Mr. Speaker, that is consistent are the miracles that happened that day. One of the things that this has had an impact on me, as we have all dealt with some level of traumatic stress afterward, but this has built my faith.

Hebrews 11:1 says that "faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen."

□ 1845

None of us saw angels on the field deflecting bullets that day. None of us were there when an angel spoke to the groundskeeper the night before and impressed upon him to lock the gate on the third-base side of that field. Had he not called a groundskeeper at 9 o'clock the evening before our practice and had not chain-locked that gate, that shooter would have gotten on the field, and it would have been a different story. We didn't see the angels conducting the miracles, but the evidence was there.

I was standing at home plate. I had just put on a batting helmet, and I was waiting on my turn to step into the batter's box and take some live pitching. Rodney Davis was there ahead of us, and he was hitting. As I was standing there, I heard the distinct sound of the report of a firearm.

Now, where I live in Georgia, that is not unusual. When I am working in the backyard, I hear shots all the time of people sighting in their rifles, doing target practicing. I didn't think much about it at the moment, but then I realized I am not at home in Georgia, but I am in Alexandria, Virginia. Why am I hearing a gunshot? The next sound I heard was our third baseman, TRENT KELLY, holler: "He's got a gun. Run."

At that moment, I started running up the first baseline. Many of my colleagues, as you heard, went into the dugout, but, as one of the veterans, immediately my training kicked in, and I thought: This is not a great place to go in case the shooter gets on the field. However, to get off the field would expose me longer, but I decided to head past the dugout and go out the gate.

As I am running, I see the ground erupting on each side of me, and I realized that the shooter was targeting me at that moment. As I reached the gate, I turned to go out of the field, and I heard the sound of a round hitting the fence post next to me.

Right outside the gate, about 20 feet outside the gate, is a wooden shed. My training started coming back to me: When you are under assault, seek concealment. Find the aggressor. If you have a means to fight back, fight back. If not, plan an escape route and get to safety.

Those things were running through my mind. I saw the shed. I went behind the shed, but I couldn't see where the shooter was because he was down the first baseline. I needed to get to where I could see the shooter.

As I rounded the corner of the shed where I am looking back down toward the backstop, that is when I saw one of their staff members, Matt Mika, walk around the other side of the shed, already covered in blood, and lay down next to the Capitol Police SUV.

At that moment, I realized: I can't escape now. I have a colleague who is down. I have to stay and help him.

I jumped up and started to run to him when Brian Kelly, another staff member who had gone around the side of the shed with me, hollered: "Barry, get down. Get down."

As I went down to my knees, I heard the sound of a bullet go right past my head and hit the shed next to me. I didn't realize it, but the shooter had come around the back of the backstop and had targeted where I was and Brian Kelly.

As I went down, I saw David Bailey and Crystal Griner come around the back of the SUV, both of them trying to engage with the shooter. Within a couple of moments, the shooter came around the backstop, was next to a concrete building, and started shooting underneath the SUV. One of the rounds hit Crystal Griner in the ankle, and I saw her immediately go down.

David Bailey then would walk out and expose himself so the shooter would turn and start targeting him to give us an opportunity to hopefully get to Matt Mika and Crystal Griner. However, every time we would start to try to move up to help them, he would turn and start shooting back at us again. What seemed like an eternity, the gunfire was going over and over again. Bullets would run the ground right next to us, but we stayed there. Brian Kelly and I stayed there because I wasn't going to leave Matt alone.

Finally, I saw David Bailey's pants flutter, and he started to limp, and I realized he had just taken a round in the leg. As we found out later, he had actually taken some shrapnel where a bullet ricocheted off of a car's wheel.

I realized that, if David Bailey goes down, the shooter is coming directly to us. Within a few moments, we heard another distinct sound of a different type of firearm. The Alexandria Police had arrived, but, as I stood there and I looked, David Bailey fully exposed himself as the shooter came around the other side of this concrete building and was standing there shooting at David Bailey as he was returning fire saying: "Drop the weapon. Drop the weapon. Drop the weapon."

It was about that moment the Alexandria Police then took down the shooter.

My immediate reaction was to go to Matt Mika and help him. With a gaping hole in his chest, I thought I could do more damage than good trying to put pressure on it, but I knew one thing I could do: I could pray for him. I laid my hands on Matt, and we prayed. I don't remember what I said that day.

Then I realized the SUV has to have a medical kit in it, so I asked Crystal Griner: "Do you have a medical bag?" She said: "Yes. It's in the back."

I got up, and I ran around. By the time I pulled the medical bag out, I was astonished. When I came back around the SUV, the paramedics were already there with Matt Mika. I was surprised they were there that fast.

I didn't realize STEVE SCALISE had been shot at that moment, but I looked, and there was a crowd gathered out on the field, and someone told me he was there.

I ran out to the field, and I dropped the bag off to BRAD and the others who

were on the field. I looked, and I don't know how he got there, but David Bailey was there checking on STEVE SCALISE. He still didn't realize he had been hit in the leg, and he was trying to walk off the field by himself, so I helped David walk off the field. That was one of the most memorable moments.

As others have said, if it had not been for the heroism of David Bailey and Crystal Griner, we would not be here today. If it wasn't for the brotherhood and the camaraderie of all of us supporting each other, things would be a lot different here today, as well.

I think it is interesting that we are discussing this just a few days after the 80th anniversary of D-day. My father was a medic in World War II, and he landed at D-day. One of the things that he used to tell me as child was: "Friends who share a foxhole are brothers for life."

There is a bond between all of us here that cannot be broken and cannot be shaken. Did that day change me? Yes. I had the choice to let it negatively affect me or to positively affect my future. I chose the positive. Look for the positive. Make positive change.

I believe that we have done that. We are stronger because of it. I think we are wiser for it, but we are also more dedicated to one another to see each other through these things. Regardless of when some of us leave this great institution, we will never spiritually leave one another.

God bless all of you and thank you. Mr. WENSTRUP. Thank you very much, BARRY. I am grateful for you bringing that bag of medical supplies from the Capitol Police van because there were things in there I needed, and we were able to put a clotting bandage on, use a better tourniquet than a belt, and we started supplying liquids to STEVE to help sustain him.

Also helping me right there was Mr. GARY PALMER. Next, we are going to hear from Mr. PALMER.

Mr. PALMER. Thank you, BRAD, for giving us this opportunity to reflect on the events of June 14, 2017. Regardless of what we do the rest of our lives, that day will bind us together, those who were there that day.

The interesting thing is, the day before, I saw the man who attacked us. He was sitting in the bleachers behind the backstop looking, in my opinion, very distressed. I thought about going over and talking with him, but we were trying to get to practice and get practice started, so I didn't see him again until later.

As Congressman DUNCAN related, I was actually over at second base with SCALISE when DUNCAN and Ron DeSantis left. TRENT KELLY was already over at third base, so I moved over to shortstop.

Our practices are a lot of banter back and forth at each other. It is a lot of fun, a lot of ragging each other. All that was going on, and then I heard a sharp crack. I immediately recognized it as a gunshot.

I yelled at TRENT KELLY that it was a gunshot, and Trent said: "I know."

The bullet had whizzed by him. By the providence of God and by an act of God, that bullet had struck a link in the chain link fence.

The shooter, after he had asked DUNCAN if we were Republicans or Democrats, walked over to his van. He had been living in his van for about 3 months and parked in the parking lot of the YMCA across the street from the field. They were doing some construction. There were some little containers there that blocked our view of anyone approaching from that side. He came up on the outfield end of the third-base dugout and, maybe about 4 feet, 5 feet from the fence, fired that first shot.

There was a few seconds of hesitation before anything else happened. It was almost like it was just a single shot. When I yelled out at TRENT, TRENT turned around and saw him, and he yelled out: "He's got a gun. Get off the field."

Everyone was kind of stunned. Things just kind of froze for a moment until the gunfire erupted. Thank God the third-base gate was closed, but the only open gate was on the first-base side, and so we were all running in that direction. I remember seeing General JACK BERGMAN lying flat on the ground up by home plate along with Mike Bishop from Michigan, others scrambling to get into the dugout.

I saw SCALISE get hit. I knew he was hit low. I didn't know where, but I knew he was hit low because of the way he fell. As I was running across the infield trying to get off the field, I had two thoughts that went through my mind. One was: If today is the day, I am ready. Then I thought: I wonder what it will feel like.

As I got off the field, I took cover behind a big oak tree that was really between where the little building where BARRY LOUDERMILK and the other guys had taken shelter and that concrete block building where the shooter had taken a position.

I saw Crystal Griner on the ground. From the blood on her leg, I thought she was shot in the leg. It turned out she was shot through the ankle. She was trying to pull herself up toward the front wheel well of the SUV to, I think, try to get in a position to return fire.

Behind the oak tree was TRENT KELLY and JOHN MOOLENAAR from Michigan. I don't know who said it, but someone said we needed to pull back to a concrete block building behind us, where the concession stands were and where the restrooms were. When I pulled back, got back there, I took a position beside BRAD WENSTRUP.

BRAD and I were at that corner, and SCALISE had dragged himself with his hands and arms out of the infield out in the outfield. When he started doing that, when I was still by the oak trees, he kept raising up trying to look. I think he was trying to see where he was shot.

I started yelling at him to get down, get down, because bullets were flying everywhere. When he got out in the outfield, he just lay quietly, and BRAD would yell out at him: "Raise your hand," for a show of life. STEVE would raise his hand. We were praying that this would end so that we could get to STEVE in time to give aid.

□ 1900

Thankfully, someone yelled out, "He's down. He's down." There were about—what, BRAD?—five or six of us who got out there.

When I saw where he was shot, I knew he was in trouble. I knew there would be bone fragments. I knew there would be lead fragments. I also knew that I had no clue what to do other than put pressure on the wound.

BARRY LOUDERMILK brought the first aid kit out and gave it to me, and I opened it up and was providing BRAD with whatever materials that we could find in the bag. BRAD fashioned a lower-body tourniquet by getting SCALISE's baseball belt off, and Brian Kelly took his shirt off and was able to make that tourniquet.

When the EMT showed up, they actually had one. It was my understanding that BRAD was the only one who knew how to put it on expertly, and he got it on. That is, in my opinion, what saved STEVE's life.

These are individual actions that I think were guided by the hand of God because there is not another explanation for why 136 rounds were fired at people congregated like we were and five people were hit, five victims, but none of them died. The only person who died that day was the shooter.

The other thing that struck me was the Members' reaction. There was nobody screaming, nobody panicked. Now, you hear a lot of times what people talk about in combat or in these types of situations—police officers talk about this—that time slows down. It just seemed like everything was so focused. As soon as the shooter was down, our Members sprang into action, helping each other.

I was so proud of how our guys responded and didn't panic because it was certainly a situation where I think most people would have panicked.

Congressman LOUDERMILK mentioned David Bailey being wounded. When Bailey came out to be by the side of STEVE SCALISE, I offered to try to tend to his wound, and he refused treatment. He would not leave the side of STEVE SCALISE.

The epilogue, I guess, of this is how it has affected us, and I think it has made our bond even stronger. As I said at the very beginning, we are bound together for life. It is a wonderful relationship that we have with each other as Members of Congress, as members of the Republican baseball team, but this is an event that defines us in many respects.

I will never forget it, but the epilogue is the disappointing part of the

story. There is no doubt in my mind this was an act of political violence. It was clearly an attempt, a planned attempt, to kill Republican Members of Congress.

We had a briefing by the FBI. When STEVE SCALISE had gotten out of rehab—that was several months after the shooting—they gathered us in a room to have the FBI give us the report, and they told us that this was an act of an individual attempting to commit suicide by police.

I want you to remember that both the Capitol Police officers were shot. When the Alexandria police showed up and fired on him initially, he returned fire on them. If this was his intention to commit suicide by cop, he wouldn't have been firing on them. He came there to kill Republicans.

It was one of the most shameful days, in my opinion, for the FBI to come before us, with STEVE SCALISE sitting in a scooter because he was still not able to walk, sitting right in front of him to read a report to us that wanted to describe this, categorize this, as an attempted suicide.

I am so grateful to BRAD WENSTRUP, who has refused to accept that and has continued to pursue the truth and to get the FBI to classify this as what it was. The truth needs to be told, but there is also more to the story.

There is another part of this story, too. When the ambulance arrived to take SCALISE to George Washington Hospital, there was so much traffic that it became evident that because, as BRAD pointed out, STEVE's blood pressure was basically zero, he had minutes, not hours.

It was evident they were not going to get there. A helicopter flew over. I believe it was a Department of the Interior helicopter. They radioed the helicopter to land at the baseball field, and it did. They took STEVE out of the ambulance and put him in the helicopter. The only place that had a pad for the helicopter to land was MedStar Hospital.

They took him there, and it just so happened—again, I believe the providence of God—one of the top trauma surgeons in the country was on call. Still, for 2 days, we didn't know if STEVE was going to make it.

When he did his rehab—STEVE is a huge LSU fan—some of us even went to great lengths to encourage him by putting on an LSU cap. As someone who, in my case, played football at Alabama, that was a one-time event. I told STEVE I would never do that again, but I knew how much LSU football meant to him.

It happened that that fall, LSU was playing at the University of Alabama, so I called the University and asked them to invite STEVE SCALISE to be our guest at that game because STEVE is the kind of guy who you give him an objective, and he will achieve it.

I had the honor of hand-delivering a letter of invitation from Coach Nick Saban to STEVE in the hospital. Coach

Saban and STEVE knew each other from the time when Saban was the head coach at LSU.

I sat there as he ripped open the envelope and read the letter, and STEVE SCALISE was at the University of Alabama for the LSU-Alabama football game. We beat them, which we usually do.

It was one of the great moments for me to go through this tragic event, see this guy fight for his life, achieve an objective, come back on this floor, stand at this microphone, and give one of the greatest speeches I have ever heard on the floor of the House of Representatives.

I think we all understand what happened that day. We understand the condition of our country right now, the anger, the division, that could potentially tear us apart. I don't think we need to be reminded of the responsibility we have in conducting the affairs of the governance of this country in a way that not only allows us to continue to function as a nation, but restores respect for the Chamber, restores respect for the separation of powers, restores respect for our ability to disagree but still live together.

Tomorrow, as we said, is the 7-year anniversary of that event. I know, as my colleagues have all said, it is a day we will never forget, but I hope, as tragic as that day was, that it will serve as a reminder to every Member of this body, Democrat and Republican, that we have a responsibility in how we conduct our business and how we present our arguments and that we dedicate ourselves to trying to bring unity back to a country that right now is just stricken with anger and malice that, if we don't deal with it properly, is going to do enormous harm to our ability to live together, to govern together, and to give those who follow us an opportunity to live in what is the greatest country in the history of the world.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. PALMER, and I thank all of my colleagues who participated in this event tonight. People ask me what my greatest memory of my time in Congress is. I tell people, it is the day that STEVE SCALISE walked back on this floor. It truly is.

I thank those who are watching and listening tonight. I encourage people to read STEVE's book. Maybe I shouldn't say this on the floor, I don't know, but it is a great book. It really sums up all the miracles of the day. It is called "Back in the Game."

Look, you have heard from a lot of people tonight very touching stories, sentimental to all of us, a lot of lessons learned, but it is pretty interesting if you listen to everybody, you recognize that we went to a baseball practice and, as a result, carved out our chapter in history and affirmed our faith in God.

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

#### REMEMBER WHY WE SERVE THE PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlemen who were just speaking on the floor, my friend, Mr. WENSTRUP, and my friend, Mr. PALMER, for what they were doing in reminding the American people what happened 7 years ago.

It too easily gets glossed over for the politically motivated attack on Members of Congress that it was. A lot of statements are made about January 6, about things that have occurred, but not enough is made about what happened that day when someone was targeting our friends, our colleagues, for political reasons. It gets, frankly, ignored, with all due respect, by some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

STEVE SCALISE and everybody who was a part of it stand as, I think, a stark reminder of what is great and good about those who serve here who are willing to move forward for the good of the country.

The country shouldn't forget about what happened and forget what those gentlemen on that field went through and why that is so critically important. I thank them for that, and I certainly thank them for their continued service.

I do think it is really important that we remember, as a body, in that vein, why we are here. Why do we convene as a Congress? Why do we come here and engage from all over the country, from 50 States, and fly in here each week and conduct business?

Too often, it turns into a clock-punching exercise where people come in, fly in, do their votes, go to some meeting, go to some fundraiser, go to some event, go to a quick hearing, do their thing, go back, vote, and go home.

Yet, what we have to remember when we come here is that we are supposed to be stopping for a moment and remembering that we are representing 750,000-odd Americans each and that we have an obligation to fight for them and do what we said we would do when we ran for office to represent them in the first place.

When I go all over the country, doing campaign events or even a bunch of personal business, I am reminded that a lot of American people do watch what we say here. A lot of people do watch videos that get circulated around on social media.

From time to time, frankly, quite often, people bring up to me a speech that I gave about 6 months ago in which I asked rhetorically, but importantly and emphatically, to name one thing that we have done, name one thing that we accomplished. I was talking to Republican colleagues, in particular.

I stand behind that question. It is an important question to ask. Of course, it is often clipped to leave out the important part, which was to name one thing we have accomplished besides doing something that is equivalent to Democrat-lite or something that is the soft version of what our Democratic colleagues want to do.

□ 1915

I will remind people, because it is important, what we have been able to accomplish as a united Republican Party, under now the leadership of two Speakers over the last 18 months.

A little over a year ago, we passed the Limit, Save, Grow Act in which we had Republicans unite across the body to pass an increase in the debt ceiling that was relatively modest, \$1.5 trillion is, sadly, relatively modest, in exchange for very significant policy changes to get our country on the right track.

We repealed the so-called Inflation Reduction Act subsidies that are subsidizing and empowering multibillion-dollar corporations, empowering China, and undermining our ability to produce energy effectively.

We implemented spending caps and put them in place to reduce the size and scope of government and to limit the size of discretionary spending and to cut back on the weaponized government at the Department of Justice and at the FBI and at the Department of Education and in so many other different agencies across the bureaucracy.

We passed the REINS Act to rein in the regulatory state and to say that if regulations are going to have a certain impact, they must be approved by Congress. We implemented work requirements on things like SNAP and Medicaid. We worked together to try to transform this country as we told the American people we would do.

We did that together. We united to do it. Again, we modestly increased the debt ceiling, modestly relatively speaking, in exchange for actual policy changes to take our country back and put it on the right path. We did that.

We passed a strong border security bill that effectively said you will be detained, as our current law contemplates, or you will be turned away. It is that simple.

Most Americans support that. You will be detained if you have some sort of a claim, asylum claim or something else or some humanitarian exception, but you will be detained for the full time until we adjudicate it, or you will be turned away. That is effectively what we passed in what we call H.R. 2, our second big bill number.

H.R. 2, is our border security plan that we, Republicans, united to pass. Again, for the first time in decades, if not ever, this body came together and we passed a bill that would legitimately secure the border of the United States and force the hand of an administration that is refusing to secure the border while our country is being undermined and endangered.

Even as we speak, I am seeing reporting pop up on my phone about the number of foreign nationals, the number of Chinese foreign nationals, 24,000 last year, the amount of fentanyl pouring in, and the dangerous individuals that are being encountered.

I am seeing reporting on a daily basis about this administration leaving our country wide open and refusing to do anything about it, so this Republican Congress voted last year to pass H.R. 2. We passed it, we sent it to the Senate, and CHUCK SCHUMER did nothing with it.

The National Defense Authorization Act, we are in the middle of working on that bill, as we speak, for fiscal year 2025. We passed the FY24 NDAA and this year we are working on a bill that is similar, that is worthy of support by Republicans, by conservatives. I don't agree with everything in it, to be clear, but it is a bill that is taking a giant step forward to refocus our military on being a military.

Our military should be focused on killing people and blowing things up, on doing the hard work of defending a country when called upon to do it, hopefully, sparingly. We have a military that has now, currently, gone off track. It has been turned into a social engineering experiment. Recruiting is low.

We have individuals in our military who are tired of being told that they have got to be a part of abortion tourism or transgender training or whatever DEI planning and training that is being pressed upon them rather than just learning how to jump out of a helicopter or fire a gun.

Today, we passed amendments to the NDAA that will move it in the right direction. It will pull back on the DEI, pull back on all the transgender woke policies, pull back on the climate executive order by the President of the United States that is undermining the readiness of our military.

We passed that amendment today. We passed an amendment to end abortion tourism, so you don't have taxpayer dollars funding abortion because the Department of Defense should not be a social engineering experiment. Republicans today united to do that, just as last year we united to do that.

Just last week, we passed a bill to actually sanction, with teeth, the International Criminal Court because it is wishing to and seeking to issue warrants for the Prime Minister of Israel for simply defending his country. We passed that. We passed that bill with unanimous Republican support. I think there were two present votes, 42 Democrats.

We did that by uniting as Republicans to send a message to the world that we believe that not only is the International Criminal Court illegitimate, not only is the International Criminal Court wrong, not only is it undermining our ally Israel, but that we should sanction it with actual sanctions. Not watered down exceptions for

the United Nations, exceptions for all manner of these international organizations so it doesn't have teeth, we passed sanctions with teeth. It is sitting over in the Senate.

CHUCK SCHUMER refuses to stand with Israel. CHUCK SCHUMER refuses to do the work that we are supposed to do as our country and allies are being targeted. More importantly, the International Criminal Court is carrying out activities that will be turned around and focused on us, that will be used against our own military.

Again, a united Republican Party over the last 18 months, when we have united, we have passed limits to spending, modest debt ceiling increases for legitimate policy changes that would put us on the right path, a border security bill that would actually secure the border, a National Defense Authorization Act—now maybe twice, come tomorrow—that would repurpose our military on the military end or limit/reduce the social engineering and the woke policies. We passed an International Criminal Court sanctions bill with real teeth.

Last year, we passed a significant number of appropriations bills with significant policy changes, and we had 1,100 amendments processed. We were moving things in the right direction, but here is the trick.

There are a lot of pieces to this, but here is the trick: How do you get that turned into law? Here is the dirty little secret in this town, most of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle would tell you, you must win elections in order to get that done.

They are not wrong. You cannot have the majority without elections. You cannot get the votes you need without the elections going the way you want; to get the votes you need to pass the law. I agree.

Here is the secret: You are never going to get stuff passed when you always have an excuse for not passing it.

I will say that again. You will never get something signed into law when you start with the excuse for why you won't get it signed into law.

All of the good things I just mentioned, all of the good things that I say that this united Republican Party has done in the face of absolute abject failure by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle and at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, we have done these great things, but they have stopped. They have sat in the Senate because you have to be willing to sacrifice something to fight to achieve and force these things to a conclusion.

Now, my colleagues will say: Well, you got to win more votes and you can't ask for too much.

There are times where you can ask for too much and there are times where you can say, we simply don't have the votes. However, when you have current Members of our own body saying: Well, CHIP, we are not going to have 60 votes in the Senate in January, so you have to go ahead and factor that in to why

we are not going to get appropriations bills that we would prefer, why we should only have a continuing resolution going into December, into a lame-duck. Why? So we can then have the powers that be use the pressure of Christmas to pass an omnibus spending bill in December? I don't agree with that.

We are already being told that we don't have 60 votes in the Senate. We won't get 60 votes in the Senate, so you must accept it.

The reason why I am focusing on this for a second is, the people that I represent always ask me why. Why don't you get these things done?

The people I represent, frankly, people all across the country that I run into, they ask me why. Why can't you secure the border?

It is a pretty simple question. Why can you not secure the border? I then have to tell them, I am 1/435th of one-half of one-third of the Federal Government. So we have got to go build the votes.

When you have the votes to pass something like H.R. 2 and you send it over to the Senate, then the only question that is going to matter is whether it is this year, right now, or whether it is next year. If you hope to go out into the election season and get a bigger majority by a handful of seats, get the majority in the Senate by a couple of seats, and hope to get the White House, then you say, don't worry, we will do it then. Some will say, oh, we can't even do it then because we are not going to have 60 in the Senate.

The point is, you have to pick something and fight for it. You have to pick some number of things and fight for them. You have to take the message to the American people. You have to be willing to risk that "precious," to quote "Lord of the Rings," that election certificate that you hold on to so tight that you don't actually use it.

I would rather serve one more term and jam through as much freedom legislation as I possibly could than to serve 5 more terms or 10 terms and not get passed what we need to get passed.

The average American family today is hurting. The average American family today, the average young person in America today, can't afford their healthcare because this government has destroyed the healthcare market and made it impossible to afford. They can't afford a vehicle because this government has regulated vehicles and made the price of gasoline and the vehicles that they want to buy cost prohibitive. They don't think they can afford houses, and as often is the case can't, because this government has been blowing money, driving up interest, and creating an environment in which housing costs are now astronomically expensive.

They don't think that they can, frankly, bring a family into this world and have children because of the things I just talked about as they don't believe they can afford them.



We have a responsibility as leaders of this country, in this Chamber and the other Chamber, in the executive branch, to actually deliver for the American people, to preserve and protect the way of life that we cherish.

We sit here on the floor and regale the men who walked into the wall of bullets at Normandy or regale them on July Fourth or regale our Founding Fathers or the Declaration of Independence.

We have an actual responsibility to preserve and protect the pursuit of happiness. The ability to carry out and live your unalienable rights given to you by God, but we are not doing that. I just want to be blunt. We are not doing that.

I would say of late that I believe that the Republican Conference has been doing some good work to make very clear to the American people what we can and will do if entrusted with the majority, and a majority in the Senate, and a Republican in the White House. I believe we have been doing that.

I believe in the National Defense Authorization Act with amendments and policies that reduce the woke social engineering and increase the focus on military.

I believe in the H.R. 2 bill; the border security provisions.

I believe that the appropriations bills are moving in the right direction and changing the process. They are not perfect.

I believe in last year's Limit, Save, Grow effort and a lot of the policies we are trying to advance.

I believe in the International Criminal Court bill.

I believe in the bill that I hope to bring to the floor in a couple of weeks, the SAVE Act, to make sure that only citizens can vote in Federal elections.

I believe these bills demonstrate very clearly the difference between Republicans and Democrats and demonstrate very clearly what Republicans can do when we unite for a purpose to defend the American people against the very swamp that we campaign against.

However, you will never, never achieve those results if you come here and you capitulate on day one out of fear, whether fear of government shutdown, fear of failure, fear of the slim majority, fear of the possibility the President might veto it, fear of getting crosswise to some politician who might say something about you on Twitter.

Instead, we should take this great work and take it to the American people, take it through the elections, and then set up the fight. We should set up the fight in 2025 to take our country back because this country turns 250 years old in 2 years.

On July 2, 2026, we will be celebrating our 250th birthday of separating from England, and then 2 days later we came to an agreement on the language of the Declaration.

□ 1930

What are we going to do for the people on our 250th birthday? What are we

going to be able to say to our kids and our grandkids on our 250th birthday?

Next year, what are we going to do to set the stage? If Republicans go out and get elected, take the White House, take the House, take the Senate, will we be able to take the policies that we came together to pass but failed to force through the Senate and failed to force the President of the United States to even move frankly halfway to our demands? Will we use our power then?

Will we use our power in January to get any of them signed into law? It doesn't matter if you keep getting elected, it doesn't matter if you go out and win elections if you don't do anything with it.

Will we finally take H.R. 2 in its form now, tweaked as necessary next January, hopefully made better and stronger, will we finally pass legislation to secure the border of the United States that will force the President and transcend time, not just in President Trump's tenure, but once and for all, will we do that as Republicans? We better.

Will we ensure that our tax policy is geared toward working class, hard-working middle-class families, small businesses that are struggling to make ends meet around this country as opposed to the massive corporations and K Street lobbyists? Will we do that? We better.

Will we actually cut spending? Will we address the \$35 trillion in debt that we currently have that will be no doubt \$38 trillion or so by the time we start the next Congress?

Will we try to alleviate inflation by ending the reckless spending without any limit or will we just shrug and continue to borrow into oblivion such that if you look at the interest that we just spent in May, it is 79 percent of all of the personal income taxes collected into the revenue, into the Treasury. Eighty percent of that which we collected from the American people through their hard work, we took their money, 80 percent of that is just used to pay interest expense in May.

Think about that. Imagine if you were sitting at home, 80 percent of your income from your job, imagine that, you have got 80 percent of your income from your job in May was used to pay the interest on your mortgage. What have you got left? What do you have left for electricity, for water, for gasoline, for food, for your kids, for your clothing? We don't.

Will we actually fundamentally finally deal with spending in the next Congress?

Will we fully restore energy freedom, repealing the subsidies or subsidizing massive corporations, undermining the ability of Americans to afford energy, driving up the prices of automobiles, piling up EVs on lots?

Will we repeal the disastrous Inflation Reduction Act, so-called, \$1.2 trillion in subsidies, will we repeal it?

Will we end the so-called tailpipe rule that is crushing American families?

Will we take back our country and provide the energy freedom that allows for human flourishing as it is doing around the globe? There are still 3 billion people around the planet who don't have access to reliable energy. Why would we move backward instead of forward?

Will we end, as we are starting to try to do in the NDAA, a toe in the water, will we end the social experimentation at the Pentagon and, instead, bolster our military with the confidence and the pride of defending a country without being told you must follow a woke social agenda or no longer be in the military, you must take a shot or you will lose your job?

Will we make our military stronger but more sparingly used? Will we end endless wars but use the power and the strength of our military for peace through strength and use our diplomacy through the State Department and our energy policies to stop wars before they start?

Will we use our spending power to end the weaponization of government that right now has a 75-year-old woman facing 2 years in prison in Washington, D.C., right here, 2 years in prison because she prayed at an abortion clinic, because she dared to go to an abortion clinic at 75 years old saying, how much do I have left to give on this Earth? I am going to give a little of my life to try to stand up for the unborn, and even if you disagree with me, and even if she was carrying out a misdemeanor or doing something that was stopping the flow and the law enforcement needed to move them, 2 years in prison under the FACE Act?

Are we going to end the weaponization of government against its people, against its politicians, to end turning this country into a banana republic?

Again, I ask of my Republican colleagues: We have united in purpose and produced these great results, whether it is Limit Save Grow, or H.R. 2 and border security or the National Defense Authorization Act, or the appropriations bills, sanctioning the International Criminal Court, hopefully passing the SAVE Act, will we take those things and turn those to victories that force them through the Senate so that the President can sign them?

Will we finally take our country back and restore it to the American people and give them energy freedom so they can afford the energy that allows them to power their lives and afford the automobiles to go about their work?

Will we drive interest rates down so they can afford a home again?

Will we make education affordable and useful again instead of subsidizing it and then paying off the loans of those who haven't paid their loans off and ignoring those who never took out a loan in the first place?

Will we restore order on our streets and put criminals back in jail?

Will we secure our borders and stop the lawless from coming across the Rio Grande?

Will we end the reckless spending that is indebting our kids and our grandkids to a future in which the dollar is worthless, and their country is destroyed because we didn't do our job here?

Will we pass tax reform that is good for families and small businesses, not the K Street lobbyists and big corporations?

These are the questions the American people want us to answer. They are tired of the excuses. They are tired of sternly worded letters. They are tired of hearings. They are tired of speeches. I will look in the mirror. I am giving another speech. They want to see us do it.

My call to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, but particularly my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle, we owe it, we owe it to the 400,000 tombstones sitting on the other side of the Potomac, we owe it to all those who fought and died and bled for that flag and for everything it represents. We owe it to our kids and our grandkids; we owe it to the world so that America can continue to be the beacon of hope. We owe it to restore American independence, restore liberty and freedom, restore a faith and a confidence in a government that is doing its actual constitutional job. We owe them that, not excuses.

We owe them to deliver, not to come back and say: Well, we tried. We owe them every ounce of our being when we are here in this town to work and get our job done; not to play politics, not to campaign, not to go to another political event, but to be here and do our job.

It is an honor to serve in Congress, but there is no point in being here if we are not actually going to deliver for the American people who sent us here to deliver for them. We will win the arguments if we will make them. We will lose the arguments if we are too afraid to fight.

I am tired of the celebrations of all the people who have fought, bled, and died for this country with an absence of a conviction politically, with all due respect to the many veterans in this Chamber who wore the uniform and fought and bled for this country, politically are you willing to fight and bleed and politically die for your country? Until you are, until you are willing to risk that, until you are willing to take that election certificate and nail it up on the wall and say: I am going to take this thing for a spin, I am going to actually do what I said I was going to do, and then let the American people decide. Until we are willing to do that, then we are going to be relegated to, in Reagan's phrasing, "the ash heap of history."

I happen to believe that we can take this country back, but I happen to believe that if we don't, if we don't take the steps right now to rescue her, then

we are going to lose her. We are going to be that generation that Reagan talked about when Reagan said we are only "one generation away from extinction." The question for us is, what will we do?

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, June 14, 2024, at 9 a.m.

#### NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE- MAKING FROM THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS ("OCWR")

U.S. CONGRESS, OFFICE OF  
CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS,  
Washington, DC, June 13, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Section 207(d) of the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA), 2 U.S.C. 1316a(d), requires the Board of Directors of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (Board) to issue substantive regulations implementing section 207 of the CAA relating to the Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act of 2019 (FCA).

Section 304(b)(1) of the CAA, 2 U.S.C. 1384(b)(1), requires that the Board issue a general notice of proposed rulemaking by transmitting such notice to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate for publication in the *Congressional Record* on the first day of which both Houses are in session following such transmittal.

On behalf of the Board, I am hereby transmitting the attached Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to the Speaker of the House of Representatives. I request that this notice be published in the House section of the *Congressional Record* on the first day on which both Houses are in session following receipt of this transmittal. In compliance with section 304(b)(2) of the CAA, a comment period of 30 days after the publication of this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is being provided before adoption of the rules.

Any inquiries regarding this notice should be addressed to Martin J. Crane, Executive Director of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, Room LA-200, 110 Second Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20540-1999; 202-724-9250.

Sincerely,  
BARBARA CHILDS WALLACE,  
*Chair of the Board of Directors,*  
*Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.*

#### NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING FROM THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS ("OCWR")

Re NEW PROPOSED REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING CERTAIN SUBSTANTIVE RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS FOR JOB APPLICANTS, AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 207 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995, AS AMENDED ("CAA")

#### Background

The purpose of this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("Notice") is to propose substantive regulations that will implement the

Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act of 2019 ("FCA") in the legislative branch of the federal government. The FCA, as applied by section 207 of the CAA, codified at 2 U.S.C. §1316b, places limitations on employing office requests for criminal history record information from job applicants prior to a conditional offer of employment.

The CAA applies the rights and protections of numerous federal labor and employment statutes to covered employees and employing offices in the legislative branch. Section 1316b of the CAA prohibits employing offices from requesting that an applicant for employment disclose criminal history record information before the employing office makes a conditional offer of employment to that applicant. Section 1316b also provides that applicants for employment may rely on the CAA's existing claims procedures under subchapter IV and, through incorporation of 5 U.S.C. §9204, establishes minimum penalties and procedures to be followed before such penalties may be assessed against an employee who violates the FCA.

#### What is the authority under the CAA for these proposed substantive regulations?

The authority under the CAA for these proposed substantive regulations is found in two sections of the CAA. Section 1316b applies certain provisions of the FCA, title 5, chapter 92 of the United States Code. Section 1316b provides rights and protections to job applicants against criminal background checks prior to a conditional offer of employment. Subsection 1316b(d) requires the OCWR Board of Directors ("Board") to issue substantive regulations to implement these protections that are:

the same as substantive regulations promulgated by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management . . . except to the extent that the Board may determine, for good cause shown and stated together with the regulation, that a modification of such regulations would be more effective for the implementation of the rights and protections under this section.

The second CAA section that provides authority to the Board to promulgate these regulations is section 304, codified at 2 U.S.C. §1384. These proposed substantive regulations implement the statutory protections embodied in section 1316b.

Although Congress has required the Board to propose substantive regulations that are the same as the FCA regulations promulgated by the Office of Personnel Management ("OPM"), Congress has not required the Board to adopt OPM's procedural regulations for FCA violations. Section 1316b(c)(2) instead provides that:

An applicant for employment as a covered employee who alleges a violation of subsection (b)(1) may rely on the provisions of subchapter IV (other than section 1407 or 1408 of this title, or a provision of this subchapter that permits a person to obtain a civil action or judicial review) . . . .

Accordingly, the Board will address procedures through amendments to the OCWR Procedural Rules, under section 1383 of the FCA.

#### Do similar rights and protections currently apply via the CAA to legislative branch employing offices and covered employees?

No. Section 1316b creates a unique framework under the CAA providing for penalties against employees who violate the FCA.

#### What rights and protections are applied to eligible employees under section 1316b?

Congress enacted the FCA in December 2019, and the final regulations promulgated by OPM for the executive branch became effective in October 2023. The FCA's provisions

prohibit Federal employers, including employing offices in the legislative branch, from requesting that applicants for most jobs disclose criminal record history information prior to extending a conditional job offer to the applicant. The FCA enforces this prohibition through the assessment of penalties against employees responsible for violations.

The selected statutory provisions that Congress incorporated into the CAA and determined would apply to employing offices are subsections 9201(1), (4), and (5) and sections 9202, 9204, and 9206 of title 5. These sections incorporate definitions found in other code sections, in particular 5 U.S.C. § 7501, 5 U.S.C. § 9101, and 18 U.S.C. § 115(c).

Congress adopted the definitions of the terms “agency,” “criminal history record information,” and “suspension,” as found in subsections 9201(1), (4), and (5) respectively, “except as otherwise modified by” section 1316b. Section 1316b does not further modify the definitions of “agency” or “criminal history record information,” but section 1316b(c)(1) does further clarify that a “suspension” is to “be considered . . . a suspension with the level of compensation provided for a covered employee who is taking unpaid leave under section 1312” of the CAA.

Section 9202 establishes a general prohibition against inquiries regarding criminal history record information. An employee of an employing office may not request, in oral or written form, that an applicant for a position disclose criminal history record information prior to the employing office extending a conditional offer to the applicant.

Section 9202 also incorporates a number of exceptions. These exceptions allow criminal background history inquiries for law enforcement officers, for employees who would have access to classified information or who would serve in a sensitive national security position, for acceptance or retention in the armed services, or for other purposes as otherwise required by law.

Section 9204 provides for adverse actions against employees found, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing on the record, to have violated the prohibition regarding inquiries into applicants’ criminal history record information. The adverse actions include suspension of and fines imposed upon liable employees. Section 9204 additionally provides that fines and suspensions escalate based upon whether the employee has previously been found to have violated the FCA.

Section 9206 further clarifies that the FCA prohibits the request of sealed or expunged records or records relating to acts of juvenile delinquency. Section 9206 also clarifies that the FCA does not create a private right of action for any person.

### Procedural Summary

#### How are substantive regulations proposed and approved under the CAA?

Pursuant to section 1384, the procedure for proposing and approving such substantive regulations provides that:

(1) the Board of Directors propose substantive regulations and publish a general notice of proposed rulemaking in the *Congressional Record*;

(2) there be a comment period of at least 30 days after the date of publication of the general notice of proposed rulemaking;

(3) after consideration of comments by the Board of Directors, the Board adopt regulations and transmit notice of such action (together with the regulations and a recommendation regarding the method for Congressional approval of the regulations) to the Speaker of the House and President pro tempore of the Senate for publication in the *Congressional Record*;

(4) there be committee referral and action on the proposed regulations by resolution in

each House, concurrent resolution, or by joint resolution; and

(5) final publication of the approved regulations in the *Congressional Record*, with an effective date prescribed in the final publication.

For more detail, please reference the text of section 1384. This Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is step (1) of the outline set forth above.

#### Are these proposed substantive regulations also recommended by OCWR’s Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Director for the Senate, and the Deputy Executive Director for the House of Representatives?

As required by section 1384(b)(1), the substance of these regulations is also recommended by the Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Director for the Senate, and the Deputy Executive Director for the House of Representatives.

#### Has the Board of Directors previously proposed substantive regulations implementing these rights and protections pursuant to section 1316b?

No.

#### What is the approach taken by these proposed substantive regulations?

The Board will follow the procedure as enumerated above and as required by statute to ensure that the regulations contemplate and reflect the practices and policies particular to the legislative branch.

#### What responsibilities would employing offices have in effectively implementing these regulations?

Employing offices have the responsibility of ensuring that their hiring announcements and hiring processes comply with the prohibition against requesting criminal history record information prior to making a conditional offer of employment, as required by these regulations and the FCA more generally.

#### Are there substantive differences in the proposed regulations for the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the other employing offices?

No. The Board of Directors has identified no good cause for varying the text of these regulations. Therefore, if these regulations are approved as proposed, there will be one text applicable to all employing offices and covered employees.

#### Are these proposed substantive regulations available to persons with disabilities in an alternate format?

This Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is available on the OCWR’s website, [www.ocwr.gov](http://www.ocwr.gov), which is compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 794d. This Notice can also be made available in large print, Braille, or other alternative format. Requests for this Notice in an alternative format should be made to the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, 202-724-9250 (voice); 202-426-1913 (fax); or [ADAaccess@ocwr.gov](mailto:ADAaccess@ocwr.gov) (e-mail).

#### 30 Day Comment Period Regarding the Proposed Regulations

##### How long do I have to submit comments regarding the proposed regulations?

Interested parties may submit comments regarding OCWR’s proposed regulations set forth in this Notice for a period of thirty (30) days following the date of the appearance of this Notice in the *Congressional Record*.

##### How do I submit comments?

Comments must be made in writing to the Executive Director, Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, via e-mail at [rule-comments@ocwr.gov](mailto:rule-comments@ocwr.gov).

#### Am I allowed to view copies of submitted comments by others?

Yes. Copies of submitted comments will be available for review on the Office’s website at [www.ocwr.gov](http://www.ocwr.gov).

#### Supplementary Information:

The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995, PL 104-1, was enacted into law on January 23, 1995, and amended on December 21, 2018, by the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act. The CAA, as amended, applies the rights and protections of numerous federal labor and employment statutes to covered employees and employing offices within the legislative branch of the federal government. Included among those rights are the protections provided to applicants regarding their criminal history record information in section 207 of the CAA. These protections are the subject of these regulations.

Section 301 of the CAA (2 U.S.C. § 1381) establishes the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights as an independent office within the legislative branch.

#### More Detailed Discussion of the Text of the Proposed Regulations

The Board proposes these substantive regulations with minimal changes from OPM’s regulations. The Board made numerous editorial changes necessitated by adaptation to the legislative branch, e.g., “employing office” for “agency,” or for consistency with the CAA, e.g., “claim” for “complaint.” The Board relied extensively on section 1316b(d), which requires that these regulations be the same as the substantive regulation promulgated by the Director of OPM unless it determines, for good cause shown and stated together with the regulation, that a modification of such regulations would be more effective for implementation of the rights and protections under section 1316b. Where the Board determined that good cause existed to require a modification, it so modified the regulations.

#### Introduction to the Regulations under the Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act of 2019 General Provisions

##### The Purpose of FCA

The FCA, as applied by the CAA, protects job applicants in the legislative branch by prohibiting employing offices from inquiring into an applicant’s criminal history record information prior to a conditional offer of employment. The FCA, as applied by the CAA, provides that employees who inquire into an applicant’s criminal history record information in a manner that violates the FCA may be subject to discipline including suspensions from employment and fines.

The FCA, as applied by the CAA, provides that applicants are to rely upon the procedures set forth in subchapter IV of the CAA. As a result, OCWR’s procedures will differ from those contained in part 754 of the OPM regulations. The FCA, as applied by the CAA, does not provide for civil actions or judicial review of administrative determinations.

##### OPM Regulations

Section 1316b(d)(2) requires the Board to promulgate substantive regulations for the legislative branch. Congress required such regulations to be:

the same as substantive regulations issued by the Director of [OPM] . . . except to the extent that the Board may determine, for good cause shown and stated together with the regulation, that a modification of such regulations would be more effective for the implementation of the rights and protections under [the FCA].

OPM’s regulations implementing the FCA became effective on October 1, 2023. OPM’s

regulations consist, in part, of minor amendments acknowledging application of the FCA to five parts of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations: parts 302 (“Employment in the Excepted Service”), 317 (“Employment in the Senior Executive Service”), 319 (“Employment in the Senior-Level and Scientific and Professional Positions”), 330 (“Recruitment, Selection, and Placement (General)”), and 731 (“Suitability”). OPM’s regulations also create two new parts of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations, parts 754 (“Complaint Procedures, Adverse Actions, and Appeals for Criminal History”) and 920 (“Timing of Criminal History Inquiries Prior to Conditional Offer”). Part 754 sets forth procedures for processing of complaints regarding violations of the FCA. Part 920 contains substantive regulations implementing the FCA.

*Section-by-Section Analysis*

#### Parts 302, 317, and 319

OPM made additions to parts 302, 317, and 319 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations to incorporate the requirements of the FCA into existing regulations governing the excepted service, senior executive service, and “senior-level and scientific and professional positions,” respectively. Since there are no existing regulations in the legislative branch parallel to those OPM regulations, the Board found good cause not to propose parallel regulations.

#### Parts 330 and 731

Parts 330 and 731 relate to suitability of applicants for employment. The suitability provisions of title 5 do not apply in the legislative branch. The Board has therefore found good cause not to propose parallel regulations.

#### Part 754

The FCA, in section 9202(c)(2), requires that OPM adopt substantive regulations. In addition, section 9203(2) directs OPM to “establish and publish procedures under which an applicant for an appointment to a position in the civil service may submit a complaint, or any other information, regarding compliance with 5 U.S.C. §9202.” OPM, citing its general authority to promulgate regulations under 5 U.S.C. §1103(a), created a new 5 CFR part 754 to implement the complaint procedure requirements of the FCA. See Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs, 87 Fed. Reg. 24885–01, 24887 (April 27, 2022).

The Board has found good cause not to adopt part 754 for use in the legislative branch. Part 754 of OPM’s regulations is entirely procedural in nature. As such, it is outside the scope of Congress’s mandate that OCWR adopt substantive regulations that are the same as substantive regulations issued by the Director of OPM except upon a finding of good cause. Rather than requiring the Board to follow OPM’s procedural regulations and as Congress provided in section 1316b(c)(2), OCWR must process FCA claims using subchapter IV of the CAA (2 U.S.C. §1401 et seq.). OCWR has established interim procedures and will amend its Procedural Rules to implement procedures for FCA claims in the legislative branch pursuant to section 1383 of the CAA.

#### Part 920

OPM adopted 5 CFR, part 920 to set forth general rules regarding the FCA. The Board found good cause to modify part 920 to adapt it from the executive branch to the legislative branch.

#### Subpart A

Subpart A of part 920 of OPM’s regulations contains general provisions that are applicable to the timing of criminal history inquiries. Section 920.101 contains definitions necessary for the administration of this part.

For section 920.101, the Board has found good cause to modify the definitions. The

Board proposes omitting the definition of “agency” and replacing it with a definition of “employing office” based on sections 1301(a)(9) and 1301(b) of the CAA.

The Board proposes omitting the definition of “appointing authority.” Section 9201(2) of the FCA defines “appointing authority” as “an employee in the executive branch of the Government of the United States that has authority to make appointments to positions in the civil service.” That definition is inapplicable to the legislative branch. Moreover, since liability under the FCA attaches to individual employees, regardless of whether they have hiring authority, the term “appointing authority” is not essential to the application of the FCA in the legislative branch.

The Board proposes modifying the definition of “conditional offer” to include a CAA-specific definition of the term. Section 1316b(b)(1)(B) defines “conditional offer” as “an offer of employment as a covered employee that is conditioned upon the results of a criminal history inquiry.”

The Board proposes replacing the definition of “employee” with a definition of “covered employee” based upon sections 1301(a)(3) and 1301(b) of the CAA.

The Board proposes omitting the definitions of “political appointment,” as well as section 920.201(b)(2), which exempts applicants for political appointments from FCA coverage. None of the definitions of “political appointment” apply to covered employees in the legislative branch. The Board proposes this omission as opposed to the creation of an alternative definition or definitions of that term. Neither the FCA nor the CAA provides a basis for the Board to create an alternative definition of “political appointment” for the legislative branch or to exempt from the FCA’s coverage employees falling within the scope of such a definition.

#### Subpart B

Subpart B of OPM’s regulations addresses when inquiries into an applicant’s criminal history record information may be made. Section 920.201(a) states that an agency cannot request an applicant’s criminal history record information orally or in written form prior to giving a conditional offer of employment. This includes the following points in the recruitment and hiring process: (1) initial application, through a job opportunity announcement on USAJOBS, or through any recruitment/public notification such as on the agency’s website/social media, etc.; (2) after an agency receives an initial application through its back-end system, through shared service providers/recruiters/contractors, or orally or via email and other forms of electronic notification; and (3) prior to, during, or after a job interview. This prohibition applies to agency personnel, shared service providers, contractors involved in the agency’s recruitment and hiring process, automated systems (specific to the agency or governmentwide), etc. Other than minor amendments to employ terminology used in the legislative branch, the Board proposes no changes to section 920.201(a).

Section 920.201(b) of OPM’s regulations tracks the requirements of 5 U.S.C. §9202(b) and (c)(1), allowing inquiries into a job applicant’s criminal history, prior to making a conditional job offer to that applicant, if doing so is otherwise required by law, if the position requires a determination of eligibility for access to classified information or employment in a sensitive position (designated under the Position Designation System issued by OPM and the Office of Director of National Intelligence), or eligibility for acceptance or retention in the armed forces (as described in 5 U.S.C. §9101(b)(1)(A)(i), (ii), or (iii)) such as for dual-status military tech-

nicians, or if it is a Federal law enforcement officer position (as defined in section 115(c) of title 18).

Paragraph (b) also makes an exception for applicants for political appointments. Pre-employment criminal history screening may be required for these positions prior to a conditional offer of employment, because of the utmost trust and discretion required in these positions. Paragraph (b) also describes other circumstances for which OPM may grant exceptions in response to a request from a hiring agency.

The Board proposes modifying subparagraphs (b)(1)(iii), (b)(1)(iv), and (b)(2), which relate to exceptions from the FCA, by omitting them. Subparagraph (1)(iii) relates to positions that have been designated under the Position Designation System as sensitive. The Board is aware of no positions in covered employing offices that would be subject to such designation. Similarly, the Board is unaware of any dual-status military technicians in the legislative branch, thereby obviating the need for subparagraph (1)(iv). The Board is also proposing to omit subparagraph (b)(2), since, as was noted above, the Board lacks the authority to create a legislative branch-specific definition of “political appointment.”

Paragraph (c) adds the requirement that agencies notify applicants of the prohibition in job opportunity announcements and on agency websites/portals for positions that do not require a posting on USAJOBS, such as excepted service positions, in addition to information about agency complaint processes as required by part 754 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Other than minor amendments to employ terminology used in the legislative branch, the Board proposes no changes to section 920.201(c).

Section 920.202 of OPM’s regulations defines what constitutes a violation of the FCA.

Paragraph (a) defines a violation as any oral or written request for criminal history information prior to a conditional job offer. Paragraph (b) explains that a violation occurs when a prohibited inquiry is made by agency personnel, including when they act through shared service providers, contractors involved in the agency’s recruitment/hiring process, or automated systems (specific to the agency or governmentwide).

Section 920.202 of OPM’s regulations also outlines several situations in which a violation could occur. An agency cannot request criminal history information upon the initial application, through a job opportunity announcement on USAJOBS, or through any recruitment/public notification such as on the agency’s website/social media. An agency also cannot request this information after an agency receives an initial application through its back-end system, through shared service providers/recruiters/contractors, or orally or via email and other forms of electronic notification prior to giving the conditional offer. Additionally, the agency cannot request the information verbally prior to, during, or after a job interview prior to giving a conditional offer. Other than minor amendments to employ terminology used in the legislative branch, the Board proposes no changes to sections 920.202(a) and (b).

Paragraph (c) provides that when a prohibited request, announcement, or communication is publicly posted or simultaneously distributed to multiple applicants, it constitutes a single violation. This resolves an ambiguity in the language of 5 U.S.C. §9202(a) and prevents the absurd and unintended outcome of thousands of violations and complaints arising from a single job opportunity announcement on USAJOBS. Other than minor amendments to employ terminology used in the legislative branch,

the Board proposes no changes to section 920.202(c).

Paragraph (d) of section 920.202 of OPM's regulations explains that any violation as defined in paragraph (a) is subject to the complaint and penalty procedures in part 754 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The Board proposes modifying paragraph (d) to replace reference to part 754 with reference to subchapter IV of the CAA and OCWR's Procedural Rules.

## PART 920—TIMING OF CRIMINAL HISTORY INQUIRIES

### Subpart A—General Provisions

Sec.

920.101 Definitions.

920.102 Positions covered by Fair Chance Act regulations.

### Subpart B—Timing of Inquiries Regarding Criminal History

920.201 Limitations on criminal history inquiries.

920.202 Violations.

#### § 920.101 Definitions.

For the purpose of this part:

*Employing office* means:

(1) The personal office of a Member of the House of Representatives or of a Senator;

(2) A committee of the House of Representatives or the Senate or a joint committee;

(3) Any other office headed by a person with the final authority to appoint, hire, discharge, and set the terms, conditions, or privileges of the employment of an employee of the House of Representatives or the Senate; or

(4) The Office of Congressional Accessibility Services, the United States Capitol Police, the Congressional Budget Office, the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, the Office of the Attending Physician, the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, the Office of Technology Assessment, the Library of Congress, the Stennis Center for Public Service, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, Congressional-Executive Commission on China, and the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

*Applicant* means a person who has applied to an employing office under its procedures for accepting applications consistent with governmentwide regulations, as applicable.

*Conditional offer* means an offer of employment as a covered employee that is conditioned upon the results of a criminal history inquiry.

*Covered employee* means any employee of— (1) the House of Representatives; (2) the Senate; (3) the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services; (4) the United States Capitol Police; (5) the Congressional Budget Office; (6) the Office of the Architect of the Capitol; (7) the Office of the Attending Physician; (8) the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights; (9) the Office of Technology Assessment; (10) the Library of Congress; (11) the Stennis Center for Public Service; (12) the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom; (13) the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission; (14) the Congressional-Executive Commission on China; or (15) the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

*Criminal history record information*—(1) Has the meaning given the term in section 9101(a) of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) Includes any information described in the first sentence of section 9101(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code, that has been sealed or expunged pursuant to law; and

(3) Includes information collected by a criminal justice agency, relating to an act or alleged act of juvenile delinquency, that is analogous to criminal history record information

(including such information that has been sealed or expunged pursuant to law).

#### § 920.102 Positions covered by Fair Chance Act regulations.

(a) *Positions covered.* Except as provided in paragraph (b), this part applies to all positions in any employing office.

(b) *Exempt positions.* For purposes of this part an exempt position is any position for which an employing office is required by statutory authority to make inquiries into an applicant's criminal history prior to extending an offer of employment to the applicant.

### Subpart B—Timing of Inquiries Regarding Criminal History

#### § 920.201. Limitations on criminal history inquiries.

(a) *Applicability.* An employee of an employing office may not request, in oral or written form (including through the Declaration for Federal Employment (Office of Personnel Management Optional Form 306) or any similar successor form, the USAJOBS internet website, or any other electronic means) that an applicant for employment with an employing office disclose criminal history record information regarding the applicant before the employing office extends a conditional offer to the applicant. This includes the following points in the recruitment and hiring process:

(1) Initial application, through a job opportunity announcement on USAJOBS, or through any recruitment/public notification such as on the employing office's website/social media, etc.;

(2) After an employing office receives an initial application through its back-end system, through shared service providers/recruiters/contractors, or orally or via email and other forms of electronic notification; and

(3) Prior to, during, or after a job interview. This prohibition applies to employing office personnel, including when they act through shared service providers, contractors (acting on behalf of the employing office) involved in the employing office's recruitment and hiring process, or automated systems (specific to the employing office or governmentwide).

(b) *Exceptions for certain positions.* (1) The prohibition under paragraph (a) of this section shall not apply with respect to an applicant for an appointment to a position:

(i) Which is exempt in accordance with § 920.102(b);

(ii) That requires a determination of eligibility for access to classified information;

(iii) Is a Federal law enforcement officer position meeting the definition in section 115(c) of title 18, U.S. Code.

(c) *Notification to applicants.* Each employing office must publicize to applicants the prohibition described in paragraph (a) of this section in job opportunity announcements and on employing office websites/portals for positions that do not require a posting on USAJOBS.

#### § 920.202. Violations.

(a) An employing office employee may not request, orally or in writing, information about an applicant's criminal history prior to making a conditional offer of employment to that applicant unless the position is exempt or excepted in accordance with § 920.201(b).

(b) A violation (or prohibited action) as defined in paragraph (a) of this section occurs when employing office personnel, shared service providers, or contractors (acting on behalf of the employing office) involved in the employing office's recruitment and hiring process, either personally or through automated systems (specific to the employ-

ing office or governmentwide), make oral or written requests prior to giving a conditional offer of employment—

(1) In a job opportunity announcement on USAJOBS or in any recruitment/public notification such as on the employing office's website or social media;

(2) In communications sent after an employing office receives an initial application, through an employing office's talent acquisition system, shared service providers/recruiters/contractors, orally or in writing (including via email and other forms of electronic notification); or

(3) Prior to, during, or after a job interview or other applicant assessment.

(c) When a prohibited request, announcement, or communication is publicly posted or simultaneously distributed to multiple applicants, it constitutes a single violation.

(d) Any violation as defined in paragraph (a) of this section is subject to the claim and penalty procedures under subchapter IV of title 2 (other than section 1407 or 1408 of title 2, or a provision of that subchapter that permits a person to obtain a civil action or judicial review) and the OCWR Procedural Rules, consistent with these regulations.

## EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-4531. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Regulatory Services, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final priorities, requirements, and definitions — Final Priorities, Requirements, and Definitions-National Professional Development Program [Docket ID: ED-2023-OELA-0132] received May 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-4532. A letter from the Director, Rule-making Operations, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards for Passenger Cars and Light Trucks for Model Years 2027 and Beyond and Fuel Efficiency Standards for Heavy-Duty Pickup Trucks and Vans for Model Years 2030 and Beyond [NHTSA-2023-0022] (RIN: 2127-AM55) received June 10, 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-4533. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 24-040, pursuant to Section 3(d)(3) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4534. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 24-021, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4535. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 24-013, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4536. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 24-037, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4537. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department

Notification Number: DDTC 24-002, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4538. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 23-099, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4539. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 23-098, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4540. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 24-001, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4541. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 24-042, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4542. A letter from the Principal Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — West Virginia Regulatory Program [SATS No.: WV-125-FOR; Docket ID: OSMRE-2017-0003 S1D1S SS08011000 SX064A000 2340S180110; S2D2S SS08011000 SX064A000 23XS501520] received June 11, 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-4543. A letter from the Principal Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Wyoming Regulatory Program [SATS No.: WY-050-FOR; Docket ID No.: OSM-2021-0004; S1D1S SS08011000 SX064A000 223S180110; S2D2S SS08011000 SX064A000 22XS501520] received June 11, 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-4544. A letter from the Principal Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustments [Docket ID: OSM 2024-0001; S1D1S SS08011000 SX064A000 24S180110; S2D2S SS08011000 SX064A000 24XS501520] (RIN: 1029-AC86) received June 11, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4545. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2024-1295; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-01124-R; Amendment 39-22744; AD 2024-09-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 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-4546. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Régional Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-1298; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00216-T; Amendment 39-22745; AD 2024-09-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 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-4547. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation,

transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Piper Aircraft, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-1302; Project Identifier AD-2024-00213-A; Amendment 39-22749; AD 2024-10-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 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-4548. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1652; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01528-E; Amendment 39-22751; AD 2024-10-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 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-4549. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1997; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00383-T; Amendment 39-22748; AD 2024-10-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 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-4550. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Canada Limited Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2024-1466; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00205-R; Amendment 39-22752; AD 2024-07-51] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 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-4551. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0221; Project Identifier AD-2023-01233-T; Amendment 39-22762; AD 2024-11-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 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-4552. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31547; Amdt. No.: 4114] received June 6, 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-4553. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31546; Amdt. No.: 4113] received June 6, 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-4554. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class D and E Airspace; McClellan-Palomar Airport, Carlsbad, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0786; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AWP-77] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 6, 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-4555. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Hollister Municipal Airport, Hollister, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1852; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AWP-50] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 6, 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-4556. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Greenville and Vandalia, IL [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0272; Airspace Docket No.: 24-AGL-3] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 6, 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-4557. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Lewisburg, WV [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2275; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ABA-22] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 6, 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-4558. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Reidsville, NC [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0319; Airspace Docket No.: 24-ASO-6] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 6, 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-4559. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Mammoth Lakes Airport, Mammoth Lakes, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1758; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AWP-44] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 6, 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-4560. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Turlock Municipal Airport, Turlock, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0163; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AWP-56] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 6, 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-4561. A letter from the Chair of the Board of Directors, Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, transmitting notification of new proposed regulations implementing certain substantive rights and protections for job applicants, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1384(b)(1); Public Law 104-1, Sec. 304(b)(1); (109 Stat. 29); jointly to the Committees on House Administration and Education and the Workforce.

## 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. BANKS:

H.R. 8723. A bill to amend the Head Start Act to authorize block grants to States for



prekindergarten education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. CARSON):

H.R. 8724. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to allow States to waive certain administrative requirements for recertification, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. CARAVEO (for herself, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, and Mr. KEAN of New Jersey):

H.R. 8725. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to submit to Congress a report on the option to elect to pay cost-sharing under a prescription drug plan or MA-PD plan in monthly capped amounts; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 8726. A bill to direct the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program to reduce air pollution and harmful underwater acoustic impacts and the risk of fatal vessel whale strikes by recognizing voluntary reductions in the speed of vessels transiting the western coast of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 8727. A bill to prohibit the award of Federal Government contracts to inverted domestic corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. MOSKOWITZ):

H.R. 8728. A bill to establish alternate procedures for lump sum payments for certain covered small disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H.R. 8729. A bill to ensure that institutions of higher education that withhold certain transcripts are eligible to participate in title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. HAGEMAN (for herself and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.R. 8730. A bill to require the United States Postal Service to apply certain requirements when closing a processing, shipping, delivery, or other facility supporting a post office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mrs. HAYES (for herself and Mr. CURTIS):

H.R. 8731. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for comprehensive student achievement information; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. BUSH, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASTEN, Mr.

CASTRO of Texas, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CORREA, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DELUZZO, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LIEU, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MENG, Mr. MFUME, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VASQUEZ, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHRULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILD, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 8732. A bill to enhance the rights of domestic employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Oversight and Accountability, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KUSTER (for herself and Mr. VAN DREW):

H.R. 8733. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to include data on animal abuse in the national clearinghouse for information relating to child abuse and neglect; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LANGWORTHY (for himself, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Ms. STEFANKI):

H.R. 8734. A bill to amend the Northern Border Security Review Act to require updates to the northern border threat analysis and northern border strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 8735. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Edward J. Dwight, Jr., the first African American astronaut candidate in the United States; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 8736. A bill to require the President to notify Congress of each instance the President takes certain drugs relating to cognitive function, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself, Mr. PERRY, Mr. MILLS, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. GOOD of Virginia):

H.R. 8737. A bill to amend the Infrastructure and Investment and Jobs Act to repeal the authority of the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Transportation to maintain an electric vehicle working group, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science, Space, and Technology, 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. PETTERSEN (for herself and Mr. MOLINARO):

H.R. 8738. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit against tax for certain health professionals providing clinical supervision to students in rural health professional shortage areas; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. CARSON, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. NORTON, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. GRJALVA):

H.R. 8739. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to ensure labels or other appropriate forms of warning are provided in English and in the language indicated by each employee exposed to the hazard as the primary language of such employee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia (for himself and Mrs. KIM of California):

H.R. 8740. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to direct the Office of Community Affairs to identify causes leading to, and solutions for, underbanked, unbanked, and underserved consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. SLOTKIN:

H.R. 8741. A bill to establish the Office of Information and Communications Technology and Services within the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SLOTKIN:

H.R. 8742. A bill to establish the Office of Information and Communications Technology and Services within the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMUCKER (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 8743. A bill to amend subpart 2 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to

promote permanency for youth by strengthening support networks for children, youth, and families at risk of entering the child welfare system; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMUCKER:

H.R. 8744. A bill to amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to review and reduce certain administrative burdens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMUCKER:

H.R. 8745. A bill to amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve the monthly caseworker visits program so States can invest in the child welfare workforce ensuring that children in care have access to quality and timely care; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. STEVENS (for herself and Ms. SLOTKIN):

H.R. 8746. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program to develop a training program that teaches members of the Armed Forces to interact with digital information in a safe and responsible manner, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. TORRES of California:

H.R. 8747. A bill to require disclosure of asbestos hazards in the sale and lease of residential dwellings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. WILD, Mr. CARSON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 8748. A bill to construct dog relief areas on the United States Capitol Grounds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. HAGEMAN (for herself, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. BIGGS, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. CRANE, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. GOSAR, Ms. MALOY, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. OGLES, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mrs. SPARTZ):

H.J. Res. 167. A joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Agriculture relating to "Use of Electronic Identification Eartags as Official Identification in Cattle and Bison"; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. HORSFORD (for himself and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H. Res. 1297. A resolution recognizing National Black Brewers Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana):

H. Res. 1298. A resolution supporting the designation of the second Friday of June as National Service and Conservation Corps Day; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, and Ms. MENG):

H. Res. 1299. A resolution reaffirming the goals and ideals of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action in Cairo, Egypt, including comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PALMER (for himself, Mr. OWENS, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. OGLES, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. GUEST, Mrs. LESKO, Mr.

FLEISCHMANN, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. DONALDS):

H. Res. 1300. A resolution condemning campus protest backers; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

#### 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. BANKS:

H.R. 8723.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

The single subject of this legislation is:

Head Start

By Ms. BARRAGÁN:

H.R. 8724.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would give states and qualifying SNAP applicants the flexibility to waive the recertification interview, and would direct state agencies to provide the option of a phone or virtual interview to applicants should the agency require an interview for renewal of benefits.

By Ms. CARAVEO:

H.R. 8725.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION  
ARTICLE I, SECTION 8 POWERS OF CONGRESS

CLAUSE 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to submit to Congress a report on the option to elect to pay cost-sharing under a prescription drug plan or MA-PD plan in monthly capped amounts.

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 8726.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Environmental Protections

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 8727.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

to make permanent and expands restrictions that prohibit federal agencies from awarding contracts to inverted domestic corporations.

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana:

H.R. 8728.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Emergency Management

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H.R. 8729.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1: All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To ensure that institutions of higher education that withhold certain transcripts are eligible to participate in title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 8730.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Safeguarding rural mail service.

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 8731.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for comprehensive student achievement information.

By Ms. JAYAPAL:

H.R. 8732.

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 of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To enhance the rights of domestic employees, and for other purposes.

By Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 8733.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department of Officer thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

Animals

By Mr. LANGWORTHY:

H.R. 8734.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill calls for an annual Northern Border Threat Analysis, along with a classified briefing, updates to DHS's Northern Border Security Strategy and fulfillment of a GAO recommendation.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 8735.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 14, provides Congress with the power to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Congressional Gold Medal

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 8736.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

## Article I, Section VIII

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the President to notify Congress of each instance the President takes certain drugs relating to cognitive function, and for other purposes.

By Mr. OGLETS:

H.R. 8737.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Infrastructure and Investment and Jobs Act to repeal the authority of the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Transportation to maintain an electric vehicle working group, and for other purposes.

By Ms. PETERSEN:

H.R. 8738.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1. To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Health

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 8739.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Labor

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 8740.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts, and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Financial Services

By Ms. SLOTKIN:

H.R. 8741.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill gives the U.S. Department of Commerce formal authority to review connected vehicle transactions involving persons or jurisdictions of concern and to limit or, if necessary, ban the transactions if they pose a risk to U.S. national security.

By Ms. SLOTKIN:

H.R. 8742.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill gives the U.S. Department of Commerce formal authority to review information and communication technology and services transactions involving persons or jurisdictions of concern and to limit or, if necessary, ban the transactions if they pose a risk to U.S. national security.

By Mr. SMUCKER

H.R. 8743.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is.

To amend subpart 2 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to promote permanency for youth by strengthening support networks for children, youth, and families at risk of entering the child welfare system.

By Mr. SMUCKER

H.R. 8744.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to review and reduce certain administrative burdens.

By Mr. SMUCKER:

H.R. 8745.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve the monthly case-worker visits program so states can invest in the child welfare workforce ensuring that children in care have access to quality and timely care.

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 8746.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Training.

By Mrs. TORRES of California:

H.R. 8747.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: of the United States Constitution, seen below, this bill falls within the Constitutional Authority of the United States Congress.

Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in

The single subject of this legislation is:

Housing

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 8748.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To construct dog relief areas on the United States Capitol Grounds.

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.J. Res. 167.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Disapproving of the Department of Agriculture rule relating to "Use of Electronic Identification Eartags as Official Identification in Cattle and Bison"

H.R. 324: Mr. DELUZIO.

H.R. 396: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H.R. 431: Ms. HAGEMAN.

H.R. 595: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 660: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 681: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 698: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 715: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 789: Mr. MENENDEZ.

H.R. 866: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 994: Mrs. FOUSHEE.

H.R. 1005: Mr. NICKEL.

H.R. 1015: Mr. FLOOD, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. HUIZENGA, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. DUNN of Florida.

H.R. 1088: Mrs. SYKES.

H.R. 1118: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 1200: Ms. MALOY.

H.R. 1209: Mr. BENTZ.

H.R. 1277: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

H.R. 1321: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 1351: Mrs. RAMIREZ.

H.R. 1440: Mr. COLLINS.

H.R. 1447: Ms. CARVEO.

H.R. 1462: Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 1478: Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 1488: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 1493: Mr. TORRES of New York.

H.R. 1572: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. IVEY, and Mr. GUEST.

H.R. 1634: Mr. NICKEL.

H.R. 1692: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 1787: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Ms. GRANGER.

H.R. 1806: Mr. ROSE.

H.R. 1810: Mr. ROSE.

H.R. 2400: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 2403: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 2407: Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. PELTOLA, and Mr. FROST.

H.R. 2413: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2463: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2581: Mr. BURLISON.

H.R. 2584: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 2630: Mrs. PELTOLA and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2697: Ms. BALINT.

H.R. 2718: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2761: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 2921: Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 3074: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 3179: Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 3225: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 3344: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3394: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 3432: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 3503: Mrs. PELTOLA.

H.R. 3670: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, and Mr. GIMENEZ.

H.R. 3851: Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3882: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 3940: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mrs. FOUSHEE, and Ms. CHU.

H.R. 4035: Mr. PENCE.

H.R. 4052: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York and Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 4059: Ms. HAGEMAN.

H.R. 4121: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. VASQUEZ.

H.R. 4157: Mr. LEVIN and Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 4217: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 4263: Mr. NICKEL.

H.R. 4334: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 4378: Mr. TIFFANY.

H.R. 4456: Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 4699: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 4845: Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. NICKEL, and Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 4896: Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 4936: Ms. MCCLELLAN.

H.R. 4974: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. ROSS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. COHEN,

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

- Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.  
 H.R. 5003: Mr. SUOZZI and Ms. TLAIB.  
 H.R. 5027: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.  
 H.R. 5267: Mr. BURLISON.  
 H.R. 5399: Ms. KUSTER.  
 H.R. 5419: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.  
 H.R. 5420: Mr. PASCRELL.  
 H.R. 5463: Mr. TRONE and Ms. NORTON.  
 H.R. 5488: Mr. HUIZENGA.  
 H.R. 5577: Ms. GREENE of Georgia and Mr. OGLES.  
 H.R. 5707: Mr. ESTES.  
 H.R. 5741: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Ms. TENNEY.  
 H.R. 5744: Ms. ESHOO and Ms. SCANLON.  
 H.R. 5761: Mrs. HOUGHIN.  
 H.R. 5776: Mr. SCHIFF.  
 H.R. 5844: Mr. MOYLAN.  
 H.R. 5976: Mr. KIM of New Jersey and Ms. BONAMICI.  
 H.R. 6003: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. SMITH of Washington.  
 H.R. 6053: Mr. SABLAN.  
 H.R. 6199: Ms. ROSS.  
 H.R. 6296: Mr. TORRES of New York.  
 H.R. 6374: Ms. CARAVEO.  
 H.R. 6524: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.  
 H.R. 6634: Ms. ADAMS.  
 H.R. 6640: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Ms. PRESSLEY.  
 H.R. 6652: Mrs. RAMIREZ.  
 H.R. 6663: Mr. MOULTON.  
 H.R. 6727: Mr. COHEN and Mr. HORSFORD.  
 H.R. 6748: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.  
 H.R. 6780: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.  
 H.R. 6830: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.  
 H.R. 6928: Ms. NORTON and Mr. THANEDAR.  
 H.R. 7039: Mr. SOTO, Mr. MAGAZINER, and Ms. SEWELL.  
 H.R. 7053: Mr. ESTES.  
 H.R. 7213: Ms. CLARKE of New York.  
 H.R. 7227: Mr. KILEY.  
 H.R. 7250: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.  
 H.R. 7378: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
 H.R. 7390: Mr. COURTNEY.  
 H.R. 7438: Mr. DUARTE.  
 H.R. 7513: Mr. KUSTOFF, Mrs. BICE, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.  
 H.R. 7629: Ms. STRICKLAND.  
 H.R. 7752: Mr. TONKO.  
 H.R. 7866: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.  
 H.R. 7890: Mr. KHANNA.  
 H.R. 7891: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mrs. PELTOLA.  
 H.R. 7906: Ms. STANSBURY.  
 H.R. 7914: Ms. STEVENS.  
 H.R. 8005: Ms. TOKUDA.  
 H.R. 8042: Ms. CARAVEO.  
 H.R. 8056: Ms. STANSBURY.  
 H.R. 8061: Mr. CARSON, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Ms. DELBENE, and Ms. STEFANIK.  
 H.R. 8076: Mr. QUIGLEY.  
 H.R. 8093: Mr. MORAN, Mr. SWALWELL, and Mrs. HAYES.  
 H.R. 8117: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.  
 H.R. 8164: Ms. KUSTER.  
 H.R. 8165: Ms. LOFGREN.  
 H.R. 8281: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.  
 H.R. 8283: Mrs. HINSON.  
 H.R. 8307: Mr. DESAULNIER and Mr. TRONE.  
 H.R. 8318: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas and Mr. VALADAO.  
 H.R. 8370: Mr. TORRES of New York and Ms. WEXTON.  
 H.R. 8420: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.  
 H.R. 8422: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
 H.R. 8502: Mrs. RAMIREZ.  
 H.R. 8521: Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
 H.R. 8525: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.  
 H.R. 8543: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.  
 H.R. 8544: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. CASE.  
 H.R. 8545: Mr. MAGAZINER.  
 H.R. 8607: Mr. ALLRED, Mr. PETERS, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, and Ms. PLASKETT.  
 H.R. 8609: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. HORSFORD.  
 H.R. 8641: Mr. HARDER of California.  
 H.R. 8647: Mr. CISCOMANI.  
 H.R. 8683: Mr. MOYLAN.  
 H.R. 8689: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.  
 H.R. 8693: Mrs. FISCHBACH.  
 H.R. 8702: Mr. AMO and Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.  
 H.R. 8706: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, and Mr. JACKSON of Texas.  
 H.R. 8722: Mr. MFUME.  
 H.J. Res. 76: Ms. DELAURO, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. KILMER.  
 H.J. Res. 82: Ms. MANNING.  
 H.J. Res. 128: Mr. DONALDS.  
 H.J. Res. 133: Mr. DONALDS.  
 H.J. Res. 138: Mr. GUTHRIE.  
 H.J. Res. 139: Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mrs. BICE, Mr. FITZGERALD, and Mr. FLOOD.  
 H.J. Res. 140: Mrs. STEEL.  
 H.J. Res. 141: Mrs. STEEL.  
 H.J. Res. 142: Mrs. STEEL.  
 H.J. Res. 143: Mrs. STEEL.  
 H.J. Res. 145: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.  
 H.J. Res. 164: Ms. BOEBERT and Mr. BILIRAKIS.  
 H. Res. 265: Mr. TONKO.  
 H. Res. 269: Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. PASCRELL.  
 H. Res. 881: Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H. Res. 1063: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mr. MOYLAN.  
 H. Res. 1148: Mr. MENENDEZ.  
 H. Res. 1180: Mr. MFUME, Ms. PLASKETT, and Mr. AMO.  
 H. Res. 1199: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
 H. Res. 1290: Mrs. KIM of California.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2024

No. 100

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Our eternal God, we lift grateful hearts for the great heritage of our Nation. Thank You for those who purchased our freedom with blood, toil, and tears.

Lord, give us this day a vivid vision of what You expect our Nation to become as we accept the torches of integrity and faithfulness from those who have gone before us.

Give our lawmakers a reverence for Your Name and a determination to please You with their thoughts, words, and deeds. Enable them to bear with fortitude the fret of care, the sting of criticism, and the drudgery of unapplauded toil. Direct them to the sources of moral energy so that Your strength may be linked to their limitations.

We pray in Your magnificent Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, June 13, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Judy W. Chang, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2029.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### MIFEPRISTONE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, mifepristone is a safe and reliable drug that has been widely available for dec-

ades. Though I am relieved by today's decision made by the Court, no one should be celebrating this decision. This decision should have been an obvious one. And let us not forget: This decision was based not on the merits but on a lack of standing. We are not yet out of the woods.

This shouldn't be a decision women are forced to fear year after year, case after case. These healthcare decisions must be between women, families, and their doctors, not judges nor lawmakers.

### RIGHT TO IVF ACT

Now, Mr. President, on IVF, for years, as the hard right had set their sights on Roe v. Wade, many of us kept hearing the same thing again and again: Roe can't possibly ever be overturned. We were told that worrying about Roe was sensationalism, that its repeals were so remote a prospect that worrying about it was much ado about nothing. Many on the Republican side who voted repeatedly against codifying Roe used the excuse that Roe was not in danger, and they used it as an easy way out. The same could happen to IVF.

Of course, that all came to an end 2 years ago, when a MAGA majority on the Supreme Court did precisely what the anti-abortion movement has wanted for decades—the reversal of Roe and the elimination of a constitutional right to an abortion.

Today, we live in a country where tens of millions of women are forbidden by law from making the very same personal decisions about their bodies. This is precisely what many Republicans, who are scared of their own bad views on abortion, assured us would never happen. And yet, here we are—in a modern-day dark age for women's fundamental freedoms.

Worst of all, the anti-abortion movement is not yet finished. Now that Roe is gone, they have set their sights on a new target: in vitro fertilization.

So, today, the question before the Senate is very simple: Do we agree that

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



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Americans should be free to use IVF if they want to, yes or no? If yes, then the only right answer is to vote in favor of today's bill.

The Right to IVF Act is common sense and necessary. It establishes a nationwide right to IVF and eliminates barriers for the millions of families looking to use IVF to start and to grow a family.

Protecting IVF should be the easiest "yes" vote the Senate has taken all year. Republicans cannot say they are pro-family and then vote against protecting IVF.

It is very fitting that we take this important vote today of all days. Here in the Senate, we are voting to protect women's reproductive freedoms, but on the other side of Capitol Hill, Donald Trump and his Republican sycophants will be talking about tax breaks for the very rich, cuts to the middle class, and packing our courts with more radical judges. The contrast couldn't be clearer. Look at the contrast. Democrats are protecting IVF; Donald Trump and the Republicans are protecting wealthy tax breaks. Which side is for the American people? It is obvious.

Look, as we prepared this IVF bill, many of our Republican colleagues who hate talking about the issue have made the same panicked arguments they made about Roe: It is a nonissue; it will never happen; that we are blowing things out of proportion; that IVF, they say, is simply not under threat and today's bill is unnecessary.

Senators CRUZ and BRITT even organized a statement yesterday, signed by all Republican Senators, saying that of course they support IVF. But they certainly won't be voting on a bill that protects it. Easy to see through that one, isn't it? How strange—all 49 Republicans are willing to sign a piece of paper saying they like IVF, but none of them seem to be willing to actually vote for a bill that protects IVF. It shows you how afraid they are of the issue, how they are tied in a knot by the MAGA hard right on choice, and they can't do anything the American people want.

This is simple: If you really support access to IVF, vote to protect access to IVF.

America, watch what our Republican colleagues do, not what they say. Again, this is not a show vote; this is a "show us who you are" vote. Today, unfortunately, it seems our Republican colleagues are going to show us just who they are—people who will not protect a woman's right to IVF.

To all those who claim that IVF is not under any threat, facts are stubborn things. Look at what happened yesterday when one of the most powerful anti-abortion voices in America officially came out against IVF. Look at what the Alabama Supreme Court did 4 months ago. Their decision on IVF led to a temporary halt on IVF services across the State of Alabama. This is a disastrous thing to see in 21st-century America.

Senate Republicans who like to pretend that IVF is not under threat should have a word with the likes of the Heritage Foundation and Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America. These organizations are some of the most influential authorities in conservatism and on the Republican Party, and they are making it plain as day that IVF is the hard right's next project.

Just 1 week ago, the Susan B. Anthony league wrote to Senators telling them to oppose the Right to IVF Act. They said our bill protecting IVF was "irredeemable" and described IVF as a "free for all." Their opposition to IVF uses identical language as those who oppose abortion.

The Heritage Foundation—one of the most important conservative and most powerful conservative, most influential conservative organizations—is against our bill protecting IVF. They were even against the fig leaf messaging bill pushed by Senators CRUZ and BRITT, which didn't actually protect IVF at all. It seems the senior Senator from Texas, up for reelection, is running scared.

One senior policy analyst at the Heritage Foundation predicted a generational shift in how the right views IVF, saying:

Many of these pro-life Republicans are going to have to think more deeply about what it means to be pro-life.

The hard right is saying it as plain as day. First they targeted abortion, and now IVF is next. Sooner or later, Republican Senators are going to fall in line.

That brings me back again to the very important vote happening today here on the Senate floor. As Donald Trump talks about protecting tax cuts for the rich, we Democrats in the Senate are talking about protecting women's reproductive freedoms. It is a fitting encapsulation of what is at stake this year.

Finally, let me finish with this: Starting a family is one of the most sacred decisions a person can ever make. For many, it is what makes life worth living. Infertility makes that impossible for tens of millions of couples. About 10 percent of couples struggle with this medical condition. That is a heavy burden to carry if your deepest wish is to become a mom or a dad. It can be a source of worry, concern, even shame.

IVF has thus been a miracle cure for generations of parents and kids. It has been part of my family's story. My beautiful grandchild was born thanks to the help of IVF, and I thank the Good Lord for it.

So it is the stuff of nightmares that today the hard right in America is beginning to set their sights on preventing people from using IVF. We have a chance today to stop this madness before it takes full flight. We have a chance to pass a bill that says something very simple: IVF is a basic right and will be protected under law.

To my Republican colleagues: The choice is yours. Americans are watch-

ing, parents back home are watching, and couples who want to become parents are watching too.

Republicans cannot say they are pro-family but vote against protecting IVF. That is what is at stake today.

I urge everyone to vote yes.

Remember, America, this is not a show vote; it is a "show us who you are" vote.

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Now, Mr. President, on AI legislation, artificial intelligence is already reshaping our world as we know it. Every industry—healthcare, finance, manufacturing, and others—will in some way be impacted by AI and must be prepared when that moment comes. That includes the Federal Government.

As more Federal Agencies begin to incorporate AI into their operations, it is critical that they have a clear and established set of guidelines to manage this technology safely and effectively. So I was pleased that yesterday Chair PETERS and Senator TILLIS introduced a bipartisan bill to make sure the Federal Government is proactive in harnessing AI's potential while managing its very real risks.

This legislation will establish some of the first guidelines for the responsible procurement of AI by the Federal Government. The guidelines in this bill will be essential for the Federal Government to deploy AI so it protects people's civil rights, prevents bias, and ensures people's privacy.

These protections are critical not just for the application of AI in the Federal Government, they are important for the application of AI in every industry.

I commend Chair PETERS and Senator TILLIS for introducing this legislation. It is a great example of both sides working together to legislate effectively on AI.

As we have said, we first had our AI forums. We then put out our roadmap. Now our committees are beginning to work on specific legislation. I am very, very proud that we are moving forward in this regard.

We had another opportunity to work together to pass AI legislation last night when Senator DURBIN tried to pass his DEFIANCE Act, which cracks down on nonconsensual AI pornography and holds those responsible for the sharing of graphic images and videos.

Sadly, despite the bill having bipartisan support, one Member—only one Member—from the other side of the aisle stood in the way and blocked its passage. I hope this is not the norm moving forward. I hope both sides can continue working together—like Chair PETERS and Senator TILLIS did—to harness the potential of AI while protecting against its risks.

#### DONALD TRUMP CAPITOL HILL VISIT

Mr. President, finally, on the Trump visit, later this afternoon, Senate Republicans will welcome former President Donald Trump to Capitol Hill for a meeting about some of the top priorities of the Republican agenda moving



forward. One of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle predicted the meeting would be “an expression of unity.” “[A]n expression of unity”? I will be honest. It is getting harder and harder to differentiate between the Republicans’ agenda and the extreme, hard-right MAGA agenda. In many ways, they seem to be one and the same nowadays.

The topics up for discussion between Senate Republicans and Donald Trump today read like Republicans’ greatest hits: taxes, Social Security, Medicare, and more. But when you take a closer look under the hood, it is not difficult to see that these are issues where Republicans are way out of touch with the American people.

Cutting taxes on the very wealthy and on corporations that don’t pay their fair share? That is what they want to do. Social Security and Medicare—when 180 House Members are part of the group that said we should cut them, and RICK SCOTT—running for leader—from Florida says we should cut Medicare and Social Security? Give us a break. If that is unity, the American people sure as heck don’t want it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

#### NOMINATION OF SARAH NETBURN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, soon, the Judiciary Committee will consider promoting a magistrate in New York, Sarah Netburn, to the district court after a less-than-judicious committee process.

Judge Netburn’s hearing was a contentious affair. You should go watch it. My friends the junior Senators from Louisiana and Texas had the judge dead to rights on her judicial activism from the bench. She was clearly prepared for their line of questioning, but by the end, she wilted under the withering fire from my colleagues.

That is when the acting chairwoman of the committee got involved. After Republicans were finished questioning Judge Netburn, she invited the nominee to defend herself. Her defense, of course, flatly contradicted her written opinion as a judge.

Committee Republicans rightly objected. It is one thing to give a nominee the chance to rehabilitate herself, but giving her the last word as she lied to the committee is a different matter entirely. After the nominee gave two different explanations for why she had engaged in political activism from the bench, committee Democrats blocked further questions and closed the hearing.

It sounds an awful lot like the way another nominee, Adeel Mangi, explained his policy views to liberal interest groups only after the committee was finished questioning him. Judge Netburn got the last word here.

As the junior Senator from Louisiana said, it looks an awful lot like a cover-up. Apparently, it is not enough for Senate Democrats to rubberstamp radicals to the courts. They desperately don’t want the American people to even know about it.

Well, it is not working. The Judiciary Committee has received almost 100 letters from liberals opposing Judge Netburn’s activism. The cat is literally out of the bag. So I would urge my colleagues to pay attention to what happens in the Judiciary Committee as Judge Netburn’s nomination moves forward.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. President, now on another matter, this week, the Armed Services Committee has been marking up the National Defense Authorization Act for the coming year. In the past, the committee has prided itself on considering hundreds of amendments and thoroughly exercising Congress’s oversight responsibilities in the process. I expect this year to be no different.

But one essential question hangs over both the NDAA and the appropriations process to come: Is Congress ready—finally ready—to fulfill our most fundamental responsibility of adequately providing for the common defense? This, of course, remains an open question. For a fourth straight year, the process of funding the Federal Government began with a White House budget proposal that would impose net cuts to the national defense.

I have said it before. How can we expect to keep up with the pacing threat, the PRC, if our military budgets don’t even keep pace with inflation? I know a number of our Democratic colleagues recognize that the threats we face are growing and that our defense requirements are growing along with them, but they don’t seem to be ready to respond with any sense of urgency. Senate Democrats continue to indicate that they will stick to their long-standing demand for artificial parity between defense and nondefense appropriations for any increases above the President’s budget.

It is time for all of us to face the actual facts. The threats we face have grown since the bipartisan budget caps were negotiated. They have grown since the President’s budget was drafted. The defense of Israel and Ukraine continue to offer lessons on the glaring need for modern air and missile defenses. We have learned how insufficient our inventories of critical long-range munitions might be in the event of a direct conflict in the Pacific. And with the risk of simultaneous conflict in multiple regions actually growing, the enduring importance of the two-war force planning construct is making itself abundantly clear.

This is the reality our colleague Ranking Member WICKER was grappling with when he put together a detailed plan for an overdue generational investment in the national defense, and I am grateful to my friend for his leadership. A serious roadmap for preserving our military primacy is on the table. The question now is whether the Senate will follow it; whether we will lay the groundwork right now for urgent investments in critical munitions, long-range fires, sea power, and in the defense industrial base required to sustain all of it for long-term strategic competition.

Way back in 1940, when the scope of the Axis threat was finally so glaringly obvious that even longtime skeptics began to soften their opposition to long-overdue military investment, the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Harold Stark, pointed out a harsh reality: Dollars can’t buy yesterday.

We are already facing a steep uphill climb to prepare America’s Armed Forces to deter aggression and outcompete our adversaries. You can’t surge readiness. We can’t modernize overnight. Yesterday is right now, and it is time to invest in what we need to deter and defeat looming threats.

So I will be watching our colleagues’ work closely, and I will urge the Democratic leader to bring the NDAA to the floor for consideration as soon as the committee completes its work.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. President, on one final matter, earlier this week, Senate Democrats took up the Biden administration’s banner of prescription drug socialism.

Our colleague Chairman SANDERS announced he would ask his HELP Committee colleagues to subpoena a drug company executive to testify before the committee about the prices of innovative treatments.

Never mind that U.S. Senators shouldn’t require remedial lessons in the workings of the market economy. And never mind that the company in question had already expressed willingness to testify. Our colleague has decided to take the route of maximum escalation.

I have discussed the facts behind America’s world-leading medical innovation sector at length before. What innovator would sink the time, resources, and risk into the development of a new treatment if there were no prospect of recouping their investment? Apparently, Senate Democrats aren’t the only ones who seem to be stumped—stumped—by this question. The Department of Commerce is taking steps to finalize a framework it announced last December known as march-in rights. Under this policy, if the Federal Government deems that the prices of certain drug treatments are too high, it could elect to “march in” and seize the company’s intellectual property rights.

In a rather ironic twist, the Department’s proposed policy relies on a law—the Bayh-Dole Act of 1980—that

was designed to do the exact opposite: to promote cooperation between government and innovators. This time around, the latest chapter of prescription drug socialism would send all the wrong signals to would-be innovators behind future lifesaving cures. It would tell them not to take risks; not to build new things; and not to invest their time, resources, and creativity to develop more of the greatest medical achievements the world has ever seen.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CELEBRATING THE 247TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I rise today—I have done this several times since I have been here in the Senate. It is always an honor to do it. When something is that important, I think it is worth repeating. I am rising today to offer a resolution expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance as an expression of patriotism and honoring the 247th anniversary of the introduction of our U.S. flag.

Tomorrow, we celebrate Flag Day, which was established over 100 years ago by President Woodrow Wilson. As we pause to recognize all that our flag represents, let us also honor those who have sacrificed everything to defend it.

In 2002, Senator Tom Daschle raised a similar resolution with unanimous support from the Senate. It passed on the floor uneventfully. Today, I ask this body to reaffirm our support for the Pledge of Allegiance, also bringing into account somebody from Indiana—Red Skelton.

In 1969, the American entertainer, who was well known for his program “The Red Skelton Hour,” wrote a speech on the importance of the pledge. Reflecting on his time in Vincennes, IN, he spoke about the values instilled by one of his high school teachers.

After the performance of the speech, CBS received 200,000 requests for copies. I wonder if that would occur in this day and age. This speech would go on to be sold as a single by Columbia Records and performed at the White House for President Nixon.

I think it would honor Mr. Skelton’s memory and the importance of the Pledge of Allegiance if it were recited again today on the Senate floor like I have done several times since I have been here.

Red Skelton:

When I was a small boy in Vincennes, Indiana, I heard, I think, one of the most out-

standing speeches I ever heard in my life. I think it compares with the Sermon on the Mount, Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, and Socrates’ speech to the Students.

We had just finished reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and Mr. Lasswell, the Principal of Vincennes High School, called us all together. He says, “Uh, boys and girls, I have been listening to you recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester, and it seems that it has become a little monotonous to you. Or, could it be, you do not understand the meaning of each word? If I may, I would like to recite the pledge, and give you a definition of each word:

I—Me; an individual; a committee of one.

Pledge—Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

Allegiance—My love and my devotion.

To the Flag—Our standard. ‘Old Glory’; a symbol of courage. And wherever she waves, there is respect, because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts, ‘Freedom is everybody’s job.’

of the United—That means we have all come together.

States—Individual communities that have united into 48 great states;—

Forty-eight because of when it was done—

48 individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose; all divided by imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common cause, and that’s love of country—

Of America.

And to the Republic—A Republic: a sovereign state in which power is invested into the representatives chosen by the people to govern; and the government is of the people; and it’s from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it stands

One Nation—Meaning ‘so blessed by God.’

[Under God]

Indivisible—Incapable of being divided.

With Liberty—Which is freedom; the right of power for one to live his own life without fears, threats, or any sort of retaliation.

And Justice—The principle and qualities of dealing fairly with others.

For All—For All. That means, boys and girls, it’s as much your country as it is mine.”

Afterwards, Mr. Lasswell asked his students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance together, with newfound appreciation for the words.

I pledge allegiance

to the Flag of the United States of America

and to the Republic for which it stands;

one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Red Skelton concluded his speech by saying:

Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country, and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance: Under God. Wouldn’t it be a pity if someone said “That is a prayer”—and [it should] be eliminated from our schools [as well]?

Just as those students that day—Mr. Red Skelton included—recommitted to the meaning of the words of the Pledge of Allegiance, I call upon the U.S. Senate to recommit to the meaning of these words.

There are times today that the words of the Pledge of Allegiance are tossed around without care. Other times, they are altered to remove what today is deemed offensive or antiquated. But Americans should not misuse or abuse our Pledge of Allegiance. The pledge is

meant to remind Americans of our guiding principles and inspire adherence to those ideas that made our country great: equality under the law; recognized rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That is why, in honor of Flag Day tomorrow, I am requesting unanimous consent from my colleagues that my resolution expressing support of the Pledge of Allegiance be passed.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 732, which is at the desk; further, that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 732) celebrating the 247th anniversary of the creation of the flag of the United States and expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 732) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, Democrats made their latest move yesterday in their yearslong campaign to undermine the legitimacy of the Supreme Court. Their failed attempt to gain unanimous consent on a so-called Supreme Court ethics bill was yet another attempt to bully the Court into ruling the way Democrats want.

With decisions in multiple controversial cases coming from the Supreme Court over the next few weeks, including today, I expect this was just the prelude to yet another dramatic Democrat temper tantrum if things don’t go Democrats’ way. I say “if things don’t go Democrats’ way” because it is a funny thing—when the Supreme Court decides things Democrats’ way, we hear a lot less about the legitimacy of the Supreme Court.

Take the Court’s decision in Consumer Financial Protection Bureau v. Community Financial Services Association of America, Ltd., in which most

of the Court's Republican appointees sided with all of the Court's Democrat appointees to deliver a decision that Democrats supported.

Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, the Democrat ranking member of the House Financial Services Committee, had this to say:

With this decision, our nation's justices have decided to put consumers first and reject the baseless attacks led by extreme MAGA Republicans and greedy payday lenders to hamstring the work of the CFPB and put consumers in harm's way.

Or take the Court's decision in *Moore v. Harper*, in which half of the Court's Republican appointees sided with the Court's Democrat appointees to deliver a decision that was embraced by the Democrat leader here in the U.S. Senate.

Here is what he had to say:

Today, those who support democracy, fair elections, and the rule of law can stand a bit taller. Today's ruling reaffirms the longstanding precedent that respects our constitutional system of checks and balances.

Again, that is from the Senate Democrat leader. Funny how he didn't mention anything in that statement about how the Court had been captured by, in his words, "the fanatical MAGA right."

I could go on, but all of this leads to one inevitable conclusion, and that is that, to Democrats, the only legitimate Court and the only legitimate Court decisions are the ones that line up with Democrats' policy preferences.

It has become clear that Democrats are willing to do whatever it takes, up to and including intimidation, delegitimization, and Court packing, to ensure that the Court rules in line with where Democrats want it.

This isn't about ethics or legitimacy or concern for our democratic institutions, as Democrats would have you believe; this is about power. Democrats are apparently perfectly willing to undermine a fundamental part of our system of government for their political ends, because, let's be very clear, it is not the Supreme Court that is undermining the legitimacy of this essential institution; it is Democrats with their unhinged campaign against a duly-constituted Court composed of nine duly-confirmed Justices nominated by a duly-elected President; a Court, it is worth pointing out, that in its last term ruled unanimously—that is right, unanimously—roughly half of the time and 90 percent of the time—let me repeat that: 90 percent of the time—had at least one Democrat-appointed Justice in the majority.

Mr. President, it would be nice if we could just dismiss Democrats' hysteria as the tantrums of a party that has discovered that sometimes in a democracy, you don't get your way, but Democrats' concerted effort to undermine the legitimacy of the Court is deeply troubling because of the widespread consequences it could have.

The last thing we should be doing at a time of deep political divisions is to be shaking Americans' faith in the le-

gitimacy of our institutions and the impartiality of the Court. Do Democrats really want a public with less faith in the government?

Perhaps they do or perhaps they don't care, as long as their policies are ascendant and they can maintain a hold on power. But they should care.

As I said, should things not go entirely the Democrats' way in the coming weeks of Supreme Court decisions, I expect we are going to hear a lot. We will hear a lot more hysteria about the Court's supposed hijacking and illegitimacy.

But I hope the Justices and the American people will tune it out, because the Democrats' baseless and irresponsible attempts to delegitimize the Court do not deserve to be given the time of day.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I want to join my friend and colleague from South Dakota in decrying the relentless smear campaign that is being directed at the Supreme Court of the United States.

Of course, many of these attacks have come from expected sources—liberal activist groups and people, for example, who leaked the Justices addresses so protests could occur on their lawns, lodging threats against these judges and their families—all because they disagreed with the decisions that the Court has made in one case or another.

And, of course, there is one instance where a person who was determined to assassinate Justice Kavanaugh was thankfully stopped by law enforcement. That demonstrates the dangerousness of some of these political attacks against the Court.

Sadly, these aggressors aren't limited to a small group of outsiders though. Attacks are being waged by elected Members of Congress. Some men and women in this building have sworn an oath to support and defend the Constitution but have repeatedly targeted the Court over supposed ethics concerns.

Last year, 15 of our Democratic colleagues recommended slashing the Supreme Court's budget, which actually would be unconstitutional, but they threatened to slash the Supreme Court's budget if it failed to meet their demand to implement a code of ethics which they had proscribed.

A few years ago, five of our Democratic colleagues threatened the Court could be restructured if it failed to rule a certain way in a case involving the Second Amendment.

And, of course, we can't forget the time when the majority leader, the Senator from New York, stood on the front steps of the Supreme Court and threatened two Justices by name if they didn't reach a preferred ruling in an abortion case.

Well, these are unprecedented attacks against the Court. They are inappropriate at best, and they are unconstitutional at worst. They show a complete lack of respect for the three separate but equal branches of government that comprise our constitutional Republic.

And they know that, but they are using these attacks to undermine public confidence in the Court.

They demonstrate a willingness to do whatever it takes to secure a partisan win, even if that means shredding the U.S. Constitution and undermining the separation of powers.

The partisan political attacks on the Supreme Court have varied, but the underlying objective has always been the same. It is about control. It is about power.

Democrats want to control the institution, control the Justices, and, thus, direct the outcomes. In other words, they want to make the judicial branch not an independent branch of government—a nonpolitical branch. They want to make it another political branch of government because they don't like some of the outcomes that the courts have decided.

Forget fair and impartial courts. That is not their objective. They want judges to fall in line and obey orders. In short, they want to politicize the independent judiciary. And if there is a threat to our democracy today, it is the politicalization of some of our most basic institutions—like the FBI, the Department of Justice—and now the left is targeting the Supreme Court of the United States.

So far, they haven't been successful, but that doesn't mean they are going to stop trying any time soon.

Last month, the New York Times published a piece by Congressman JAMIE RASKIN where he advised, as a supposed constitutional scholar, self-proclaimed. He wrote an article about forcing two Supreme Court Justices to recuse themselves from a case involving President Trump. The piece is literally entitled: "How to Force Justices Alito and Thomas To Recuse Themselves in the Jan. 6 Cases."

Here is a prominent Member of Congress—a Democratic Member of Congress, a self-proclaimed constitutional scholar—talking about how to force an independent branch of government to commit to a certain outcome and force the recusal of two sitting Justices. He argued that the Department of Justice has the authority to compel that. He is wrong, but that is his argument.

The decision on whether or not to recuse is reserved not for Members of Congress, not for the Department of Justice, or for anyone else. The Code of Conduct for U.S. Judges provides clear

guidelines on recusal, and it is ultimately up to the individual Justices.

Unfortunately, there is a full-fledged pressure campaign to blur the lines that separate the Supreme Court from other branches of government. For years, liberal activists and dark money groups have been on a warpath to destroy public confidence in the high Court's independence.

One of these groups is called Demand Justice, an organization whose highest goal is to pack the Supreme Court and install a permanent liberal majority. A couple of years ago, one of the co-founders of Demand Justice said:

It's time for [the Democrats] to see the Court as a political opponent, just as much as any GOP elected official, and run against it.

That is the type of people and the type of agenda we are dealing with here.

Demand Justice and other liberal groups recently sent a letter to Senator DURBIN, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, urging him to use his power to investigate these so-called ethics concerns. They want the Senate to craft a law to dictate to the Supreme Court what their code of ethics should look like.

Forget about the fact that they already have a code of ethics. Democratic Senators want to dictate what that code of ethics should look like.

And, last night, Chairman DURBIN tried to force a vote on this bill, but it was blocked. His unanimous consent request was blocked by the ranking member, Senator GRAHAM.

As my Republican colleagues and I have said for months, any decisions about the Supreme Court's practices or procedures should come from the Court itself, not from Congress. The Senate has a limited but important role where it concerns the Supreme Court, and that is through the confirmation process. And we are all familiar with that.

All nine Justices underwent a rigorous background check. They endured hours and hours of questioning from members of the Judiciary Committee, met with Senators one on one, and ultimately were confirmed by majority vote of the U.S. Senate.

That is where the Senate's role starts and ends. We don't have the authority to drag the Supreme Court Justices before Congress in pursuit of some political agenda. There are clear limits to Congress's power under the Constitution—and for good reason.

The independent judiciary has been justly described as the crown jewel of our democracy. We have our fights. We have elections. But ultimately the Supreme Court gets to decide what the law is. That has been the case since 1804 in the case of *Marbury v. Madison*.

Our Founders deliberately designed a Federal Government with three separate but equal branches. A system of checks and balances sought to prevent any one branch from forcing its will on another.

If Chairman DURBIN and our Senate colleagues on the Judiciary Committee

respect the separation of powers, they will resist this latest attempt to hijack the Court. The Supreme Court is a separate and coequal branch, and its operations squarely fall outside of the authority of the legislative branch.

I often think back to a statement issued by Chief Justice Roberts in 2018, when he said:

We do not have Obama judges . . . [we do not have] Trump judges, Bush judges or Clinton judges. What we have is an extraordinary group of dedicated judges [who are] doing their level best to do equal right to those appearing before them."

It was true then, and it is true now. The men and women on the Supreme Court should not be pawns or players for either political party. The suggestion that judges are likely to apply perceived political views to cases is dangerous and disingenuous. We have been embroiled in the last few years with the hijacking of our justice system, including the FBI and the Department of Justice, for partisan political purposes, and it is very, very dangerous, because we know what goes around comes around.

Once a precedent is set around here, when the shoe is on the other foot, when the majority is in the minority, when the minority is in the majority, that same precedent will be applied in the future.

Public trust is absolutely vital to the health of our democracy, and the surest way to destroy that trust is by turning the Court into a political football. That is what our Democratic colleagues are risking.

It doesn't matter what case is before a court or what ruling is ultimately handed down, elected officials need to lead by example and support judicial independence. Members of this body must show faith in the judiciary and in our constitutional system of separation of powers, and that includes letting the judges do their job.

Look, the Court is going to hand down decisions that I don't like and that the Presiding Officer doesn't like, but that is not the point. The point is there is a fair and impartial process of applying the law and the Constitution to deciding what the outcome is.

I can't count the number of times I have been disappointed by a Court ruling, but I have certainly never advocated for restructuring the Supreme Court to ensure a preferred outcome of mine the next time. And I have never suggested cutting funds if judges failed to deliver my preferred ruling. That would be wrong.

And certainly, certainly, I have never threatened Justices with violence if they reached a decision I disliked.

And I never have and I never will use the power of Congress to try to subpoena a sitting member of the Court or force Justices to recuse themselves contrary to their decision, using the rules that exist—the code of conduct that exists for Federal judges.

So an independent judiciary is absolutely essential to our democracy, and

I hope Chairman DURBIN and our Democratic colleagues will show a little self-restraint and resist the far left's latest push to destroy public confidence in the Supreme Court or in the Court's independence.

I yield the floor.

#### VOTE ON CHANG NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Chang nomination?

Ms. HASSAN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 63, nays 33, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 196 Ex.]

#### YEAS—63

Baldwin	Grassley	Reed
Barrasso	Hassan	Risch
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Rounds
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	Kelly	Shaheen
Carper	King	Smith
Casey	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cassidy	Lujan	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Tillis
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Warner
Cramer	Merkley	Warnock
Crapo	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Ossoff	Wicker
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Graham	Peters	Young

#### NAYS—33

Blackburn	Fischer	Mullin
Boozman	Hagerty	Paul
Braun	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Rubio
Budd	Johnson	Schmitt
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Lummis	Thune
Daines	Marshall	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Vance

#### NOT VOTING—4

Butler	Sanders
Menendez	Sinema

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The majority leader.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider with respect to the Rosner, See, and Chang nominations be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## RIGHT TO IVF ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 413, S. 4445.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 413, S. 4445, a bill to protect and expand nationwide access to fertility treatment, including in vitro fertilization.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

## RIGHT TO IVF ACT

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, last week, every Senator was put on the record as to whether they will defend the right to contraception, and despite Republicans' words about supporting birth control, their actions—voting against the Right to Contraception Act—spoke louder.

Today we are putting Republicans on the record on another issue families across the country are deeply concerned about: the right to IVF.

As we saw in Alabama, the threat to IVF is not hypothetical. It is not overblown, and it is not fearmongering. After the Alabama Supreme Court ruled that a frozen embryo is the same—has the exact same rights—as a living, breathing human person, women who waited for months and spent tens of thousands of dollars and were days away from an IVF appointment were left to wonder if it was all for nothing when their treatment was abruptly canceled.

And families that had already gone through IVF were left to wonder if they could have their providers now dispose of unused embryos without facing legal threats.

This happened. It was national news. It was complete chaos. So Republican efforts to dismiss this vote as fearmongering are simply not going to fly—especially when, right now, there are Republican bills, right now, that would enshrine as a matter of law that life begins at conception and that discarding unused embryos is, essentially, murder. That would essentially end IVF in our country.

And this is not a fringe bill, either. It is supported by the majority of House Republicans, including the Speaker.

Mr. President, I don't know how to make this any clearer to my Republican colleagues: You cannot support IVF and support fetal personhood laws. They are fundamentally incompatible.

Democrats are not going to let Republicans off the hook for their support for fetal personhood. This is a dangerous and extreme ideology that the public must understand Republicans support wholeheartedly.

We are also not going to let Republicans paper over their extremism with their so-called solution: a bill that is not only silent on ensuring embryos can be discarded but that explicitly allows States to put burdensome restrictions on IVF and create the kind of legal uncertainty that forced clinics in Alabama to close their doors.

Mr. President, I do have good news for any of my Republican colleagues who do genuinely want to support IVF in a serious, meaningful way. We have a bill before us today that will do just that, and we are going to vote on it very shortly: the Right to IVF Act.

I really want to thank Senator DUCKWORTH and Senator BOOKER for working with me to put together a bill that would protect Americans from attempts to restrict IVF and help people get those vital services at a lower cost. The Right to IVF Act would establish a Federal right for patients to get IVF care and for doctors to provide it. It would ensure more health insurance plans cover IVF services, making care finally accessible to middle-class and lower income families who desperately need it.

And this package includes my bill to help more veterans and servicemembers who have difficulty conceiving get the critical fertility services they need to start their families, including IVF. This is something I have long been pushing for, for years now, and it is long overdue. After all, these men and women fought to protect our families. We owe it to them to make sure they have the support when they come home to grow theirs.

None of this should be controversial, especially if Republicans are serious about supporting IVF and preventing more chaos like we saw in Alabama.

I will have more to say before the final vote, but the bottom line is: Americans saw earlier this year, with painful clarity, just how real the threat to IVF is, and they are going to see right now just who is serious about addressing that threat and protecting IVF access.

With that, I will turn it over to my colleague from Michigan, who has been a champion on this issue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, first, I want to thank the senior Senator from Washington State, who is also the President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, for her incredible leadership on all of the issues related to reproductive freedom.

And I just want to start by saying that I cannot believe that we are in 2024—we are not in 1824; we are in 2024—and we have to stand on the floor of the U.S. Senate and say that we need to protect a woman's right to choose IVF as the process to start or grow her family or that we have to protect her ability to make decisions on birth control or on abortion services or any other reproductive issue—any other reproductive issue.

This is not for people here to decide what every single woman—every person—involved in this should decide. It is not for politicians. It is not for judges. This is an individual freedom in America and needs to be protected, and that is what today is about as well.

For those who want to have children but struggle with infertility, IVF is a path. It is a wonderful path—expensive path. It may take a lot of time, but it is an important path to grow a family.

I have two senior members of my staff who have chosen IVF for different reasons. One of my staff has a beautiful little boy, Carter, who celebrated his first birthday not long ago. Amazing. And my other staff person is excitedly waiting with her wife for their new son to be born in September.

Different paths, different choices. Their choice. Their choice. Not the choice of politicians. Not the choice of judges or anybody else. Their choice.

And IVF has helped thousands of Americans have children, including Brittany from Holly, MI, who I know is with us today. After being diagnosed with PCOS at 16, she experienced fertility issues when she was ready to start a family. After 3 years, six rounds of fertility treatments, countless tests, and two rounds of IVF, she gave birth to her beautiful baby girl, Eloisa, who is now 8 months old—8 months old.

Despite the strain this journey put on her relationships, Brittany told me that “Every penny was worth it for our daughter.” She said:

Every penny was worth it for our daughter. IVF has made our family complete.

And she is not the only Michigander who has been able to start a family because of IVF. When her husband was serving our country in the U.S. Navy, Sue from Brighton, MI, used IVF to bring her son into the world. At the time, she was an elementary schoolteacher and her husband was deployed for months at a time. Her entire salary went toward the seven rounds of IVF that were needed to have a successful pregnancy—a wanted, present pregnancy.

With insurance only paying for some of the medication, Sue spent over \$100,000 out of her own pocket on treatment. This journey put an emotional and financial strain on Sue and her husband, as we would expect.

And this situation is not unique. Our veterans and our servicemembers sacrifice so much for our country. They shouldn't have to sacrifice their ability to start or grow their family because these treatments aren't covered. And families shouldn't have to choose between going into debt to cover the enormous cost of treatment and having a baby just because it is not covered by insurance.

That is why passing the Right to IVF Act is a no-brainer for me. I hope it is a no-brainer for everybody on the floor of the Senate. This should be 100 Members of the Senate supporting this bill.

We need to protect the freedom for millions to use IVF. We need to expand

and protect fertility treatments for our servicemembers and our veterans and cover adoption assistance, which is in this bill. We need to lower the cost of IVF for everyone, and we need to make sure women have the freedom to make our own reproductive decisions—not rightwing politicians, not judges.

That is why we must pass the Right to IVF Act, and it needs to be done today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. I rise to join my colleagues here. I want to thank my colleague from Washington, Senator MURRAY, for her leadership and so many others who are here on the floor today.

I come to speak also about the Right to IVF Act and want to say how important it is that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle support this.

I want to take one minute, though, to talk about the important decision the Supreme Court just made on mifepristone. It is so important because 60 percent of abortions in the State of Washington are done with this drug. It is a highly safe and effective medication used by millions of Americans. And the Court ruled on standing alone. It didn't reach any conclusion about the ludicrous arguments that the plaintiffs were making.

So America should not rest on this decision because anti-choice activists are going to keep using the courts to target abortion. It is just another reminder of why we have to fight for reproductive freedom and why we can't rest.

I also, though, want to talk about how important it is to support the legislation in front of us. Every American should have a chance to use fertility treatments to bring new life into this world and to become a parent. This opportunity wasn't always available. The first child conceived through IVF was born in 1978. That was an era of major advances and new freedoms for women: the right to have your own credit cards, the right to choose to have your access to an abortion and when you start your family, the right not to be discriminated against in so many ways.

Today, nearly half a century after IVF, it is safe, it is well-established, and many, many, many American families rely on it. In fact, more than 2 percent of all children born in the United States are born as a result of IVF. We have IVF to thank for over 2,000 new lives created in the State of Washington just in 2022.

IVF brings new life into the world and helps families start their families, and it shouldn't be controversial. That is why I can't believe that we have to take this action today because there are those who are trying to take this hard-won right away from families, to take away their reproductive rights and their freedoms.

Since the Dobbs decision revoked the constitutional right to abortion, we have seen waves and waves of different

things that affect our healthcare. In February, in Alabama, the State supreme court shockingly ruled that frozen embryos legally have the same rights as living children. That forced IVF clinics in the State to temporarily halt their services. One can only guess why they halted those services.

At a Pacific Northwest facility in Seattle, a reproductive endocrinologist said her office got a wave of phone calls from fertility patients wanting to move embryos there, to the Northwest, after the Alabama ruling. They were terrified that the ruling could cause complications for the embryos and the future of their IVF process. The doctors said there is an increase in cost, in complexity, and the risk of damage to embryos associated with moving them because of the possibility of threats to IVF access.

I have heard so many stories from my own constituents and that of Senator MURRAY's. A mother from Kirkland told me she gave birth to a baby boy after 4 years of fertility treatments, but she is afraid that the future in States might force people like her to remain without that option.

A Spanaway mom of a 19-month-old conceived through IVF asked me to protect IVF so that everyone can choose—everyone gets to choose—when they start their family.

Grandparents from Bremerton of an IVF baby wanted me to know that, during the IVF process, everything—everything, everything—is time-sensitive.

But rulings like Alabama's throw the process into chaos, potentially, permanently ripping away the prospects for these couples of having children.

A Vancouver woman struggling with infertility due to scarring in her abdomen pointed out that IVF is science, and courts and legislators shouldn't be interfering with it.

A woman in Everett, currently going through the IVF process for her second child, urged me to ensure everyone has access to those treatments.

My constituents are right. Congress needs to act today to expand and protect the access to IVF.

While it is safe and common, the IVF process still is stressful. It is still expensive. And that is why the possibility of activists going to court in an overzealous, anti-choice State and getting involved in these choices is not what we should support. We should support making sure that this right is protected. We can't have this continued attack on reproductive healthcare in the United States of America.

The bill we are voting on today would establish the right to access IVF. It also would expand insurance coverage, which is incredibly expensive. Just one cycle can cost between \$15,000 and \$30,000, and many women require more than one cycle. So that cost can be as high as \$60,000.

It would also allow our veterans to help preserve their opportunities.

In February, this Chamber tried to pass a narrow bill codifying the right to access IVF, and it was blocked.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle claim reproductive freedom isn't under attack. Trust me. Come to the State of Washington, where we have codified these rights. We are seeing this happen. Physicians are moving to our State because they are not sure, if they go home across the Idaho border, that they are not going to get arrested. Women are coming over to get treatment, not sure if they can get back to their State.

The system is more clogged because more people are coming there because we provide the care. All of this is making the system harder to deliver the important things.

I should just say that people aren't even thinking of the two collision courses here, where the vertical integration of healthcare is making it harder and harder for people like gynecologists to even stay in business. And now we are making it harder and harder on States that are the ones who are carrying the burden of upholding reproductive rights.

I ask my colleagues to support this important measure. Let's make sure Americans have the freedom to decide for themselves when and how to have children, and let's put this to rest. Let's give Americans the certainty that fertility treatments in America are part of your healthcare delivery system.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. Mr. President, this is my son Jack, who I think you know. Every time I look at him, I remember the doctor telling my wife Robin and me that we had literally a one-in-a-million chance of naturally conceiving a child—a one-in-a-million chance.

Like so many other couples in America, we had experienced a family health issue that would make having a child very difficult and exceedingly unlikely—all but impossible. You don't know how hard it is to hear something so definitive, so final until you are in that situation. It was the end of a dream we had to create a child together, to grow our little family—our family that, like so many others, didn't have the usual path to this point, the usual path that makes having children without medical help all but certain.

But regardless of what the doctor was telling us, we knew that we would welcome a child with more love and care than I could ever put into words, if we only had the chance.

If red States like Alabama had their way, Robin's and my story would have ended there, in inconsolable heartbreak and what might have been, what should have been. Thankfully for us, we don't live in an America as envisioned by MAGA Republican extremists in Alabama.

The one-in-a-million odds weren't the end of our dream. It was just the start of a new part. That part was called in



vitro fertilization. It is not an easy process. It comes with its ups and downs, its uncertainties, and tremendous cost, both economic and emotional. But it meant our dream could still come true.

And in December 2022, my wife and I welcomed this amazing little man, Jack Hickenlooper, into our family. In vitro gave us what we hoped for. It gave us our one in a million. And we are not the only ones. In 2022 alone, more than 2,300 babies were born in Colorado through fertility services. Across the country, it was nearly 100,000 families. Now, so many families like ours are cherishing the sacred experience of staring into your own child's eyes—when they take off the sunglasses—and of that child staring back.

Every family should have that same opportunity. And to restrict that opportunity in some States but not in others, or for some people but not for others, is nothing more than anti-American. Aren't we the country that stands for equality and freedom?

We are standing here voting on this today because the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, seizing the rights of millions of women, same-sex couples, and families like our own in the process.

Don't take my word for it. Look at Alabama. We have already seen in vitro services stopped cold in the State of Alabama.

That is not all. In the aftermath of the *Roe* decision, we have seen red States and MAGA Republicans trying to roll back the rights to abortion, to in vitro, and even contraception—banning contraception in America in 2024.

The door is open right now for all of us to show our constituents that American families are more important than playing politics. I certainly hope we all do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. I want to thank Senator MURRAY for her leadership on this issue. I thank my colleague Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH.

I first met TAMMY DUCKWORTH about 12 years ago. She was my guest at a State of the Union Address. She was a patient at Walter Reed Hospital. She was recovering from the wounds which she incurred in a combat helicopter, fighting for the United States of America.

What happened to her is unimaginable. A terrorist shot a rocket-propelled grenade into the cockpit of her helicopter, and it landed in her lap. She lost her left leg as a result of it and went through at least a year, maybe more, at Walter Reed Hospital, patching her up, saving her arm, thank goodness, and giving her the kind of guidance she needed to lead a life.

When I met her, I knew she was an extraordinary person, an extraordinary American. I didn't know how extraordinary until I called her one day and

said: Would you consider running for office? In a moment of weakness, she says, with medication, she answered yes.

I watched her elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and to the U.S. Senate. She has become more than just a colleague. She is a friend I dearly love. I believe we are lucky to have her in the Nation and in the U.S. Senate.

She made a phone call to me about 8 years ago. I remember it so well. I was driving on Interstate 55 up to Bloomington for a meeting, and it was TAMMY that gave me some news.

I said: What is up, TAMMY?

She said: I am going to have a baby.

You could have knocked me over with a feather. I couldn't believe it. After all she had been through—losing a leg, going through a year or more at Walter Reed Hospital—she and her husband Brian finally had a dream come true. Through in vitro fertilization, she was going to have a baby girl. It was a miracle. I couldn't believe it. Yet it did happen.

We had to change the rules of the Senate so TAMMY DUCKWORTH, the first woman Senator to have a child while serving in the Senate, could bring her baby on the floor of the Senate. We have a special rule for that. But it meant so much for her to let her little girl have that experience that we changed the rules.

The reason I tell you that story is it could be repeated over and over thousands and thousands of times. In vitro fertilization is the ticket for military servicemembers and veterans like TAMMY DUCKWORTH to have the joy of a child. In fact, she has had a second child through IVF. And with that joy, she showed that she cannot only be a great Senator and a great wife, but a terrific mother too.

What is at stake here is privacy and freedom—privacy and freedom—as to whether we as Americans are going to respect one another in making these fundamental human decisions. There are politicians in this Chamber as well as in legislatures across the country who want to make that decision for your family. Don't let them take that away from you.

That is why this vote is so critically important. What we are guaranteeing is the privacy and freedom of individuals and families who want to choose IVF to start or expand their families. That is just common sense.

If you are pro-choice, protect the choice to use IVF to expand your family. If you are pro-life, protect the life that comes out of that process. It becomes such a critical part of your own life.

I listened to Senator HICKENLOOPER. I met Jack. He is worth all the effort and pain they went through. People like Senator HICKENLOOPER and his wife Robin should have that opportunity, and we should protect it. Let's make sure we do.

Vote yes on this proposal.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, when I introduced the Women's Health Protection Act a little more than 10 years ago, the idea that *Roe v. Wade* might be reversed was unthinkable—in fact, unimaginable. We are living now in the post-Dobbs era, which is one of horror and heartbreak for women across the country.

Let's be very clear that the ramifications in our law, in our families, in bedrooms of Americans are widespread and real. The Alabama Supreme Court's ruling is absolutely horrifying to women and families who want IVF to give them the miracle of childbirth, the wondrous magic of a new life as part of their family.

Now, a lot of people are going to look to today's Supreme Court decision and say: Isn't it comforting? No, it is not. This decision on mifepristone was made on a legal technicality. It does nothing to restore the reproductive rights and access to abortion that the Supreme Court dismantled in *Dobbs*, and it does nothing to reassure families that IVF will be accessible and affordable to them. That is why we need the Right to IVF Act—to reassure Lisa, who lives in Norwalk, CT, who has a healthy and happy baby girl as a result of IVF and cannot imagine life without it. Families like Lisa's wouldn't exist if it weren't for IVF, and many will not exist if we do not pass this measure.

Those who vote against this measure are not in favor of life; they are anti-women, anti-choice, anti-science. This miracle is the result of scientific advance.

I am going to close by just recalling a trip that I recently took to Normandy on the 80th anniversary of D-Day. Walking through the American cemetery, row upon row of gravestones, white, silently eloquent testimony to the importance of freedom and the American determination to expand freedom and liberty across our country and the world, and then to walk on Omaha Beach and see the absolutely insurmountable, three-football-field-long terrain that those soldiers had to confront and overcome on D-Day. I would guess that few, if any, of those young men knew of *Roe v. Wade*—they were kids, 17 and 18 years old, had never been away from home before, farm boys, mechanics—but they knew they were fighting for freedom. That is why they jumped into that 8 feet of water, under a hail of bullets and mortar fire, fighting for the ideal that America respects and expands the frontiers of freedom.

If we have one-tenth, one-hundredth of their courage and determination, today this body will vote for the Right to IVF Act because it is about freedom.

One Justice of the Supreme Court called the right of privacy “the right to be let alone,” and that is what American families want—the right to



be let alone from politicians or government bureaucrats telling them what to do with their families.

We owe it to Americans. We owe it to the great tradition of our veterans of military service, to all who have given their lives to preserve America, the ideal and the beacon of freedom around the world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Right to IVF Act, and I want to thank Senator MURRAY, who is here, and Senators DUCKWORTH, BOOKER, and SCHUMER for their leadership on this bill. I am proud to be a co-sponsor.

We all know why we are here. We are all here in part because the Supreme Court made a wildly unprecedented decision in the Dobbs case. They threw out decades of precedence, making it the case that my daughter has less rights today than her mom or her grandma did. The ruling goes against the wishes of between 70 and 80 percent of Americans.

In the wake of the disastrous ruling, extremist judges have attempted to undermine IVF and even criminalize doctors for simply doing their jobs. Twenty-one States have fully or partially banned abortion. The number of U.S. patients traveling to other States for care has skyrocketed to one in five. I know because they are coming to Minnesota from North Dakota and South Dakota.

But it wasn't enough for them to just mess with a women's right to decide her own healthcare, no. Now they are trying to control when you choose to start a family. We saw this happen earlier this year in Alabama, where the State supreme court brought IVF procedures in the State to a screeching halt. This is merely the latest instance of the chaos and cruelty that have been unleashed since the Dobbs decision.

We know what a miracle IVF is. You just saw Senator HICKENLOOPER's adorable little boy. IVF is a miracle for millions of families who can't otherwise have children, and no politician and no court should interfere.

Since 1978, over 8 million children have been born due to fertility treatments like IVF. In 2022 alone, more than 1,800 babies were born in Minnesota, in my home State, thanks to IVF. That is why we are fighting to protect these rights.

I am thinking of Miraya and Meta, whom I met this morning, two Minnesota moms. They are with us. They both became parents through the miracle of IVF.

Meta said: I am the proud mother of twin girls, but without IVF and my ability to access treatment, they would not be here today. Our twins are now almost 8 years old, and I cannot imagine my life without them. They are incredible humans who are already bringing so much love, joy, and hope into the world.

That is why, along with Senators DUCKWORTH, MURRAY, BOOKER, and SCHUMER, I am calling on our colleagues to pass the Right to IVF Act. This legislation is hardly a radical proposal. It simply ensures that families can be in the driver's seat when it comes to family planning, not people who want to strip away the rights of those who have them.

This bill safeguards a patient's ability to seek IVF and a healthcare provider's ability to provide these critical services. It ensures that our veterans can choose if, when, and how to start their families. Because the kind of healthcare insurance you have shouldn't determine whether your family can access the miracle of IVF, the bill requires health insurance carriers to cover fertility treatments.

For these last years, we have seen complete chaos, a patchwork of laws across the country. What this bill does is protect freedom, protect the right to start a family.

We all have an opportunity today to make clear where we stand, and I call on our colleagues to join us. The American people overwhelmingly support this bill. Let's get it done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, nearly one in five American couples has trouble conceiving, and many of them turn to IVF for help. In the year 2021, more than 85,000 babies were created using this miraculous procedure—truly a miracle. Yet they will also tell you, these parents, that undergoing treatment is hard and long and painful and challenging and expensive and emotionally and physically draining. It is often a last resort. After a long journey of failed attempts, they talk to their doctor, and their doctor says: Would you like to try this? And even that is going to be super expensive and maybe not work. One in five families experiences this trouble, and there is this miraculous treatment that can help you to start a family.

So let's be really clear about what the so-called pro-life movement is about here. It is not about life at all. In this instance, it is specifically about assigning the rights of a fully formed human being to a fertilized embryo in a petri dish so that they can control females—so that they can control females. That is exactly what this is about.

Look, there is a fair amount of spin going around Washington—more than usual—because Republicans understand how angry families are, how angry people who are not yet able to conceive are, and so they are trying to get people to believe something other than their own eyes and their own experience.

But here is the beauty of this place: We talk and talk and talk and talk and talk, and then we vote. There is one opportunity and one opportunity only to enshrine the right to IVF in Federal statutory law.

I don't care what you tweeted. I don't care what you said on cable news. I don't care what the memo from the campaign arm of the Republican National Committee says. In a few minutes, we will know the official position of the Republican conference on IVF, and the Susan B. Anthony list and the MAGA Court and these extreme forces in our society are going to show that the Republican Party is not for IVF.

I wish it were different. I wish we could pass this law. But the beauty of the Senate floor is that everybody will be on the record by the end of the afternoon.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I rise in support of this legislation. I thank my colleagues, Senator MURRAY, Senator BOOKER, and Senator DUCKWORTH.

You know, there are two things. One is good news, and one is bad news. I will start with the bad news.

We have a terrible U.S. Supreme Court. It will live in infamy for many reasons but none more than an ignominious decision that took away constitutional rights that American citizens enjoyed. They stripped women of their right to choose. Enormously bad consequences. It has created an incentive for folks who have their views to try to impose them on others, and we saw that in Alabama with their effort to prohibit people from having access to in vitro fertilization.

But there is good news. The good news: our American families, couples who want to have a child, who are so excited about taking on that challenge of loving this new person and caring for them through their infancy, through their adolescence, looking forward to when they themselves will be grandparents. That is the good news.

In 2022, 91,000 infants, through IVF, came into these families, so those couples have that opportunity to have this place to give the love that is within them that they can now express, having this child. That is really the good news here. So, yeah, I am upset about the Supreme Court, but I am so excited about American families that want to make this decision and have IVF as an option for them to be able to realize their dreams of giving love to this new person in the world.

Now, our Republican colleagues are saying that this is a show vote so why pay attention to it. Well, you know what, they are right. They are right. It is a vote to show that we want to make certain, with the power of the U.S. Congress, that the decision a family wants to make about trying to conceive through IVF is protected; that they have the capacity to take advantage of the best medicine that is out there to realize that dream that is a dream about life. And what is wrong with showing the people of the United States that each and every one of us in the U.S. Senate wants to not only show that we respect and honor the decision

those citizens are making, but with the power invested in us as U.S. Senators, we are going to use the authority of our vote to guarantee they have that right?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, thank you to Senator DUCKWORTH for her leadership today on the floor.

In February, the Alabama Supreme Court placed the medical procedure that has helped millions of Americans realize their dream of having children, in vitro fertilization, or IVF, at risk. The Alabama judges used the Supreme Court's decision in the Dobbs case to justify their argument.

These extremist judges showed the American people that the Dobbs case was never just about abortion. Dobbs was a preview of coming atrocities, and the Supreme Court majority declared open season on American reproductive freedom.

And Republicans got to work. States passed immediate and overbroad abortion bans; peeled back protections for access to birth control, IUDs, and Plan B; and put access to IVF at risk. They created confusing, restrictive, and punitive schemes across States and threatened to jail patients and providers.

And they aren't finished. Republicans don't have to pass a national ban on abortion, birth control, or IVF to effectively achieve that goal. Confusion, misinformation, and fear are the point. In some States, they make it so difficult and so terrifying to get reproductive care that it is like it is already banned.

But in creating this chaos, Republicans have made clear their intentions and their position: Republicans will not protect the right to an abortion; Republicans will not protect the right to birth control; and Republicans will not protect the right to start a family.

Republicans will try to hide their extremism and say they support contraception and IVF, but we are calling their bluff.

Given the chance to protect access to contraception, they voted no. And today, given the chance to vote to protect IVF, they will vote no.

Republicans will continue to pursue their anti-choice, anti-freedom, and show the American people what "GOP" really stands for: Gutting Our Protections. The GOP are so offended by bodily autonomy that they would rather follow the extremism of the few than the will of the majority of American people who want their reproductive rights protected.

We must meet the clarity of their extremism with the clarity of justice. We will fight for reproductive freedom. We will fight for national protections for abortion, birth control, and IVF. We will keep putting them on the record, and we will guarantee that they are held accountable to the American people who will not forget who tossed

away their freedom in pursuit of radical rightwing extremism.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, the Right to IVF Act is simple. It says that all Americans should have access to the tools that they need to start a family, no matter where they live or how much they earn or whether they serve in the military.

That all sounds obvious. We shouldn't even need this bill, but we do need this bill. We need this bill because a judge in Alabama ruled that an embryo that is created by basic assistive reproductive technologies like IVF can be considered children. And that even if embryos aren't viable, an IVF provider could be held liable for manslaughter or murder if anything happens to those embryos.

We need this bill because the cost for a single round of IVF is enough to bankrupt a family, let alone two or three or four rounds, and many parents are forced to bear all of those costs out-of-pocket. A constituent in Oregon said:

Most fertility treatments are considered "elective" by insurance companies. I never elected to have a deformed uterus and fallopian tubes.

Another parent in Oregon who was a public servant for 22 years added up the out-of-pocket costs:

\$9,000 to see the Reproductive Endocrinologist, \$2,000 for consultation and diagnostic testing . . . \$7,000 for medications . . . \$3,000 for cryo-preservation and storage fees . . . \$5- to 7,000 for genetic testing . . . \$2- to 3,000 for embryo transfer.

Then, we hope and pray it works. If not, then we do a second round. Again, all cash. Our insurance benefits do not cover ANY infertility treatments. We have nothing left.

This is unacceptable. Fertility treatments are medical care that should be covered by insurance, full stop. We need this bill because many of our military servicemembers and veterans have been wounded and lost the ability to conceive, and many more are deployed to dangerous combat zones right now. Infertility rates for our members of the military can be up to three times higher than the rest of the population. They protect our families. Let us protect their ability to have a family and guarantee they have access to IVF and the other fertility care they need.

And we need this bill because, as we celebrate the month of June as Pride Month, we know that many of our LGBTQ+ friends and family members rely on IVF to conceive.

We shouldn't need this bill, but we do, to protect IVF providers, to cover IVF costs, protect the ability of members of our military, LGBTQ community to start a family.

Anyone who has been through IVF knows that someone who is willing to endure the long and heart-wrenching process that involves truly wants to become a parent, to have children, to raise a family. And we should do all we can to support that.

So I urge my Republican colleagues to reconsider. Instead of being so anti-family, instead of denying the ability of our community members to have children, join us in this protection.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise and want to thank my colleague from Washington State who has been leading on these issues for years and years and my friend from Illinois. And what I am going to do just briefly, my colleagues have been so eloquent, is talk about why Senator DUCKWORTH's legislation is so important at this crucial time. It is absolutely essential that we pass the Duckworth bill.

And as far as I am concerned, I am prepared to stay on this floor—I mentioned this to my colleague—for as long as it takes. We are just going to stay at it until we get this done. And the reason I feel so strongly about this is, several decades ago, as a young Member of the Congress—the other body, the House, with a full head of hair and rugged good looks—I wrote a law called the Fertility Clinic Success Rate and Certification Act. It was supported by the profession. It was supported by patient groups.

And I never imagined, after we passed that law, that people would be out here on the floor of the U.S. Senate trying to unravel the progress that has been made. And when we passed it, it was all about some simple ideas, particularly clarity for the families trying to navigate the system. It was largely information.

It was a new technology then, decades ago. It is not now. Now it is proven. Families rejoice being able to use it.

And never did I imagine that we would have an effort on the floor of the U.S. Senate trying to turn back the clock, trying to unravel the progress that has been made. That is what Senator MURRAY and Senator DUCKWORTH are taking on: a rearguard action to turn back the clock and unravel the progress that has been made for so many families.

And, unfortunately, this is kind of where we have been for a while, trying to unravel the progress with respect to contraceptives, trying to unravel the progress with mifepristone. We will have more to talk about all of this.

But the court ruling out of Alabama earlier this year would have effectively turned back the progress, made IVF impossible. And since then, we have seen the far right, as my colleagues have said, trying to build on the effort to take away our freedom.

And none of this seemed to me, Senator DUCKWORTH, imaginable several decades ago when people were rejoicing because they knew how to navigate the system and get information, figure out what providers were right for them, and it worked so well, as it does today.

And your bill is absolutely essential business for the Senate. I would just

say to my colleagues here: Do not vote to unravel all of this progress that families rejoice in. Support the Duckworth legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I am the Senator from Delaware, and I am joined by my colleague from Delaware. And one of the things that has long distinguished Delaware—it was one of the first States in the whole country where, because of her personal experience with IVF, a former Republican, Delaware insurance commissioner, helped drive through mandatory insurance coverage for IVF in the State of Delaware years ago. The idea that today we would be on the floor of the Senate advocating on behalf of Senator DUCKWORTH's bill to put in law protections, the right to access IVF, would have been unthinkable.

I still remember, as someone hoping to become a parent, struggling with the challenge of working through difficulties that we as a couple faced in becoming pregnant and talking all the time to friends and neighbors and others who were going through similar challenges. There is nothing more important in life than being a parent. And sometimes all of these activities and debates here on the floor don't connect. People have a hard time understanding why this matters. One of the reasons I am so thrilled that Senator DUCKWORTH is leading this effort here on the floor today is it is easy to understand. Because of her service to our Nation, because of her grievous wounds in combat is why, perhaps, this is so important to her and her family.

But I wanted to share the story of a Delawarean, and I am so grateful she has allowed me to share her story today.

Lindsay Griffin was diagnosed with Stage IV endometriosis, which prevented her from ever conceiving naturally. Lindsay and her husband were determined to become parents. And like so many of us, knew that it would be expensive and difficult and take a long time. They even took out a \$25,000 loan to pay for IVF.

Lindsay endured procedure after procedure, surgeries, embryo transfers, even the loss of a pregnancy. Now, today, years later, they are parents to two healthy boys, 7 and 2.

Why would we in this country put this blessing of parenthood for so many in Delaware and Illinois and throughout our Nation at risk? It is already hard enough.

Today, Lindsay and her husband are blessed with two children. But in States like Alabama, far-right lawmakers and judges have already tried to deny families this precious gift.

The vast majority of Americans want us to pass this bill today, want us to protect the right to IVF. Eighty-six percent of Americans in a recent poll want us to do this. So why is this even controversial? In the best of cir-

cumstances, the journey to the blessing of parenthood is difficult. The journey to the blessing of parenthood through IVF is incredibly hard: emotionally, financially, physically.

Let's stand up for families for the common and shared principle that the blessing of parenting should not in any way be barred by threats to the procedure of in vitro fertilization. I stand before you today as someone committed to protecting IVF in Delaware, in this Congress, in this Nation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The junior Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, as we approach the 2-year anniversary of the disastrous Dobbs decision, I am struck by the chaos it has sown across our country.

Last week, on this floor, I was joined by a number of my Democratic colleagues in speaking out against the Republicans' attacks on contraception. Despite the relentless attacks from my colleagues across the aisle that they actually support the right to contraception, when it came down to it, nearly every single Republican voted against a bill protecting the right to contraception.

Today, I rise in defense of another tool that has helped millions of people across our country start or grow their families. This tool is called in vitro fertilization. For decades, IVF and other assisted reproductive technologies—or ART—have helped people who otherwise couldn't start families of their own.

While some on the right like to paint IVF as some sort of new or untested technology, that is not so. The first baby delivered via IVF was more than 45 years ago, and since then, IVF has helped bring more than 10 million babies—10 million babies—into this world. In fact, as a State representative in the Hawaii Legislature in the 1980s, I led the passage of a bill making Hawaii one of the first States in the Nation to require health insurers to cover IVF treatment. That was in 1987, years before the iPhone, before email, before some of my colleagues in Congress were even born. And earlier this year, I met Dr. Lori Kamemoto, an OBGYN who helped deliver the first baby born in Hawaii via IVF.

And yet, thanks to the chaos created by Dobbs, a whole range of reproductive rights are on the chopping block. Look at Alabama, where the State supreme court invoked a fetal personhood law to call into question the legality of IVF, effectively halting IVF treatments in the State. In this Chamber, earlier this year, Republicans blocked our attempts in passing a bill protecting IVF.

The impacts of these concerted attacks are being felt far beyond the red States. In Hawaii, a doctor who practices in the OB-GYN field on Oahu reported that he "[O]bserved an increasing level of anxiety among both [his] fertility patients and staff." So Hawaii

being one of the first States to protect IVF and promote IVF, this doctor is saying that even his patients are seeing the impact of all of these attacks on our reproductive rights.

IVF is a complicated process as it is, even under the best of circumstances. The last thing people trying to conceive need to worry about is being criminalized by some of the States I mentioned—Alabama—because of the whims of far-right jurists and politicians.

That is why this bill is so important. It would establish a nationwide right for patients to access IVF and other ART services and a right for doctors to provide IVF treatment. And, crucially, it would require and expand health insurance coverage of IVF because we know access without affordability is not true access. But my Republican colleagues appear blinded by their obsession with power and control over women's bodies that they are unable to support even this commonsense bill—again, indicating how out of touch Republicans are about the needs of particularly women in our country. It is disappointing, but not surprising. They continue to show us just how out of step they are with the American people.

So today, the Democrats will vote to protect the right to IVF as we continue working to ensure people can make decisions about their bodies, their lives, and their futures—free from government interference.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, as many of our colleagues know, I am the proud father of two sons and a stepson. It has been the joy of my life to be their father. My wife and I love them all unconditionally.

But the journey to parenthood is not the same for every family, nor always an easy one. Being the last Vietnam veteran serving in the U.S. Senate, I know the importance of helping our servicemembers when they return home from deployment abroad.

During my three deployments to Southeast Asia many years ago, many of my brothers in combat shared dreams of coming home to marry and start families of their own. But those who made it home from Southeast Asia, as well as other war zones past and present, have often struggled with health issues for years to come, including infertility.

While IVF was not an option for returning Vietnam veterans, had it been available, I know it would have helped countless young couples start their families in the country they fought so hard to protect. We have an obligation to serve those who serve our country, and this bill does just that.

The Right to IVF Act is a commonsense piece of legislation, and bringing more life into this world should be an issue that all of us can agree on.

I urge all of our colleagues to join us today in passing this legislation before us.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. SMITH. Madam President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Right to IVF Act. So here is something that is close to a miracle. People who have struggled and struggled to have children are able today, through the very best science and medicine, to conceive and to bring a child into the world. It is incredible; it is a blessing.

In 2021, more than 86,000 babies born in America were conceived through IVF. And in my home State of Minnesota, I have heard from so many of my constituents who have struggled with infertility and who wouldn't have children but for IVF. So today, we have the opportunity to vote on a bill that protects us. Our bill is straightforward in its purpose. It would establish a clear and enforceable nationwide right for people to receive IVF, for doctors to provide IVF, and for health insurance to cover IVF.

So if you live in a State where a Republican State legislature passes a law infringing on IVF, that would be stopped by our bill. If you get your health insurance through your employer, your health insurance would cover your care. If you are a service-member or a veteran, as my colleague Senator CARPER said, you are covered—same for Federal employees. And if you get your health insurance through Medicaid, which covers 40 percent of the births in this country, you are covered.

So you may be asking: Who could disagree with this? It is a good question. And here is the reality. Since the extremist Supreme Court Justices—appointed by Donald Trump and confirmed by Senate Republicans—since they overturned Roe, Trump abortion bans across the country have sown chaos and confusion. And they have emboldened States that have created this chilling effect on reproductive healthcare and emboldened States like Alabama to restrict IVF.

Now, if my colleagues on the other side want to protect IVF, if they believe that doctors and providers should be able to provide IVF without fear of criminal prosecution, then they would vote for our bill.

Colleagues, I hope that Republicans will vote with us to proceed on our bill so that we can make real progress to protect access to IVF and to say very clearly that government has no business interfering in your families' decision about the healthcare that you need to treat infertility.

If my Republican colleagues want to make it clear where you stand on IVF, please join us in voting for this bill today. If you vote no, your actions speak louder than any words.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I rise today to speak in support of my bill to protect IVF. Elissa Smith was

living in Alabama when she heard the news this past February. She had been pregnant a few years earlier, but it had left her with scars, both emotionally and physically.

She had been in her third trimester with her first child when she had learned that she had cancer. She gave birth early to a beautiful baby girl. Then soon after, she underwent surgery, chemotherapy, multiple medical procedures—you name it—a care plan that helped to get rid of the disease but that also left her unable to conceive again. Thankfully, she had then undergone one round of IVF before her treatment for cancer.

Fast forward to early 2024, things were finally getting brighter. She and her husband had just begun to research surrogates to carry her viable embryos. Then, a gavel sounded out of her State courthouse, marking the ruling that changed theirs and so many other families' lives.

On February 16, the Alabama Supreme Court declared that frozen extrateruterine embryos created through IVF should be considered children under State law—a ruling that painted would-be moms and their doctors as criminals and one that uprooted the dreams and began the nightmares of aspiring parents, as IVF clinics statewide soon paused treatments out of fear that their doctors and patients would be punished for trying to start families.

Elissa was one of these women. Now, it seemed like her desperately hoped for wish of growing her family was snatched away by an extremist court that either had no idea or simply didn't care about everything that had gone into trying to turn her dreams of a family into reality.

Elissa's story is exceptional. But it is not the exception. For so many women, that lifelong hope of having children is now stuck in a hellish limbo, as they remain uncertain whether more States will follow Alabama's lead; as they are forced to live in fear that Republican success come November would even further imperil their right to try to create a family; as they remain unsure whether living in a red State under a Trump Presidency could mean getting jail time for committing this supposed sin of needing modern medicine to bring into the world a baby to nuzzle and swaddle and love.

Look, I was actually stationed in Alabama many times throughout my 23 years of military service. And I didn't know it at the time back then, but infertility would become one of the most heartbreaking struggles of my life, my miscarriage more painful than any wound I ever earned on the battlefield.

It is only thanks to IVF that I get to be embarrassingly proud when I hang my 6-year-old's drawings on my Senate office walls or that I get to be tackled in bed every Mother's Day by my 9-year-old who runs into my room bearing the biggest of hugs and sweetest of cards.

So excuse me if I find it a bit offensive when a bunch of politicians who have never spent a day in med school hint that those of us who have needed the help of IVF to become moms should be sitting behind bars rather than lulling our babies to sleep in rocking chairs.

My apologies if I take it personally when the same folks who rely on NRA blood money to get elected suggest that women like me are committing acts akin to murder when all we are trying to do is create life and not have to suffer through more miscarriages.

You know, right after the Alabama ruling came out, I came to this very spot and begged my GOP colleagues to help me pass my bill that would set the simple standard that no doctor or hopeful parent could be criminalized for IVF. And Republicans blocked it. This was after days and days of the GOP claiming to support IVF. This was after they claimed to support reproductive health. This was after days of them claiming that they actually gave a damn about the women in this country. Naturally, that was all untrue, all a ruse to mislead voters.

And at this point, it is obvious: The only thing they care about is kissing up to trial room Trump and bowing down to the most extreme wing of their party. Things like common decency or common sense doesn't even register anymore.

It comes down to this: Every woman deserves to be able to be called "mama" without being called a criminal. That is why, today, I am trying once again to pass legislation that would enshrine into law every American's right to IVF, now called the Right to IVF Act.

If Republicans actually care more about protecting women's health more than they do about getting invitations to Mar-a-Lago, then all they have to do to show it is help me move my bill forward—because, look, struggling with infertility is hard. Using all your savings to go through round after round of IVF is hard. This vote? Well, that is one thing that is actually really simple: Vote for it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes, followed by Leader SCHUMER for up to 3.

Mr. BOOKER. Reserving the right to object, if the Senator would allow me just to not give my remarks on the floor but enter them into the RECORD, I am happy to give consent to that.

Mr. CASSIDY. Absolutely. And I did not mean to cut you off, and I apologize. I did not know you were in the queue. I apologize.

Mr. BOOKER. I am the junior Senator from New Jersey; I am used to being cut off.

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

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I rise today in support of the Right to

IVF Act, a package of bills that I was proud to introduce alongside my colleagues, Senator DUCKWORTH and Senator MURRAY. This legislation does two key things: it establishes an enforceable nationwide right to fertility treatments, including in vitro fertilization or IVF and it allows more people to access these critical, family building treatments at a lower cost by expanding insurance coverage.

I am especially proud that my bill, the Access to Fertility Treatment and Care Act, is included in this package. This bill makes fertility care, including IVF, more affordable by requiring employer-sponsored insurance plans and other public insurance plans to cover those treatments.

Millions of Americans who rely on fertility treatments and IVF to build their families face excessive out-of-pocket costs.

This would help Americans like Lindsay Gordon, a constituent of mine from Glassboro, NJ, realize her dream of starting a family. When Lindsay and her husband Daniel were diagnosed with male-factor infertility, IVF became the only option to have children. But even though they both worked for private corporations, neither Lindsay nor Daniel had insurance coverage for fertility treatment. So they drained their life savings and Lindsay actually took on a second job at night to afford IVF treatments, working over 18 hours a day for over a year. Heartbreakingly, Lindsay and Daniel suffered multiple miscarriages while going through the process to achieve a pregnancy. In all, their fertility journey cost them close to \$100,000 in out-of-pocket healthcare costs. This is a staggering burden that can keep people from accessing these medical services.

There is a happy ending to their family building journey: Lindsay and Daniel were ultimately blessed with a baby boy. But no family should have to struggle so much to build the family of their dreams.

There is overwhelming support for the Right to IVF Act: it has 46 cosponsors in the Senate. By supporting this legislation, we make clear to Lindsay and Daniel Gordon and to the American people that being rich or poor should not dictate whether you get to start or grow a family.

Supporting this bill also sends the message that radical courts and legislators should not dictate whether someone has access to reproductive health care.

Since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, we have seen a full-scale assault on the rights of women to make their own reproductive health care decisions. We have seen increased attempts by State governments to exercise control over women's bodies, including by criminalizing expectant mothers. And we have seen confusion and uncertainty amongst medical providers, who are trying to uphold the oath they swore to care for their patients.

The Court's radical decision to overturn *Roe* opened the floodgates on attacks beyond abortion to other types of reproductive health. The Alabama Supreme Court made a medically and scientifically unfounded decision that a frozen embryo should be treated as the legal equivalent of an existent child or a fetus gestating in a uterus. IVF treatment immediately halted across Alabama following this ruling, illustrating how fragile access to these services are without a federal enforceable right to IVF.

I firmly believe that everyone everywhere deserves to have access to high quality, comprehensive healthcare. Healthcare includes reproductive services, fertility care, and abortion. I am not alone in this belief. Most American adults agree with me that these rights must be protected.

I know there are people across this country, in red States and blues States alike, making deeply personal reproductive healthcare decisions. These decisions should not be more difficult because of the assault on reproductive freedom. I look forward to continuing to fight to protect your fundamental freedoms and to increase access to reproductive healthcare for every American.

I yield to the Senator.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I have been sitting here listening to this, and I can't help but notice that my Democratic fellow Senators have chosen to disrespect and deceive the American people as they politicize a deeply personal issue for short-term political gain—distorting facts, capitalizing on the pain and the longing of women desperate to conceive, families desperate to hold a child. Democrats are trivializing, for political purposes, the substantial emotional, financial, and personal investment required of a woman and of a family to become pregnant through IVF.

Let's set the record straight. I support IVF. Republicans in the Senate support IVF.

Now, the tragic situation in Alabama has been used to fearmonger and scare that IVF is somehow in jeopardy, as though for someone who has a hope for a future family, that hope is threatened. And that is not true. Let's just say there is no State in the United States of America that prohibits a woman from growing her family through IVF, and Democrats know that.

Let me say that again. There is not a single State which bans IVF; and Alabama, which has been mentioned several times, specifically passed a law after the Mobile incident in which they make sure—affirm—that IVF is available.

So this bill before us today would have done nothing to prevent that which happened in Mobile, where embryos were dropped and destroyed. In the recent case at Mobile's Center for Reproductive Medicine, a hospital patient wandered into the embryology

lab—how did that happen?—removed five human embryos from cryostorage, and dropped them, destroying the embryos.

Tragically, cases like this are not isolated. There was a storage tank failure in San Francisco that resulted in the death of 3,500 eggs and human embryos and another in Ohio in which 4,000 eggs and human embryos died.

A recent investigation into a fertility clinic with 33 locations across the country uncovered multiple instances of accidental embryo destruction, mislabeled embryos, and labs with faulty heating, ventilation, and air conditioning.

Just this year, a fertility clinic in California used hydrogen peroxide instead of distilled water during the incubation period—used hydrogen peroxide instead of distilled water—rendering all of the embryos nonviable. Then, if you can believe it, the clinic allegedly transferred more than two dozen embryos into would-be mothers despite knowing that this would not end in a pregnancy.

It is expected, at a minimum, that fertility clinics protect and respect human life, keeping these treasured embryos safe. Women, mothers, parents—they deserve better.

But what we have today is a haphazardly copied and pasted bill that sets up a messy hierarchy of unfunded mandates and inconsistent policies. For example, under this legislation, private insurance companies are required to provide unlimited fertility treatments and related storage, but the bill limits how many treatments a veteran can get through the VA clinic.

So why are women who receive care at the VA treated differently than those with commercial insurance? If access to IVF is really a problem and this legislation is really needed, we could have addressed that if we had taken this bill through the committee process, but I note that Leader SCHUMER plucked it out of the committee before we had a chance to address the shortcomings, and he brought it to the floor for, I presume, political purposes.

By the way, we don't even have a CBO score. That is usually like, you can't bring anything to the floor unless you have a Congressional Budget Office score. How much is it going to cost? It is because this is not serious legislation. The CBO, by the way, acknowledges that it has not evaluated and cannot evaluate this mash-up of bills.

The committee process would have allowed us to explore the effect of a mandate on Federal programs like Medicare, the DOD, the VA, small businesses, and State Medicaid programs. So how will this legislation impact that woman business owner with 20 employees, 10 of whom are women in their childbearing years? We don't know. We don't know because this is not serious legislation. It was not taken through the committee process. It is a political process. Now, we can guess. Premiums will skyrocket.

I ask unanimous consent for 2 more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CASSIDY. That woman I described with a small business who has 10 employees must now make the challenging decision to absorb the new cost or consider not offering health insurance to employees or laying employees off.

Interestingly, labor unions got more time to comply with the insurance mandate than others. If this is a political bill, you would expect a carve-out for political supporters.

The bill requires coverage of genetic testing of human embryos, which may help inform decisions about which embryos to transfer first, but to what end? And will these tests be used to screen for life-ending conditions?

I only see two limits in this bill: one, on the ability of healthcare providers to exercise their conscience rights when practicing medicine and, two, on States that wish to regulate the practice of medicine in a way that treats human embryos with the value and dignity they deserve.

Republicans are so open to working with Democrats on a sincere bipartisan effort, but this is a show vote. Unfortunately, Democrats do not care about working with Republicans to protect IVF access. They wish to manufacture an issue they can campaign on.

Today's vote is disingenuous. Pushing a bill that is haphazardly drafted and destined to fail does a disservice to all women who may pursue IVF treatments.

I will end as I started. This seems a deceiving, disrespectful bill to misinform and scare the public and to gin up Democratic votes for November. And that is shame. Americans deserve better.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, today, Senators face a very simple question: Do you agree Americans should have access to IVF; yes or no? If "yes," the only correct answer is to vote yes on the Right to IVF Act.

Protecting IVF should be the easiest "yes" vote Senators have taken all year. All this bill does is establish a nationwide right to IVF and eliminate barriers for millions of Americans who seek IVF to have kids.

It is personal to me. I have a beautiful 1-year-old grandson because of the miracle of IVF. And so, in a perfect world, a bill like this would not be necessary, but after the fiasco of the Alabama Supreme Court decision and the generally MAGA views of some on the Supreme Court, Americans are genuinely worried that IVF is the next target of anti-choice extremists.

To my Republican colleagues who say they are pro-family, today's bill protecting IVF is as pro-family as it gets, and we should vote yes today.

It is a contradiction to claim you are pro-family but then turn around and vote to block protections for IVF. The contrast today is glaring. Here in the Senate, Democrats are talking about protecting women and IVF, and a couple of blocks away, Trump and our Republican colleagues are talking about protecting tax cuts for the very wealthy.

So the American people are watching how we vote today on basic freedom. Parents back home are watching how we vote. Couples who want to become parents are watching how we vote. It is very simple: If you support access to IVF then vote to protect access to IVF today.

Thank you to Senators Duckworth, Murray, Booker, and so many others leading on this legislation.

I urge a "yes" vote.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 413, S. 4445, a bill to protect and expand nationwide access to fertility treatment, including in vitro fertilization.

Charles E. Schumer, Tammy Duckworth, Richard Blumenthal, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Tim Kaine, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Debbie Stabenow, Patty Murray, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Sheldon Whitehouse, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 413, S. 4445, a bill to protect and expand nationwide access to fertility treatment, including in vitro fertilization, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 197 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Baldwin	Hassan	Padilla
Bennet	Heinrich	Peters
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Rosen
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Lujan	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Van Hollen
Coons	Markey	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Welch
Fetterman	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeben	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—5

Butler	Sanders	Sinema
Menendez	Schmitt	

(Mr. MERKLEY assumed the Chair.)  
(Mr. WHITEHOUSE assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. CARPER assumed the Chair.)  
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 47.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion was rejected.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, for everyone's awareness, I am changing my vote on this bill, from yes to no, in order to have the option of returning to this legislation later. We hope some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle will see the light and change their minds.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Madam President, I enter a motion to reconsider the failed cloture vote with respect to the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 413, S. 4445.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 510.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Katherine E. Oler, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.



## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 510, Katherine E. Oler, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Alex Padilla, Laphonza R. Butler, Christopher A. Coons, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mazie K. Hirono, Sherrod Brown, Tina Smith, Catherine Cortez Masto, Jeff Merkley.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 464.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 464, Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie K. Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A.

Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, June 13, be waived.

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

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

## REMEMBERING MICHAEL LOVELL

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, on a picturesque college campus in Milwaukee, WI, the excited whispers of students would make you think a celebrity had just walked by. And, in a way, a celebrity had just walked by—because in the eyes of the Marquette University community, beloved University President Michael Lovell was a figure to admire, learn from, and emulate. He embodied *cura personalis*—Marquette's guiding principle—meaning “care for the whole person.”

There is something especially painful about the death of those taken from us too soon. And so it is with a heavy heart that I grieve the loss of Dr. Michael Lovell—celebrated president of Marquette University, distinguished engineer, educator, and scholar. President Lovell passed away last week after a 3-year long battle with sarcoma, a rare form of cancer. His time with us was cut short, but during his 57 years of life, he had a tremendous impact on students, the Milwaukee community, and all those lucky enough to call him a loved one.

For the past decade, Dr. Lovell served as the president of Marquette University. Though a man of faith, he was the first president who was a layman, rather than a member of the Catholic clergy. In this role, President Lovell became a fixture of the Marquette community, showing a fierce devotion to the university and the city he called home.

Prior to serving as Marquette's president, Dr. Lovell served as the chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and, before that, as the dean of its engineering college. An engineer by trade, President Lovell held not one, not two, but three mechanical engineering degrees, including a doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh. And he was recognized nationally and globally for his exceptional talents. Throughout the course of his career, he received awards from the National Science Foundation, was a fellow of the American Society of Me-

chanical Engineers and National Academy of Inventors, and earned U.S. and global patents.

During his tenure as Marquette's president, Dr. Lovell helped create the Near West Side Partners, a nonprofit dedicated to the economic development, safety, and community identity of Milwaukee's seven near west side neighborhoods. Under his leadership, Marquette grew to new heights. Dr. Lovell was instrumental in the construction of a new athletics center, new residence hall, new green spaces, new academic buildings, and countless other projects across Marquette's campus. His stewardship shaped the university, and every student that passes through those new halls will benefit from his dedication to making Marquette a world-class institution.

But more impressive than what he accomplished was the relationships he built. Marquette was dear to him. In an interview with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel in 2022, he reflected on why he continued to work as he battled cancer. His response was simple: “When you don't know how much time you have left, you want your days to be impactful and you want to do things that you love.” And, boy, did President Lovell love that community. He lived by that guiding principle of *cura personalis*. He showed up for his students—fostering not only their academic potential, but their growth as future leaders who engaged with their communities. Students fondly recall running alongside him for the annual Briggs and Al's Run or him handing out hot cookies and ice cream in the dining halls. And of course, he made regular appearances on the jumbotron at Marquette basketball games.

Dr. Lovell made a habit of meeting with and listening to students. He often sat down with small groups of them for lunch to hear about their classes or to discuss the probability of the basketball team making it through March Madness and into the Final Four. And as Milwaukee reckoned with its own history of racial injustice in 2020, Dr. Lovell held townhalls and met directly with students of color to better understand their experiences on campus. Because of those listening sessions and student advocacy, President Lovell partnered with the Black student council to establish new scholarships for students of color, improve the diversity of counselors on campus, and strengthen the core curriculum to require additional education on racial injustice.

And this commitment to the well-being of students reached beyond campus. In the wake of the horrific January 6 insurrection, Dr. Lovell heard that a 2018 Marquette alumnus was among the U.S. Capitol Police officers protecting lawmakers that day. He personally reached out to that former student, offering gratitude for his service and the full support of the university. It was a small gesture, but one that demonstrated just how much Dr.



Lovell cared for Marquette's students, past and present.

Marquette University may not be in Illinois, but it is significant to me. My son is a proud Marquette graduate, as are many of my incredible staff members in Washington, DC, and across Illinois. And it was President Lovell's innovative and empathetic leadership that helped make Marquette so special for so many. In the words of Milwaukee Bucks Head Coach Doc Rivers, who played for Marquette in the 1980s, President Lovell was a "gentle giant." I join my staff, my son, and the whole Marquette community in mourning the loss of President Lovell.

While Dr. Lovell's legacy will live on in all the lives he touched, it does not make this loss any easier. He was deeply kind, an exceptional listener, and unyieldingly optimistic in the face of a formidable diagnosis. President Lovell lived the last years of his life to the fullest. And, in part, it was his deep religious convictions that allowed him to remain strong during such trying health challenges. I admire his faith and resilience.

Loretta and I join his wife Amy and his four children—Marissa, Matt, Anna, and Kevin—in grieving this tremendous loss. We send our love to all of you. Though he has passed, Dr. Lovell's embodiment of *cura personalis* carries on—and we are all better for it.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE KENTUCKY BOURBON TRAIL

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, it was roughly two centuries ago that Kentucky's early settlers first began converting corn and grain into the rich, amber liquor we now know as bourbon. Originating from the heart of the Bluegrass State, America's only native spirit has since achieved worldwide recognition and secured Kentucky's foremost place as the world capital of bourbon whiskey.

Today, visitors from all 50 States and 26 countries have traveled to the Commonwealth to enjoy this corn-based, barrel-aged spirit along the famous Kentucky Bourbon Trail. Founded in 1999, the Kentucky Bourbon Trail connects distilleries all over the Commonwealth for natives and visitors alike to responsibly enjoy our State's signature spirit. What started as only seven distilleries has grown into an international destination. Today, the Kentucky Bourbon Trail encompasses 46 distilleries offering everything from behind-the-scenes tours to unique experiences that celebrate Kentucky's rich history in bourbon production.

The Kentucky Bourbon Trail originated as a gathering place for bourbon enthusiasts to celebrate the tradition and time-honored craft behind this liquor in its birthplace. However, today the trail continues to enrich and give back to Kentucky as a vital part of our State's tourism economy. Since its inception in 1999, bourbon production in Kentucky has surged by 493 percent

and, within that time, became the largest export among all distilled spirits in the United States. Other areas within our economy have also experienced unprecedented growth—new hotels, tourism companies, and other local attractions have all cropped up along the trail's many destinations.

This year, the Kentucky Bourbon Trail celebrates 25 years since its founding. I want to thank all those involved for their stewardship of Kentucky's heritage and their work to build our State's vibrant bourbon industry. As this Kentucky landmark celebrates its silver jubilee, I would like to extend my best wishes to its dedicated team and all the hard-working Kentuckians who have contributed to the enduring popularity and legacy of bourbon whiskey.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY, Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-49, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Norway for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.94 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MIKE MILLER

(For James A. Hursch, Director).  
Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-49

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Norway.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment \* \$0.92 billion.  
Other \$1.02 billion.  
Total \$1.94 billion.

(iii) Major Defense Equipment (MDE):  
Three hundred (300) AIM-120C-8 Advanced  
Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles  
(AMRAAM).

Twenty (20) AIM-120C-8 AMRAAM guidance sections.

Non-MDE: Also included are AMRAAM containers and support equipment; spare parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; weapons software, support equipment, and classified software delivery and support; transportation support; classified publications and technical documentation; training; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering; technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (NO-D-YAH).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: NO-D-YAE.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 11, 2024.

\* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Norway—AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles

The Government of Norway has requested to buy three hundred (300) AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM) and twenty (20) AIM-120C-8 AMRAAM guidance sections. Also included are AMRAAM containers and support equipment; spare parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; weapons software, support equipment, and classified software delivery and support, transportation support; classified publications and technical documentation; training; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering; technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$1.94 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Norway's capability to meet current and future threats by supplementing and replacing its AIM-120B AMRAAMs with the latest version of the AIM-120C. Norway already has AMRAAMs and F-35As in its inventory and will have no difficulty absorbing these articles into its armed forces. The newly acquired missiles will be used for ground-based air defense in the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS) but may be subject to dual use with the F-35A.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be RTX Corporation, located in Tucson, AZ. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Norway.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO 24-49

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act  
Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) is a supersonic, air or surface-launched aerial intercept guided missile featuring digital technology and microminiature solid-state electronics. AMRAAM capabilities include look-down and shoot-down, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high and low-flying and maneuvering targets. This potential sale will include AMRAAM guidance sections, control sections, warhead spares, and containers.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Norway can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Norway.

#### NATIONAL ORAL HEALTH MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize June as National Oral Health Month. This month provides us an opportunity to reflect on the significant role oral health plays in overall health and to recommit our efforts to ensure that Americans have access to quality oral health care.

While oral diseases alone contribute to negative outcomes, there are proven relationships between poor oral health and other medical conditions like cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancers, pneumonia, premature birth, and infectious diseases. The World Health Organization estimates economic productivity losses from oral diseases at \$323 billion in 2022.

Oral disease affects Americans of all ages. For children, dental cavities remain one of the most common chronic diseases. About one in four preschool children experienced caries in primary teeth and at least one in six children aged 6 to 11 years experienced dental cavities in permanent teeth. According to the CDC, 34 million school hours are lost each year—on average—because of emergency dental care.

In Maryland, like many other States, we have witnessed firsthand the consequences of neglecting the oral health of young people. Deamonte Driver, a 12-year-old Prince George's County resident, tragically died in 2007 due to a lack of comprehensive dental services. Deamonte's death was particularly heartbreaking because it was entirely preventable. What started out as a toothache turned into a severe brain infection that could have been pre-

vented by an \$80 extraction. After multiple surgeries and a lengthy hospital stay, sadly, Deamonte passed away.

We must ensure everyone has timely, affordable access to oral health care.

In recent years, dentists nationwide have seen a significant decrease in operating room access for dental procedures. This problem has primarily impacted children and adults with disabilities who are in need of urgent dental care and cannot access it in an office-based setting, necessitating care in an operating room. Earlier this Congress, Senator BLACKBURN and I sent a letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services urging them to include the recently established code for dental surgical services in the 2024 Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System. I am glad to say that the code was included in CMS's final rule to expand access to these critical procedures and shorten the waitlists to receive care under general anesthesia in operating rooms.

I am proud to say that we have since made significant progress in improving access to pediatric dental care in our country and in Maryland. In 2009, Congress reauthorized the Children's Health Insurance Program—CHIP—with an important addition: a guaranteed pediatric dental benefit. Research shows that CHIP generally offers more comprehensive benefits at a much lower cost to families than private coverage. Additionally, the Affordable Care Act—ACA—has significantly improved access to affordable dental care for millions of Americans by requiring most insurers to cover essential health benefits.

Providing dental coverage for adults also improves outcomes for their children. A 2021 study found that Medicaid adult dental coverage was associated with a reduction in the prevalence of untreated tooth decay among children after parents had access to coverage for at least 1 year. The study found that all children saw improvements in oral health, and non-Hispanic Black children experienced larger and more persistent improvements than non-Hispanic White children. A Medicaid dental benefit for adults would enhance the progress for children and provide much needed dental care and improve oral health outcomes for adults, showing the interconnectedness in outcomes for all ages.

Earlier this Congress, I introduced the Medicare Dental Benefit Act. This legislation would require Medicare coverage to include dental and oral health services, such as routine diagnostic and preventive services, basic and major dental services, and emergency care. By including these services in Medicare, more than 65 million seniors and people with disabilities would have access to affordable dental care.

I have also worked with Senator STABENOW to introduce the Medicaid Dental Benefit Act. This bill would extend comprehensive dental health benefits to tens of millions of low-income

Americans on Medicaid. The legislation would provide States with a 100 percent Federal match for the dental benefit for 3 years. This investment of Federal funds would support States to set up or improve their dental benefit and assist in provider education and outreach efforts to better connect enrollees to oral health care.

Last year, I held a hearing in the Senate Finance Health Care Subcommittee to focus on these issues. The hearing highlighted disparities in access to oral health care, which have persisted and have serious consequences for children, adults, families, and communities. I was proud to have Dr. Warren Brill, a distinguished pediatric dentist from Maryland who has long provided care to low-income children serve as a witness. Dr. Brill was able to provide valuable insights for our conversation and gave Senators an on-the-ground perspective of someone doing this important work.

It is also important that we support research focused on empowering dentists and advancing oral health for all. I am proud to have the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, one of the National Institutes of Health, in Maryland and I was glad to pass a resolution this Congress to recognize their 75th anniversary and highlight the important work they do.

While we will continue to work on combating oral disease in Maryland and the United States, we must also realize that it is a global challenge that requires cooperation from partners around the world to address effectively.

Oral diseases, such as tooth decay and gum disease, are globally the most common health conditions, impacting over 3.5 billion people as of 2019. Despite the widespread nature of oral diseases, many go untreated as health systems around the world are often not properly equipped to deliver appropriate oral health care.

In light of these concerning figures, I am glad to see that the World Health Organization, FDI World Dental Federation, and National Institutes of Health have all issued landmark oral health reports in 2021 and 2022 as well as the World Health Assembly having adopted a global strategy on oral health in 2022. Our coordinated efforts with global partners are essential to overcoming this widespread issue.

It is important that we reiterate that oral health is a crucial part of overall health and accessing care should not be a luxury reserved for the most privileged. Ensuring affordable, quality care not only helps to combat widespread issues like dental caries and gum disease, but also can work to the significant health disparities that exist in America. As we recognize the progress we have made on this issue, we must recommit to expanding access to oral health services, reducing disparities and emphasizing a preventative approach. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNION,  
MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, on July 19, 1774, a small band of rugged and courageous pioneers established a settlement in the Maine wilderness between the Medomak and Saint George rivers. They cleared the land, built cabins, endured hunger and cold, and, with backbreaking work, created a community. Today, it is a pleasure to join the people of Union, ME, in celebrating the 250th anniversary of a community that is a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families. Although part of a land grant made by the Plymouth Council in 1629, the territory remained unsettled for more than a century due to conflicting claims of jurisdiction by the English and French. When the hostilities ended, Dr. John Taylor of Massachusetts bought the land and led the settlement party. Originally called Taylor Town, it was renamed Sterlingtown in honor of a Revolutionary War hero and finally incorporated as Union to commemorate our new Nation.

Among the many illustrious natives of Union is John Langdon Sibley, scholar, author, and librarian of Harvard University. His history of his beloved hometown from its origin to 1850 is remarkable for its thoroughness, insight, and wit.

"By competent judges," he wrote, "the soil of Union is considered as good as that of . . . the best farming towns in the State." The scenery provided by lush vegetation, hills, valleys, rivers, and streams "affords a rich enjoyment to people of taste and admirers of nature." Although Mr. Sibley allows that the assertion from a neighboring town that "people never die in Union" is an exaggeration, he posits that the uncommonly pure water, brisk air circulation over the varied terrain, the vigorous agricultural work, and generally good habits are why inhabitants "wear the hue of health" and why visitors often remark "that there was more female beauty in Union than in any other town in the county or State."

The work ethic of the townspeople and water power from the fast-moving rivers soon made Union a center of industry, with foundries, sawmills, grain mills, and factories manufacturing products ranging from carriages and farm equipment to footwear and musical instruments. Thousands of artifacts from those early days are preserved at the Matthews Museum of Maine Heritage, with a special section devoted to Dr. Augustin Thompson, the Union-born Civil War hero, physician, and inventor of Moxie, the patent nerve medicine that is now the official soft drink of the State of Maine.

Union cherishes its history. Next to the museum stands the Hodge School, the thoroughly restored one-room schoolhouse that served the town from 1864 to 1954. Established more than 150 years ago, the Union Fair celebrates the town's agricultural traditions. Laid

out in 1790, the picturesque Union Common is the oldest public town common in Maine, with memorials to patriots and a bandstand listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The people of Union are rightfully proud of their town and have worked together to plan an exciting and fun-filled 3-day sestercentennial celebration beginning July 19. Among events will be the opening of a time capsule from the bicentennial celebration in 1974.

In addition to John Langdon Sibley's book, the story of Union was told in the popular 1940 historical novel "Come Spring" by Ben Ames Williams. Republished in 2000 by the Union Historical Society, the novel imagines the struggles and triumphs of the real-life Robbins family during the first years of the settlement's—and our Nation's—existence.

In the preface to his novel, the author writes that Union "is a small Maine town founded by ordinary people in the ordinary way, by carving a community out of the forest and putting the land to work. The people in this book were not individually as important as George Washington, the town was not as important as New York, but people like them made this country, and towns like this were and are the soil in which our country's roots are grounded."

Union's 250th anniversary is not merely about the passing of time. It is about human accomplishment. We celebrate the people who, for longer than America has been a nation, have pulled together, cared for one another, and built a great community. Thanks to those who came before, Union, ME, has a wonderful history. Thanks to those there today, it has a bright future.

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**RECOGNIZING THE CENTER FOR  
BLACK EXCELLENCE AND CULTURE  
OF MADISON**

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, I rise to recognize the Center for Black Excellence and Culture, which will break ground in Madison this year on Juneteenth National Independence Day. I wish also to acknowledge the many community leaders who have worked tirelessly to make the Center a reality.

The Center for Black Excellence and Culture was founded by Reverend Doctor Alex Gee who has been a fierce advocate for Madison's African-American community for more than 30 years. The Center will unite and uplift Madison's African-American community by providing a space for entrepreneurial exploration, cultural engagement, and celebration.

Rev. Dr. Gee and his board of directors have joined with other community leaders to raise over \$28 million for the project. Now that they have reached their goal, they will begin construction on June 19, 2024. The decision to break ground on Juneteenth was an intentional and powerful one.

The new Black inspired and designed building will sit on 3.5 acres of land and will include many commercial spaces, including an art gallery and theatre space. Rev. Dr. Gee has convened a powerhouse team of Black leaders and hundreds of diverse Black voices to shape the Center. These leaders will support thousands of students through mentorship and professional development and teach students about African-American history and culture to inspire and advance the Black community in Madison and beyond.

The Center will also include a space dedicated to Rev. Dr. Gee's mother, Ms. Verline Gee, who served the Madison community for decades as a mentor, poet, social worker, and faith leader. Ms. Gee's story is one of strength and perseverance. She was born in Mississippi and worked alongside her parents as a migrant farmer in her youth. As a child she moved to the Midwest eventually making her way to Madison. Throughout her life, Ms. Gee was always passionate about education. She was one of the inaugural students to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Black Studies Program. The Center for Black Excellence and Culture will honor the memory of Ms. Gee and all other African-American community members who have contributed so much to Madison.

Juneteenth celebrates the end of slavery in the United States, but it also serves as a reminder of the work that still needs to be done to dismantle deep-rooted systems of racial injustice. While strides have been made, the African-American community continues to face significant systemic injustices. Across Wisconsin, African-American families are five times more likely than White families to experience poverty and 61 percent of all African-American households in Dane County live near or below the poverty line. The presence of these injustices makes the Center for Black Excellence all the more critical.

True freedom requires liberty and equity for all. The Center for Black Excellence and Culture will contribute to this mission and serve as a model for other cities to follow.

As the Center for Black Excellence breaks ground this Juneteenth, I honor the accomplishments of Rev. Dr. Gee, the Center's board of directors, the memory of Ms. Verline Gee and all the community leaders, past and present, who made the Center a reality.

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**CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD  
MEDALISTS**

Ms. LUMMIS. Madam President, today I wish to congratulate this year's winners of the Congressional Award. The Congressional Award was established by Congress in 1979 and, for many years, has recognized the spectacular achievements of young people in the areas of volunteerism, personal development, fitness, and expedition.

The brilliant design of this program allows individuals to set their own

goals based on personal interest and work toward either a bronze, silver, or gold certificate or medal. It is incredible to see what young people can achieve when they are personally invested in setting and achieving their goals. I am impressed to hear of the combined impact and can only imagine the overwhelming benefits to communities across the country.

It is a privilege to recognize the great work of this year's recipients. I urge these young people to continue aiming high and setting a positive example for their peers.

I include in the RECORD a list of this year's Congressional Award Gold Medalists from around the country:

Alaska: Madeline Anderson  
 Alabama: Amanda Browning, Lily Hoyle  
 Arkansas: Abigail Catron  
 Arizona: Billal Abulfotuh, Adelina Grotenhuis, Thomasina (Tamsin) Hurlbut, Zaid Jamal, Timothy Jiang, Payton Kelly, Ronald (Ronnie) Keyes, Shea Lee, Colin Lifshitz, Mustafa Nalbantoglu, Zack Okun, Borislava Panayotova, Cutter Papritz, Sofia Reyes, Alyson Small, Elyzabeth Small, Mason Takeuchi, Ivanna Viloria Enciso  
 California: Annika Agarwal, Nathaniel Arrogante, Emin Aslan, Shijoon Bae, Adrian Baek, Zoey Bahng, Brianna Bailey, Pravin Balasingam, Daniel Bang, Naim Bayraktar, Wolfram Bikel, Lachlan Black, Reenie Cao, Tenzing Carvalho, Hyunwoo Cha, Olivia Cha, Ethan Chang, David Chang, Shruti Chari, Mina Chen, Steven Cheng, Hemkesh Chenupati, Emilie Chi, Alexander Chiao, Jamie Cho, Jessica Cho, Nathan Cho, Nagyung (Anna) Cho, Rosa Cho, Michelle Cho, Mason Choey, Ellie Choi, Minjoon Choi, Samuel Choi, Sophia Chou, Taylor Chu, Chloe Chung, Brandon Chung, Hatice Sevede Deniz, Diya Dipak, Claire Dokko, Elliot Dokko, Jason Dong, Feodora Douplitzky-Lunati, Renee Duan, Azra Erdogan, Madeline Freeland, Aarushi Ghildyal, Xinyue (Cindy) Gong, Sophie Gopen, Amita Gowda, Radhika Goyal, Athena Guan, Aaron Han, Paul Han, Junhyeok Han, Yahya Hasan, Xihao He, Qingchun He, Dia Hemanth, Katherine Hion, Evan Ho, Jeongmin Hong, Eric Hong, Ian Hong, Daniel Hong, Yixian Huang, Celine Huh, Cat-Tam Huynh, Jung Jin Hwang, Priscilla Ibarra, Nolan Ironhill, Carter Jackson, Ria Jain, Hanlee Jang, Shriya Janolkar, Jaeyoung (Ryan) Jeon, Ella Jeon, Minhyeok Jeong, Noah Jeong, Eliana Jeong, Benjamin Jiang, Claire Jin, Jaehae Jung, Jessica Jung, Heidi Jung, Hailey Jiwon Kang, Shreyas Kapavarapu, Garrett Kath, Sudhakhar Katta, Ava Khossravi, Julian Kim, Ryan Kim, Chloe Kim, Rachel Kim, Stanley Kim, Daeyong Kim, Theodore Kim, Baron Kim, Sean Kim, Eric Kim, Jonathan Kim, Hennah Kim, Skyler Kim, Lauren Kim, Clair Kim, Christine Kim, Kayleen Kim, Ivy Kim, Isaac Kim, Choyoung (Kaylee) Kim, Yoonho Kim, Niklas Kinne, Amit Krishna, Shivam Kumar, Chris Kwon, Hannah Lee, Eunchan Lee, Nicole Lee, ChunPo Lee, Jayden Lee, Ashley Lee, Kunwoo Lee, Kayla Lee, Alexis Lee, Seongjae (Alex) Lee, Claire Lee, Aiden Lee, Yennie Lee, Hyunmin (Paul) Lee, Brandon Lee, Logan Lee, Nathan Lee, Angelina Lee, Hyunwoo Lee, Nahyun Lee, Eunice Lee, Nayun Lee, Jeongwoo Lee, Ian Lee, Tabitha Lee Chon, Michelle Li, Jessica Li, Qixuan (Lily) Li, Darell Lien, Ryan Lim, Zoe Lin, Vito Lin, Sebastian Liong, Danny Willow Liu, Ziyi (Eva) Liu, Bryan Louie, Audrey Lowell, Alex Lu, Mallika Maddukuri, Simon March-Cunningham, Addison Marrs, Tejas Mathai, Mihir Mathai, Robert McPhie, Xuefeng Mei, Ryan Min, Avery Mizrahi,

Maya Mohan, Antoinette Morales, Kea Morshed, Jane Moyer, Heeju Nam, Sriya Neti, Yishan Ni, Alex Nicholson, Hyunmin Noh, Ethan Noh, Abigail Norman, Justin Oh, Azra Oten, Matthew Paek, Iris Paek, Ethan Paik, Noah Pak, Andrew Park, Michelle Park, Michelle Park, Keilah Park, Joanne Park, Sydney Park, Lena Park, Aiden Park, Gunwoo Park, Ryan Park, Arin Parsa, Safia Peer, Shay Pema, Abhinav Penagalapati, Devyn (Divya) Ponnuevelu, Arya Prince, Sanam Punjabi, Tengjie (Jay) Qiu, Kate Quach, Tanush Rachamalla, Zachery Ramos, Maanasa Ramprasad, Neel Rangan, Nevin Rao, Mahika Redla, Aidan Reyes, David Rivera, Jonathan Ryu, Hoon Ryu, Simran Saluja, Katherine Scannell, Jeremy Schabillon, Samyuktha Senthilnathan, Sienna Shah, Sidharth Sharma, Anthony Shen, HaJoon Shim, Chloe Shim, Yeonsu Shim, Christine Shin, Yuna Shin, Hojun Son, Ryan Song, Jocelyn Soo, Jacob St. George, Raymond Suh, Erin Ji Sun, Bridget Swineford, Emily Tae, Alex Tak, Shiyun (Judy) Tao, Alyssa Taylor, Maia Tumbokon, Sashan Umashankar, Sriram Vaidhyathanan, Ved Vedere, Tanya Vidhun, Nathan Wan, Kylie Wang, Terry Wang, Tiffany Wang, Dylan West, Aaron Won, Chelsea Won, Avery Wong, Andrew Woo, Jiyun Woo, Kari Wu, Wenkai Wu, Jiaye (Leo) Xu, Adora Yan, Lindsay Yao, Noah Yi, Jaewon (Justin) Yi, Boaz Earl Yoo, Calista Yoo, Jaden Yoo, Jeremy Yoo, Hayley Yoon, Faith Yoon, Juneho Yoon, Ethan Yoon, Allison Yu, Zihang Yu, Jackson Zagone, Zhongwen Zhang, Wenyao (William) Zhao, Cindy Zhao, Ruiyu (Rayer) Zhou, Jackson Zinn

Colorado: Seif Abouyoussef, Henry Bae, Elizabeth Batenburg, Ria Ghosh, Gracie Wood Connecticut: Reid Barry, Martin Jara, Ava Leshem, Alisha Patel, Madeline Phelan, Emily Roy, Natalia Schaffer, Liam Tomaszewski, Neha Tungaturthy, Zach Yung  
 Delaware: Nitya Singh, Anirudh Singh  
 Florida: Keziah Anderson, Jessie Baxter, Flavio Canello, Caleigh Carter, Coen Chilver, Colton Chilver, Luke Cooper, Landon Dabney, Clayton Didier, Zakaria El-Helw, Emily Feichtalher, Keira Rose Finelli, Tarang Gaddam, Anjali Gusani, Chase Hartman, Maddox Hoffman, John Humphreys, Jake Julien, Jessa-Chloe Katzeff, Neeharika Kota, Aditya Krishnan, Fisher Ledbetter, Calder Ledbetter, Robert Linton, Ramsey McClure, Isabella Mendelson, Aaditya Nair, Arjun Nanduri, Adam Oakes, Sophia Olsinski, Dhruv Pandya, Grace Pleinis, Emma Rawlson, Aubrey Rosenhaus, Julian Sant, Ava Shelly, Charles Stacy, Jonathan Steffen, Christopher (Thor) Warnken  
 Georgia: Katherine Elizabeth Aide, David Blanco, Ashley Choi, Raine Cox, Jayden Daniel, Christian Flournoy, Lauren Foglesong, Joseph Ivey, Rishi Jeyamurthy, Akhil Kalva, Achintya Murugaraj, Sanjana Pawar, Danica Resha, Ella Shaffer, Ananya Tadepalli, Pranavi Vedula  
 Guam: Julie Ann Laxamana  
 Hawaii: Barbara Goldyn, Jay Rhymer  
 Iowa: Alexander Hennig, Tiff Lieberman, Nadia Patel

Idaho: Ireland Clark, Elliott Lochard  
 Illinois: Grace Catherine Bourbon, Christian Goodall, Cora Koch, Anne Reidenbach, Bela Sanghavi  
 Indiana: Liam Blank, Audrey Booher, Zoe Carpenter, Aditi Dey, Brandon Kruger, Theodore Lach, Thomas S. Pemberton  
 Kansas: Samiksha Aitha, Liane Bdair, Afraah Hawa, Ella Heitmann, Daniel John  
 Kentucky: Jackson Robbins, Isaac Stricker  
 Louisiana: Elliott Gomes  
 Massachusetts: Madison Cable, Matthew Church, Aden Geonhee Lee, Tain Leonard-Peck, Chen-An Lin, Prisha Shrivastava, Jason Zhou  
 Maryland: Ellis Chung, Elijah Cockey, Isabel Cockey, Mason Denny, Emily Dong,

David Hamman, Zander Hine, Adam Jackson, Jessica Li, Aidan McCrohan, Amari Mhoun, Rithwik Reddy, Andrew Sha, Joseph Simak, Guy Taylor, Boyan-Jise Tiwang  
 Michigan: Elizabeth Cook, Benjamin Hayes, Miles Hopkins, Grace Pantea, Jeff Roseman  
 Minnesota: Alluri Akshay, Jonathan Erickson, Abigail Hudson, Gabriella Hudson, Mark Swanson  
 Missouri: Brandon Barrett, Lydia Brodbeck, Alex Chen, Cole Dannull, Gianna Francis, Lindsey Gordon, John Hayes, Savannah King, Melissa Matlalcuatzi Pluma, Liam Smith, Alina Stribling, Helton W. Walker, Ethan Wood  
 Mississippi: Hayden Barnett, Ashley Grace Bassett, Colt Bergman, Lauren Hobson, Hannah Sanders  
 North Carolina: Nachammai Annamalai, Hannah Bauer, Ava Beninati, Lula Bovino, Sabrina Bradford, Mina Cayli, Ayse Civelek, Ava Copeland, Ciela Crane, Philip Dai, Jonah Dickerson, Anna Goldsmith, Rayna Hamilton, Karis Hunt, Aameya Kandula, Avery King, Ally Kryzalka, Sloane Lewis, Sofia Liotino, Robert Lyda, Caroline Mautner, Graham Mills, Niharika Parui, Dawson Raynes, Shravan Selvavel, Hemharsith Sivakumar Gayathri, Asmithaa Vinukonda, Katya Withrow, Allison Witte, Truett Wolf  
 Nebraska: Meruni Are, Alejandro González Baos, Francisco González Baos, Landry Lehan  
 New Hampshire: Adele Mamedova  
 New Jersey: Suheyla Akman, Riya Atluri, Burak Cebe, Canon Chiu, Autumn Chiu, James Crowley, Jack DeVirgilio, Kaitlin Dowling, Sriram Elango, Ryan Gilmartin, Alyssia Gomez, Nathaniel Han, Riya Jain, Rohan Jay, Ahmet Kaval, Muhammed Keskin, Elif Kilinc, Jonah Klein, Naishada Kotagiri, Emily Kukul, Sonal Lakhani, Chase Mazur, Benjamin Miller, Tyler Minn, Senthilkumar Nithyanandam, Udgita Pamidigantam, Rishi Parikh, Rahil Patel, Dev Patel, Samhita Pokkunuri, Mili Raghavan, Pallavi Routray, Shaunak Sabbani, Gavin Tripido, Jonathan Yoo  
 Nevada: Jenna Becker, Lorelain Riley Ladislao, Taha Lahlou, Diesel Leano, Jia Mahesh, Emily Mattox, Ignatius Miller, Gianna Nakhle, Randy Pahang, Momoka Utsumi, Tamara Young  
 New York: David Barlow, Jonathan Barlow, Luke Bonifacio, Ethan Chiu, Lilliania Cognato, Yana Dhingra, Victoria D'Ovidio, Thomas Fernandez, Cassandra Fitzpatrick, Akshar Gopa, Miyana Holden, Ava Johnson, Riha Kyatham, Ryan Leonard, Jasmine-Sixian Li, Nitin Malepati, Clara McGroary, Phillip Muller, Viraj Pahuja, Ana Lee Palmer, Saharsh Peddireddy, Sahil Polepalle, Alexander Ren, Hailey Richman, Ziyue Wang, Haluk Yavas, Eugene Yoo, Elle Yormak, Youwei Zhen  
 Ohio: Laasya Acharya, Pragalya Arumugam, Micah Burkhard, Shashank Chanamolu, Zachary DeVor, Adam Howe, Gabrielle Kirwin, Madeline Morrison, Megha Nadagouda, Maya Nayar, Carter Norvell, Naisha Patel, Keeran Patel, Meera Rajeev, Vaidika Ravi, Maggie Skelly, John Sneathkamp, Keshav Sriram, Shreemayi Trichy  
 Oklahoma: Andrew Ebert, Timothy Martin, Anna Parry, Alanya Abou-Elmajd  
 Oregon: Sophia D'Antonio, McKenna Erickson  
 Pennsylvania: Maura Campbell, Eleanor Day, S bastien Guillotin, Lucas Hayes, Ryan Kraychik, Delia Maldonado, Sabrina Maldonado, Alex Porambo, Shivika Varshney, Vanessa Wehinger, Max Zhang  
 Puerto Rico: Gerardo Juan Jos Menaferrández, Meghna (Chili) Pramoda  
 South Carolina: Alex Bohnen, Grant Bohnen, Harmonie Frederick, Nina Gallo,

Tyler Hanson, Caitlyn Horton, James Reaves, Alexander Ring

South Dakota: Grace Belcher, Ronan Maher

Tennessee: Jaishva Bhatt, Daniel Clark, Joshua Clark, Zeynep Dibi, Ethan Elder, Blake Freeman, Rachel Oppmann, Hannah Skaar

Texas: Heather Adams, Alyssa Anderson, Nikita Basappa, Praneel Bhagavatula, Brooke Carol Billedo, Mehmet Bisen, Andrew Boisson, Nicholas Boling, Ethan Bosita, Carson Bosita, Oliver Burke, Ananya Chandak, Josh Chandra, Sanjith Chandran, Riya Chauhani, Elijah Chen, Isaiah Clark, Shloak Dalal, Charli Davis, Dominique de Waal, Anagha Deepak, Thomas Dorsey, Andon Epp, Nursel Eski, Mahek Goel, Kyler Hester, Abdullah Hussein, Jonah Ismael, Sally Ismael, Trisha Jha, Abraar Khan, Shiza Khan, Ivy Koh, Kaden Mabey, Tanya Mahesh, William Martin, Margot Martin, Justin Mathew, Ayaan Moledina, Abi Newell, Nayonika Pande, Aryan Patel, Aliya Patel, Duane Pfeiffer, Aditi Ramesh Iyer, Shawn Ray, Aubrey Reeves, Zeynep Sahin, Justin Simms, Nikhil Srinivas, Suhaani Srereddy, Julian Stewart, Daniel Thomas, Gracie Wakefield, Sophia Wei, April White, Hazel White, Benjamin Who, William Witherspoon

Utah: Anvar Boskailo, Elorah Dobrinski, Zuhar Kariparduc, Katherine Kim, Alexandar Straley

Virginia: Timothy Cline, Rudra Dave, Eren Demirel, Nicholas Flanigan, Namith Gangireddyvari, Kendan Hopkins, Begum Hussain, Zara Sophia Javeri, Evan Kinsel, Joshua Lee, Pierson Lee, Daniel Lian, Yashvir Sabharwal, Serena Sindhi, Rishika Singh, Mark Wilson, Burhan Yasakci, Mert Esat Yercel

Vermont: Katherine Bartlett, Megan Henderson

Washington: Irene Batta, Celeste Blair, Sara Cambron, Amalia (Molly) Dudley, Lauren Evans, Varshini Hari, Jason Kim, Ryan Kinder, Lilah Moore, Betul Orhan, Raigan Ryhter, Naren Selvam, Jonathan Tang, Liam Urie, Anisha Vaish

Wisconsin: Jessica Becker, Michael Brierton, Sandra Brierton, Pranav Nair

Wyoming: Thomas Audley, Jonnina Edmunds, Cambry Jenks, Aidan Kim-Miller, Caleb Miller, Jackson Neishabouri, Elise Newton, Hunter Sabat, Isabell Salas, Aubrey Smedley, Greyson Smith, Ava Taylor

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING USAA

• Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, Texas is proudly home to roughly 1.4 million veterans, more than any other State in the country. I am honored that these American heroes have chosen to call Texas home, and I have no doubt that their decision was based, at least in part, on our State's deep-rooted tradition of military service and the network of support it has created.

Across Texas, businesses, nonprofits, and veterans organizations provide these men and women with a range of resources, from job training to mental health services. Their support is a testament to the profound respect and gratitude Texans hold for those who have given so much in service to our country.

One of the staunchest advocates for veterans in Texas and across the country is the United Services Automobile

Association, or USAA. USAA was founded in 1922 by 25 Army officers who were unable to secure auto insurance. The group met in San Antonio and decided to insure each other in an effort to solve a problem facing many servicemembers and their families at the time. Over a century later, USAA now serves millions of members and continues to pursue its mission to empower the military community.

One year ago, USAA launched a significant initiative to combat veteran suicide, the second leading cause of death among post-9/11 veterans. More than 120,000 veterans have died by suicide since 2001, a suicide rate 57 percent higher than the national average.

In keeping with their commitment to America's military, USAA established Face the Fight, a collaborative effort of corporations, foundations, nonprofit groups, and veteran-focused organizations charged with raising awareness of veteran and military suicide prevention.

The USAA-led coalition includes two founding members, the Humana Foundation and Reach Resilience, and is guided by its academic partner and scientific adviser, the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. The coalition is managed by the Elizabeth Dole Foundation and has grown to include more than 160 members working to break the stigma surrounding suicide in the military community by fostering real, open conversations around support and hope.

America's veterans are a powerful reminder of the sacrifices that have been made by generations of heroes to protect the freedoms we enjoy, and it is our collective duty to ensure they receive the support they need when they return to civilian life. The honor-bound agreement between our men and women in uniform and our Nation does not end at retirement. No veteran should ever be forgotten. I commend USAA's efforts to prevent veteran suicide and support America's heroes.●

##### TRIBUTE TO DAN GIVENS

• Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I wish to recognize Mr. Dan Givens for his outstanding contributions to the Commonwealth of Virginia, the aerospace sector and the national security of the United States. Dan will retire on June 29, 2024, after serving as the spaceport director for the Virginia Spaceport Authority's Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS) since 2021. Dan was hired as operations manager in 2019 and has served as a strategic member of the Virginia Spaceport Authority—VSA—team as it works to fulfill its mandates of developing and operating an operational spaceport that facilitates reliable access to space while stimulating aerospace-related economic activity across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

During his tenure, Dan oversaw the management and operations of over \$240 million worth of spaceport assets, including multiple launch pads, mul-

iple support facilities, and a UAS airfield. He supported the construction of the newest two orbital launch pads at MARS, as well as two support facilities and supervised modifications to existing pads for continued use into the future. He oversaw nine successful launches of the Antares rocket, four of the Electron rockets—including Electron's first flight from U.S. soil—and two national security missions for the intelligence community. Dan was instrumental in establishing the Virginia Spaceport Authority's partnership with Vandenberg Space Force Base, including marking the first mission VSA supported outside of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Finally, Dan supported 14 customers with 20 different programs at the UAS airfield, reflecting 630 sorties and 959 flight hours in support of emerging unmanned capabilities. During his tenure, MARS grew 108 percent, from 60 to 108 employees.

VSA and MARS are fortunate to have such an effective leader in Dan Givens. I am pleased to reflect on his contributions to our Commonwealth here today and wish him a peaceful and relaxing retirement after a job well done.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13466 OF JUNE 26, 2008, WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA—PM 56

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report, which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to

the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to North Korea that was declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, expanded in scope in Executive Order 13551 of August 30, 2010, addressed further in Executive Order 13570 of April 18, 2011, further expanded in scope in Executive Order 13687 of January 2, 2015, and under which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13722 of March 15, 2016, and Executive Order 13810 of September 20, 2017, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2024.

The existence and risk of the proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula; the actions and policies of the Government of North Korea that destabilize the Korean Peninsula and imperil United States Armed Forces, allies, and trading partners in the region, including its pursuit of nuclear and missile programs; and other provocative, destabilizing, and repressive actions and policies of the Government of North Korea, continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466 with respect to North Korea.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.,  
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 13, 2024.

**REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13405 OF JUNE 16, 2006, WITH RESPECT TO BELARUS—PM 57**

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report, which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Belarus that was declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, which was expanded in scope in Executive Order 14038 of August 9, 2021, is to continue in effect beyond June 16, 2024.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons, and the Belarusian regime's harmful activities and long-

standing abuses, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13405 with respect to Belarus.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.,  
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 13, 2024.

**REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13219 OF JUNE 26, 2001, WITH RESPECT TO THE WESTERN BALKANS—PM 58**

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001, under which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13304 of May 28, 2003, and which was expanded in scope in Executive Order 14033 of June 8, 2021, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2024.

The acts of extremist violence and obstructionist activity, and the situation in the Western Balkans, which stymies progress toward effective and democratic governance and full integration into transatlantic institutions, outlined in these Executive Orders, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13219 with respect to the Western Balkans.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.,  
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 13, 2024.

**MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE**

At 11:59 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 138. An act to amend the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 to modify certain provisions of that Act.

**MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME**

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 4541. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain provisions with respect to qualified ABLE programs permanent.

**PRIVILEGED NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

On request by Senator J.D. VANCE, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations: Jay T. Snyder, of New York, to be a Member of the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy for a term expiring July 1, 2023.

On request by Senator J.D. VANCE, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations: Jay T. Snyder, of New York, to be a Member of the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy for a term expiring July 1, 2026.

On request by Senator J.D. VANCE, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations: James J. Blanchard, of Michigan, to be a Member of the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy for a term expiring July 1, 2025.

On request by Senator J.D. VANCE, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Leslie N. Bluhm, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2028.

On request by Senator J.D. VANCE, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Christopher H. Schroeder, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation for a term expiring October 3, 2024.

On request by Senator J.D. VANCE, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Christopher H. Schroeder, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation for a term expiring October 3, 2030.

**EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**

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



EC-4997. A communication from the Program Analyst, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Onions Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon; Increased Assessment Rate” (Docket No. AMS-SC-23-0033) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4998. A communication from the Program Analyst, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Salable Quantities and Allotment Percentages for the 2024–2025 Marketing Year” (Docket No. AMS-SC-23-0068) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4999. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Large Trader Reporting” (RIN3038-AF27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5000. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Request for Applications: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children Workforce—Implementation Projects Competitive Cooperative Agreement Program” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5001. A communication from the Program Analyst, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Substance Use Prevention Education in the Women, Infants, and Children Program—Fiscal Year 2024 Request for Applications” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5002. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a semiannual report entitled, “Acceptance of Contributions for Defense Programs, Projects, and Activities; Defense Cooperation Account” and a semiannual listing of personal property contributed by coalition partners; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5003. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a certification that the export of the listed items to the People’s Republic of China is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5004. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Additions to the Entity List; Amendment to Confirm Basis for Adding Certain Entities to the Entity List Includes Foreign Policy Interest of Protection of Human Rights Worldwide” (RIN0694-AJ20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 23, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5005. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule

entitled “Removal of Obsolete Regulations for Section 236 of the National Housing Act” (RIN2502-AJ74) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5006. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Consumer Financial Protection Circular 2024-01: Preferencing and steering practices by digital intermediaries for consumer financial products or services [\*Note: The CFPB has concluded that this Circular is not a ‘rule’ within the meaning of 5 USC 804(3). Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, the CFPB is submitting it to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General consistent with the procedures set forth in 801(a).]” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5007. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Consumer Financial Protection Circular 2024-03” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5008. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Consumer Financial Protection Circular 2024-02: Deceptive Marketing about the speed or cost of a remittance transfer [\*Note: The CFPB has concluded that this Circular is not a ‘rule’ within the meaning of 5 USC 804(3). Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, the CFPB is submitting it to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General consistent with the procedures set forth in 801(a).]” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5009. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Required Rulemaking on Personal Financial Data Rights; Industry Standard-Setting” (RIN3170-AA78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5010. A communication from the Executive Director for Workforce Diversity and Inclusion, Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of the Comptroller’s 2023 Office of Minority and Women Inclusion Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5011. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Registry of Nonbank Covered Persons Subject to Certain Agency and Court Orders” (RIN3170-AB13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5012. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting a legislative proposal to amend the Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-414) to clarify that a facility of the Department of Energy may include a leased facility; remove the requirement for collection of a fee at time of mercury delivery to provide additional flexi-

bility; and clarify that the fee covering long term management and storage includes ultimate mercury treatment and disposal, when available, as well as storage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5013. A communication from the Chief of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status With Critical Habitat for Guadalupe Fatmucket, Texas Fatmucket, Guadalupe Orb, Texas Pimpleback, Balcones Spike, and False Spike, and Threatened Species Status With Section 4(d) Rule and Critical Habitat for Texas Fawnsfoot” (RIN1018-BD16) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5014. A communication from the Management Analyst of the Policy and Regulations Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulations To Implement the Big Cat Public Safety Act” (RIN1018-BH23) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 29, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5015. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; West Virginia; 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Limited Maintenance Plans for the Charleston Area and the West Virginia Portion of the Steubenville-Weirton Area” (FRL No. 9822-02-R3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5016. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of California; Coachella Valley; Extreme Attainment Plan for 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standards” (FRL No. 11677-02-R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5017. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Revision to Approved Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets” (FRL No. 11847-02-R4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5018. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Definitions” (FRL No. 11915-01-R5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5019. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation; Correction” ((RIN2040-AG18) (FRL No. 8543-04-OW)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2024;



to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5020. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles; Correction" (RIN2060-AV49) (FRL No. 8953-05-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. WYDEN for the Committee on Finance.

\*James R. Ives, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of the Treasury.

\*Rose E. Jenkins, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

\*Kashi Way, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

\*Adam B. Landy, of South Carolina, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. VANCE, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 4529. A bill to permanently establish the E-Verify employment eligibility verification system, to mandate the use of E-Verify by all employers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 4530. A bill to authorize an exception to the restriction on construction of Coast Guard vessels in foreign shipyards for certain construction in shipyards in North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 4531. A bill to authorize an exception to the prohibition on the construction of naval vessels in foreign shipyards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MORAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VANCE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BUDD, Mr. KAINE, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr.

RUBIO, Mr. PETERS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 4532. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 4533. A bill to expand and promote research and data collection on reproductive health conditions, to provide training opportunities for medical professionals to learn how to diagnose and treat reproductive health conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 4534. A bill to establish a national human trafficking database at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and to incentivize certain State law enforcement agencies to report data to the database; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. WELCH):

S. 4535. A bill to require transportation network companies to provide customers notice when a driver has a camera in their motor vehicle and provide customers an opportunity to opt out of riding in motor vehicles with cameras, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 4536. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 600 East First Street in Rome, Georgia, as the "Harold L. Murphy Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. RISCH:

S. 4537. A bill to provide for congressional oversight of proposed changes to arms sales to Israel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 4538. A bill to adjust certain ownership and other requirements for passenger vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHMITT (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. WELCH, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 4539. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain provisions with respect to qualified ABLE programs permanent; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 4540. A bill to enable passenger vessels that were not built in the United States to receive coastwise endorsement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHMITT:

S. 4541. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain provisions with respect to qualified ABLE programs permanent; read the first time.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 4542. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to discount FHA single-family mortgage insurance premium payments for first-time homebuyers

who complete a financial literacy housing counseling program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 4543. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to allow States to waive certain administrative requirements for recertification, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 4544. A bill to exempt large cruise ships from certain requirements applicable to passenger vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 4545. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 with respect to emergency assistance for farmworkers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 4546. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to expand the prohibition on destruction of veterans' memorials to include other memorials and to establish mandatory minimum sentences for violations of that prohibition; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. REED, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 4547. A bill to prohibit the award of Federal Government contracts to inverted domestic corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4548. A bill to make a technical correction to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 by repealing section 5101 and enacting an updated version of the Foreign Extortion Prevention Act; considered and passed.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 4549. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require additional information on math and clerical error notices; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 4550. A bill to amend the Head Start Act to authorize block grants to States for pre-kindergarten education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 4551. A bill to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to modify the BARD Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. LUJAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 4552. A bill to enhance the rights of domestic employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 4553. A bill to ensure access to certain public land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs.

BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. YOUNG):

S.J. Res. 97. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Defining and Delimiting the Exemptions for Executive, Administrative, Professional, Outside Sales, and Computer Employees"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCHMITT, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 732. A resolution celebrating the 247th anniversary of the creation of the flag of the United States and expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. DAINES, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. Res. 733. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Patrick Gottsch; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 734. A resolution recognizing 30 years since the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt, and reaffirming the goals and ideals of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, including comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. KELLY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. COONS, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. Res. 735. A resolution designating July 17, 2024, as "Glioblastoma Awareness Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. Res. 736. A resolution recognizing the importance of trademarks in the economy and the role of trademarks in protecting consumer safety, by designating the month of July as "National Anti-Counterfeiting and Consumer Education and Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 133

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to extend the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 134

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 134, a bill to require an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations made under the National Alzheimer's Project Act.

S. 234

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 234, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 465

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 465, a bill to require Federal law enforcement agencies to report on cases of missing or murdered Indians, and for other purposes.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 815, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

S. 1024

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1024, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to eligible entities to develop and implement a comprehensive program to promote student access to defibrillation in public elementary schools and secondary schools.

S. 1253

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1253, a bill to increase the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Customs and Border Protection officers and support staff and to require reports that identify staffing, infrastructure, and equipment needed to enhance security at ports of entry.

S. 1427

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1427, a bill to exempt certain entities from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 with respect to releases of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and for other purposes.

S. 1429

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1429, a bill to exempt certain entities from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 with respect to releases of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and for other purposes.

S. 1430

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr.

CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1430, a bill to exempt certain entities from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 with respect to releases of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and for other purposes.

S. 1432

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1432, a bill to exempt certain entities from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 for the release of certain perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances, and for other purposes.

S. 1433

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1433, a bill to exempt certain aviation entities from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 for the release of certain perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances, and for other purposes.

S. 1669

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1669, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring access to AM broadcast stations in motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 2085

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

S. 2498

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2498, a bill to prohibit unfair and deceptive advertising of prices for hotel rooms and other places of short-term lodging, and for other purposes.

S. 3277

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3277, a bill to amend the Marine Debris Act to reauthorize the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

S. 3530

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3530, a bill to retain Federal employees who are spouses of a member of the Armed Forces or the Foreign Service when relocating due to an involuntary transfer, and for other purposes.

S. 3629

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3629, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to revise recidivist penalty provisions for child sexual exploitation offenses to uniformly account for prior military convictions, thereby ensuring parity among Federal, State, and military convictions, and for other purposes.

S. 4075

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4075, a bill to prohibit payment card networks and covered entities from requiring the use of or assigning merchant category codes that distinguish a firearms retailer from a general merchandise retailer or sporting goods retailer, and for other purposes.

S. 4122

At the request of Mr. VANCE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4122, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to develop national quality standards for continuous skilled nursing services provided through Medicaid, and for other purposes.

S. 4387

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4387, a bill to prohibit transportation of any alien using certain methods of identification.

S. 4502

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4502, a bill to prohibit forced arbitration in work disputes, and for other purposes.

S. 4511

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4511, a bill to provide for the crediting of funds received by the National Guard Bureau as reimbursement from States.

S. 4521

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4521, a bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to subject the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to the regular appropriations process, and for other purposes.

S. 4524

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4524, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit discrimination against health care entities that do not participate in abortion, and to strengthen implementation and enforcement of Federal conscience laws.

S.J. RES. 33

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 33, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to prohibit the use of slavery and involuntary servitude as a punishment for a crime.

S. RES. 599

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 599, a resolution protecting the Iranian political refugees, including female former political prisoners, in Ashraf-3 in Albania.

S. RES. 630

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 630, a resolution supporting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and recognizing its 75 years of accomplishments.

S. RES. 684

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 684, a resolution supporting the role of the United States in helping save the lives of children and protecting the health of people in low-income countries with vaccines and immunization through Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance ("Gavi").

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. REED, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 4547. A bill to prohibit the award of Federal Government contracts to inverted domestic corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4547

*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 "American Business for American Companies Act of 2024".

##### SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON AWARDING CONTRACTS TO INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATIONS.

(a) CIVILIAN CONTRACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 47 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

##### "§ 4715. Prohibition on awarding contracts to inverted domestic corporations

"(a) PROHIBITION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an executive agency may not award a contract for the procurement of property or services to—

"(A) any foreign incorporated entity that such head has determined is an inverted domestic corporation or any subsidiary of such entity; or

"(B) any joint venture if more than 10 percent of the joint venture (by vote or value) is held by a foreign incorporated entity that such head has determined is an inverted domestic corporation or any subsidiary of such entity.

"(2) SUBCONTRACTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of an executive agency shall include in each contract for the procurement of property or services awarded by the executive agency with a value in excess of \$10,000,000, other than a contract for exclusively commercial items, a clause that prohibits the prime contractor on such contract from—

"(i) awarding a first-tier subcontract with a value greater than 10 percent of the total value of the prime contract to an entity or joint venture described in paragraph (1); or

"(ii) structuring subcontract tiers in a manner designed to avoid the limitation in paragraph (1) by enabling an entity or joint venture described in paragraph (1) to perform more than 10 percent of the total value of the prime contract as a lower-tier subcontractor.

"(B) PENALTIES.—The contract clause included in contracts pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall provide that, in the event that the prime contractor violates the contract clause—

"(i) the prime contract may be terminated for default; and

"(ii) the matter may be referred to the suspension or debarment official for the appropriate agency and may be a basis for suspension or debarment of the prime contractor.

"(b) INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, a foreign incorporated entity shall be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if, pursuant to a plan (or a series of related transactions)—

"(A) the entity completes on or after May 8, 2014, the direct or indirect acquisition of—

"(i) substantially all of the properties held directly or indirectly by a domestic corporation; or

"(ii) substantially all of the assets of, or substantially all of the properties constituting a trade or business of, a domestic partnership; and

"(B) after the acquisition, either—

"(i) more than 50 percent of the stock (by vote or value) of the entity is held—

"(I) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic corporation, by former shareholders of the domestic corporation by reason of holding stock in the domestic corporation; or

"(II) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic partnership, by former partners of the domestic partnership by reason of holding a capital or profits interest in the domestic partnership; or

"(ii) the management and control of the expanded affiliated group which includes the entity occurs, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States, as determined pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and such expanded affiliated group has significant domestic business activities.

"(2) EXCEPTION FOR CORPORATIONS WITH SUBSTANTIAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRY OF ORGANIZATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A foreign incorporated entity described in paragraph (1) shall not be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if after the acquisition the expanded affiliated group which includes the entity has

substantial business activities in the foreign country in which or under the law of which the entity is created or organized when compared to the total business activities of such expanded affiliated group.

“(B) SUBSTANTIAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary’s delegate) shall establish regulations for determining whether an affiliated group has substantial business activities for purposes of subparagraph (A), except that such regulations may not treat any group as having substantial business activities if such group would not be considered to have substantial business activities under the regulations prescribed under section 7874 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as in effect on January 18, 2017.

“(3) SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B)(ii), an expanded affiliated group has significant domestic business activities if at least 25 percent of—

“(i) the employees of the group are based in the United States;

“(ii) the employee compensation incurred by the group is incurred with respect to employees based in the United States;

“(iii) the assets of the group are located in the United States; or

“(iv) the income of the group is derived in the United States.

“(B) DETERMINATION.—Determinations pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be made in the same manner as such determinations are made for purposes of determining substantial business activities under regulations referred to in paragraph (2) as in effect on January 18, 2017, but applied by treating all references in such regulations to ‘foreign country’ and ‘relevant foreign country’ as references to ‘the United States’. The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary’s delegate) may issue regulations decreasing the threshold percent in any of the tests under such regulations for determining if business activities constitute significant domestic business activities for purposes of this paragraph.

“(c) WAIVER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an executive agency may waive subsection (a) with respect to any Federal Government contract under the authority of such head if the head determines that the waiver is—

“(A) required in the interest of national security; or

“(B) necessary for the efficient or effective administration of Federal or federally funded—

“(i) programs that provide health benefits to individuals; or

“(ii) public health programs.

“(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The head of an executive agency issuing a waiver under paragraph (1) shall, not later than 14 days after issuing such waiver, submit a written notification of the waiver to the relevant authorizing committees of Congress and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

“(d) APPLICABILITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), this section shall not apply to any contract entered into before the date of the enactment of this section.

“(2) TASK AND DELIVERY ORDERS.—This section shall apply to any task or delivery order issued after the date of the enactment of this section pursuant to a contract entered into before, on, or after such date of enactment.

“(3) SCOPE.—This section applies only to contracts subject to regulation under the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

“(e) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘expanded affiliated group’, ‘foreign

incorporated entity’, ‘person’, ‘domestic’, and ‘foreign’ have the meaning given those terms in section 835(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 395(c)).

“(2) SPECIAL RULES.—In applying subsection (b) of this section for purposes of subsection (a) of this section, the rules described under 835(c)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 395(c)(1)) shall apply.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 47 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4714 the following new item:

“4715. Prohibition on awarding contracts to inverted domestic corporations.”.

(b) DEFENSE CONTRACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 363 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“**§ 4663. Prohibition on awarding contracts to inverted domestic corporations**

“(a) PROHIBITION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency may not award a contract for the procurement of property or services to—

“(A) any foreign incorporated entity that such head has determined is an inverted domestic corporation or any subsidiary of such entity; or

“(B) any joint venture if more than 10 percent of the joint venture (by vote or value) is owned by a foreign incorporated entity that such head has determined is an inverted domestic corporation or any subsidiary of such entity.

“(2) SUBCONTRACTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of an executive agency shall include in each contract for the procurement of property or services awarded by the executive agency with a value in excess of \$10,000,000, other than a contract for exclusively commercial items, a clause that prohibits the prime contractor on such contract from—

“(i) awarding a first-tier subcontract with a value greater than 10 percent of the total value of the prime contract to an entity or joint venture described in paragraph (1); or

“(ii) structuring subcontract tiers in a manner designed to avoid the limitation in paragraph (1) by enabling an entity or joint venture described in paragraph (1) to perform more than 10 percent of the total value of the prime contract as a lower-tier subcontractor.

“(B) PENALTIES.—The contract clause included in contracts pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall provide that, in the event that the prime contractor violates the contract clause—

“(i) the prime contract may be terminated for default; and

“(ii) the matter may be referred to the suspension or debarment official for the appropriate agency and may be a basis for suspension or debarment of the prime contractor.

“(b) INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, a foreign incorporated entity shall be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if, pursuant to a plan (or a series of related transactions)—

“(A) the entity completes on or after May 8, 2014, the direct or indirect acquisition of—

“(i) substantially all of the properties held directly or indirectly by a domestic corporation; or

“(ii) substantially all of the assets of, or substantially all of the properties constituting a trade or business of, a domestic partnership; and

“(B) after the acquisition, either—

“(i) more than 50 percent of the stock (by vote or value) of the entity is held—

“(I) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic corporation, by former

shareholders of the domestic corporation by reason of holding stock in the domestic corporation; or

“(II) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic partnership, by former partners of the domestic partnership by reason of holding a capital or profits interest in the domestic partnership; or

“(ii) the management and control of the expanded affiliated group which includes the entity occurs, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States, as determined pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and such expanded affiliated group has significant domestic business activities.

“(2) EXCEPTION FOR CORPORATIONS WITH SUBSTANTIAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRY OF ORGANIZATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A foreign incorporated entity described in paragraph (1) shall not be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if after the acquisition the expanded affiliated group which includes the entity has substantial business activities in the foreign country in which or under the law of which the entity is created or organized when compared to the total business activities of such expanded affiliated group.

“(B) SUBSTANTIAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary’s delegate) shall establish regulations for determining whether an affiliated group has substantial business activities for purposes of subparagraph (A), except that such regulations may not treat any group as having substantial business activities if such group would not be considered to have substantial business activities under the regulations prescribed under section 7874 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as in effect on January 18, 2017.

“(3) SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B)(ii), an expanded affiliated group has significant domestic business activities if at least 25 percent of—

“(i) the employees of the group are based in the United States;

“(ii) the employee compensation incurred by the group is incurred with respect to employees based in the United States;

“(iii) the assets of the group are located in the United States; or

“(iv) the income of the group is derived in the United States.

“(B) DETERMINATION.—Determinations pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be made in the same manner as such determinations are made for purposes of determining substantial business activities under regulations referred to in paragraph (2) as in effect on January 18, 2017, but applied by treating all references in such regulations to ‘foreign country’ and ‘relevant foreign country’ as references to ‘the United States’. The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary’s delegate) may issue regulations decreasing the threshold percent in any of the tests under such regulations for determining if business activities constitute significant domestic business activities for purposes of this paragraph.

“(c) WAIVER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency may waive subsection (a) with respect to any Federal Government contract under the authority of such head if the head determines that the waiver is required in the interest of national security or is necessary for the efficient or effective administration of Federal or federally funded programs that provide health benefits to individuals.

“(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The head of an agency issuing a waiver under paragraph (1) shall, not later than 14 days after issuing such waiver, submit a written notification of

the waiver to the congressional defense committees.

“(d) APPLICABILITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), this section shall not apply to any contract entered into before the date of the enactment of this section.

“(2) TASK AND DELIVERY ORDERS.—This section shall apply to any task or delivery order issued after the date of the enactment of this section pursuant to a contract entered into before, on, or after such date of enactment.

“(3) SCOPE.—This section applies only to contracts subject to regulation under the Federal Acquisition Regulation and the Defense Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

“(e) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘expanded affiliated group’, ‘foreign incorporated entity’, ‘person’, ‘domestic’, and ‘foreign’ have the meaning given those terms in section 835(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 395(c)).

“(2) SPECIAL RULES.—In applying subsection (b) of this section for purposes of subsection (a) of this section, the rules described under 835(c)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 395(c)(1)) shall apply.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 363 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4662 the following new item:

“4663. Prohibition on awarding contracts to inverted domestic corporations.”

(c) REGULATIONS REGARDING MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary’s delegate) shall, for purposes of section 4714(b)(1)(B)(ii) of title 41, United States Code, and section 4663(b)(1)(B)(ii) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsections (a) and (b), respectively, prescribe regulations for purposes of determining cases in which the management and control of an expanded affiliated group is to be treated as occurring, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States. The regulations prescribed under the preceding sentence shall apply to periods after May 8, 2014.

(2) EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT.—The regulations prescribed under paragraph (1) shall provide that the management and control of an expanded affiliated group shall be treated as occurring, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States if substantially all of the executive officers and senior management of the expanded affiliated group who exercise day-to-day responsibility for making decisions involving strategic, financial, and operational policies of the expanded affiliated group are based or primarily located within the United States. Individuals who in fact exercise such day-to-day responsibilities shall be treated as executive officers and senior management regardless of their title.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 732—CELEBRATING THE 247TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCHMITT, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 732

Whereas, on June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress approved the design of the flag of the United States;

Whereas, over the years, the flag of the United States has preserved the standards of the original design comprised of alternating red and white stripes accompanied by a union consisting of white stars on a field of blue;

Whereas, on May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued Presidential Proclamation 1335, an announcement asking the people of the United States to observe June 14 as Flag Day;

Whereas, on August 3, 1949, President Harry Truman signed into law House Joint Resolution 170, 81st Congress, a joint resolution designating June 14 of each year as Flag Day;

Whereas, on August 21, 1959, President Dwight Eisenhower issued Executive Order 10834 (24 Fed. Reg. 6865), an order establishing the most recent design of the flag of the United States;

Whereas the Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister, and first published in the September 8, 1892, issue of *The Youth’s Companion*;

Whereas, in 1954, Congress added the words “under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance;

Whereas, for more than 60 years, the Pledge of Allegiance has included references to the United States flag, to the United States having been established as a union “under God”, and to the United States being dedicated to securing “liberty and justice for all”;

Whereas, in 1954, Congress believed it was acting constitutionally when it revised the Pledge of Allegiance;

Whereas the United States was founded on principles of religious freedom by the Founders, many of whom were deeply religious;

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States embodies principles intended to guarantee freedom of religion through protecting the free exercise thereof and by prohibiting the Government from establishing a religion;

Whereas patriotic songs, engravings on United States legal tender, and engravings on Federal buildings also contain general references to “God”;

Whereas, in *Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow*, 542 U.S. 1 (2004), the Supreme Court of the United States overturned the decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in *Newdow v. U.S. Congress*, 328 F.3d 466 (9th Cir. 2003), a case in which the Ninth Circuit concluded that recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by a public school teacher violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit subsequently concluded that—

(1) the previous opinion of that court in *Newdow v. U.S. Congress*, 328 F.3d 466 (9th Cir. 2003) was no longer binding precedent;

(2) case law from the Supreme Court of the United States concerning the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States had subsequently changed after the decision in *Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow*, 542 U.S. 1 (2004); and

(3) Congress, in passing the new version of the Pledge of Allegiance, had established a secular purpose for the use of the term “under God”; and

Whereas, in light of those conclusions, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by public school teachers: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 247th anniversary of the creation of the flag of the United States;

(2) recognizes that the Pledge of Allegiance has been a valuable part of life for the people of the United States for generations; and

(3) affirms that the Pledge of Allegiance is a constitutional expression of patriotism and strongly defends the constitutionality of the Pledge of Allegiance.

### SENATE RESOLUTION 733—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PATRICK GOTTSCH

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. DAINES, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 733

Whereas Patrick Gene Gottsch was born on June 3, 1953, in Elkhorn, Nebraska;

Whereas Mr. Gottsch was raised on his family’s farm and cattle operation, which instilled in him the values of rural America;

Whereas Mr. Gottsch obtained a wide array of career experiences that enabled him to be a trailblazer in the rural and agricultural programming space;

Whereas Mr. Gottsch worked as a commodity broker on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, in the home satellite dish industry, and as Director of Sales for the Superior Livestock Auction in the Fort Worth Stockyards;

Whereas Mr. Gottsch launched Rural Free Delivery Television (RFD-TV) in 2002;

Whereas Mr. Gottsch was the founder and president of Rural Media Group, Inc., which, in addition to RFD-TV, grew to consist of RFD-TV The Magazine, RFD HD, RURAL TV, RURAL RADIO, and The Cowboy Channel;

Whereas millions of individuals in the United States have benefitted from Mr. Gottsch’s innovative approach to educating the populace on rural and agricultural issues through the use of television and other mediums; and

Whereas Mr. Gottsch’s work to represent farmers, ranchers, and rural America through television was unprecedented and has left an indelible mark on the hearts of millions of individuals in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and legacy of Patrick Gottsch, particularly the devotion of Mr. Gottsch—

(A) to rural America;

(B) to espousing the values of rural America through agricultural and rural programming; and

(C) to advocating for a greater understanding of the importance of rural America to the economy, culture, and progress of the nation;

(2) extends its gratitude to Mr. Gottsch for a life well-lived, and will continue to remember his legacy; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. Gottsch.

SENATE RESOLUTION 734—RECOGNIZING 30 YEARS SINCE THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN CAIRO, EGYPT, AND REAFFIRMING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF ACTION, INCLUDING COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 734

Whereas the United States played a central role in the creation of the United Nations in 1945 following World War II to promote international cooperation;

Whereas the United States encouraged the establishment of the United Nations Population Fund (in this preamble referred to as “UNFPA”) in 1969 and continues to serve on the Executive Board of the UNFPA;

Whereas the International Conference on Population and Development (in this preamble referred to as “ICPD”), which was attended by officials from the Executive Office of the President, Congress, and United States civil society and private sector organizations, was convened by the UNFPA and the Population Division of the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis in Cairo, Egypt, from September 5 to September 13, 1994, for the purpose of addressing critical issues regarding population, development, and human rights;

Whereas the resulting ICPD Programme of Action, to which the United States is a signatory, asserts that the focus of development policy must be the human rights and dignity of individuals and the improvement of individual lives, measured by progress in addressing inequalities;

Whereas civil society played an indispensable role in shaping and executing the ICPD Programme of Action and continues to do so today;

Whereas, since the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action in 1994, significant progress has been made towards universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, including—

(1) a global increase in voluntary access to modern contraception by 25 percent;

(2) a decline in the number of deaths due to unsafe abortion from 69,000 in 1990 to 22,800 in 2014, due to liberalization of abortion laws and increased access to safe, and effective methods of abortion across the globe;

(3) a decrease in maternal deaths by 34 percent globally; and

(4) enhanced access to medical advances, such as the development of antiretroviral therapies, which 29,800,000 people living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) accessed in 2022, contributing to significant decreases in HIV acquisition and transmission;

Whereas gaps and challenges in achieving the goals of the ICPD Programme of Action remain as progress has been unequal and fragmented and new challenges have emerged, such as—

(1) the 218,000,000 women globally who have unmet contraceptive needs;

(2) the 287,000 women who die annually from complications during pregnancy and childbirth globally, nearly all of which are preventable and 1 out of 4 of which could be prevented by access to contraception;

(3) the approximately 11 percent of maternal deaths that can be attributed to unsafe abortion;

(4) the more than 1,000,000 sexually transmitted infections (STIs) that are—

(A) acquired globally every day because access to education about STIs and STI testing is not universally available due to a lack of trained personnel, comprehensive sexual education, laboratory capacity, and medicines;

(B) too often untreated, as an estimated 133,000,000 women of reproductive age in low to middle income countries need but do not receive treatment for 1 of the 4 major curable STIs—chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and trichomoniasis; and

(C) exacerbated by the separation of STI services from other services, such as primary health care or family planning;

(5) the reduction in maternal mortality that has stalled in 133 countries and increase in maternal mortality in 17 countries from 2016 to 2020;

(6) the individuals living with HIV or at risk of HIV transmission, including the—

(A) 1,700,000 individuals who became newly infected with HIV in 2022, 54 percent of which are among key populations, and their sexual partners, whose risk of acquiring HIV is 22 times higher among men who have sex with men, 22 times higher among people who inject drugs, 21 times higher for sex workers, and 12 times higher for transgender individuals; and

(B) adolescent girls and young women (ages 15 to 24), who are at a higher risk of becoming infected with HIV and who account for 4 out of 5 new infections among all adolescents (aged 15 to 19) in sub-Saharan Africa;

(7) the 35 percent of women globally who have experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence or sexual violence, or sexual violence by a non-partner at some point in their lives, a vulnerability that may increase as a result of characteristics such as sexual orientation, disability status, HIV status, and pregnancy, or contextual factors, such as humanitarian crises and conflict; and

(8) the 48,000,000 women and girls of reproductive age who are in need of humanitarian assistance;

Whereas the ICPD Programme of Action and other international human rights standards recognize that access to evidence-based, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care, including abortion, is an essential human right, and that ending gender-based violence and the prevention and treatment of HIV are key priorities to advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights for all people, and attaining the ICPD Programme of Action milestones and the Sustainable Development Goals [of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs];

Whereas the ICPD Programme of Action calls for the right of all people to have a satisfying and safe sex life, the capability to reproduce, and the freedom to decide if, when, and how often to do so;

Whereas the ICPD Programme of Action calls for the right of all people to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice, free of coercion, violence, misinformation, and discrimination;

Whereas the ICPD called on governments to commit, at the highest political level, to achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action and to take a leading role in coordinating the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of follow-up actions;

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly—

(1) endorsed the ICPD Programme of Action in 1995;

(2) affirmed that governments should commit themselves to the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action; and

(3) called upon all governments to give the widest possible dissemination of the Programme of Action and seek public support for the goals, objectives, and actions of the Programme of Action;

Whereas 400 youth delegates from 60 countries, including the United States—

(1) met for the ICPD30 Global Youth Dialogue in Cotonou, Benin, on April 4 to 5, 2024, to reaffirm the pivotal and active role young people have played globally in promoting, protecting, and delivering the ICPD Programme of Action and through the resulting Cotonou Youth Action Agenda; and

(2) called on all United Nations Member States, duty bearers, and stakeholders to implement, resource, and institutionalize global commitments that provide youth-centered, accessible, safe, gender-responsive, quality sexual and reproductive health services, and supplies within universal health coverage programs, including menstrual health management, the full range of modern contraceptives, comprehensive abortion care services, HIV services, and self-managed care;

Whereas members of parliament from all regions of the world, with presence from the House of Representatives, met in Oslo, Norway, on April 10 to 12, 2024, for the eighth International Parliamentarians’ Conference on the Implementation (in this preamble referred to as “IPCI”) of the International Conference on Population and Development and through the resulting Oslo Statement of Commitment, members expressed deep concern about the global backlash against the sexual and reproductive health and rights agenda that has been observed in multiple countries, including the lack of agency for women and girls, which deepens social inequalities and undermines human rights, democracy, gender equality, and the collective efforts to build more inclusive and resilient societies;

Whereas, in the 2024 State of the World Population Report, UNFPA reviewed progress in achieving the ICPD Programme of Action, indicating that significant progress has been made, but entrenched inequalities deprive millions of individuals from fundamental sexual and reproductive health and rights;

Whereas the inability of the international community to reach the most marginalized individuals globally is largely due to unwillingness to confront the legacies of gender inequality, racial discrimination, and misinformation that underlie health systems;

Whereas the United States Government, in its Statement at UN Commission on Population and Development’s 57th Annual Session on April 30, 2024, affirmed that reproductive rights are central to an inclusive, thriving society, and that seeking to achieve such rights unequivocally transforms the lives of women and girls, in all of their diversity, around the world, for the better; and

Whereas the Blueprint for Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice calls on the United States Government to mark the 30th anniversary of ICPD with a high level event that recommits the United States Government to the ICPD Programme of Action and delivers sexual and reproductive health and rights for all through rhetoric and action on programs, policy, and funding; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commends the notable progress made in achieving the goals set in 1994 at the International Conference on Population and Development (referred to in this resolution as the “ICPD”) and the follow up and outcomes of subsequent review conferences;



(2) recommits to the achievement of the goals of the ICPD;

(3) champions the right to bodily autonomy and self-determination for all people;

(4) recognizes that sexual and reproductive health and rights, including safe abortion, are human rights, and that sexual and reproductive health and rights are a precondition for the empowerment of women, gender equality, and the well-being and prosperity of all people;

(5) commits to advocating for and providing comprehensive and factual information and a full range of sexual and reproductive health care services that are accessible, affordable, acceptable, of good quality, and convenient to all individuals;

(6) acknowledges that without a clear commitment to a human rights-based approach to development, reproductive health, and gender equality, meeting the goals of either the ICPD or the Sustainable Development Goals will not be possible;

(7) acknowledges and condemns the recent backsliding that—

(A) has occurred domestically and the egregious impact such backsliding has had globally, particularly regarding abortion access and the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community; and

(B) is contrary to evidence-based health practices and established human rights norms and could set back the progress made on reducing unsafe abortions, reducing maternal mortality, and reducing stigma against treatment for the human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome;

(8) accepts the responsibility of the United States, as the largest funder of global health, to uphold the goals of ICPD and set a global example through United States funding and policies, which affirmatively advance Federal development commitments and the realization of human rights;

(9) supports the urgent need to scale up funding for bilateral international family planning and reproductive health programs and the United States contribution to United Nations Population Fund, which have been flat funded for 14 years, and to permanently end harmful policies like the global gag rule and Helms Amendment, which undermine global access to comprehensive health care information and services and the ability to achieve the vision laid out in the ICPD Programme of Action;

(10) opposes and condemns reproductive coercion in all forms, consistent with the ICPD Programme of Action, including—

(A) the use of incentives or disincentives to lower or raise fertility;

(B) the use of incentives or targets for the uptake of specific contraceptive methods;

(C) withholding of information on reproductive health options; and

(D) forced abortion, forced sterilization, and forced pregnancy; and

(11) calls on the Administration of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., to fully implement the National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality, including the strategic priority to “Protect, Improve, and Expand Access to Health Care, including Sexual and Reproductive Health Care”.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 735—DESIGNATING JULY 17, 2024, AS “GLIOBLASTOMA AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. KELLY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. COONS, and Mr. BARASSO) submitted the following resolution;

which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 735

Whereas approximately 14,490 new cases of glioblastoma were diagnosed in the United States in 2023;

Whereas glioblastoma is—

(1) the most common malignant (cancerous) brain tumor, accounting for approximately ½ of all primary malignant brain tumors; and

(2) the most aggressive, complex, difficult to treat, and deadly type of brain tumor;

Whereas it is estimated that more than 10,000 individuals in the United States will succumb to glioblastoma each year;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for glioblastoma patients is only 6.9 percent, and the median length of survival for glioblastoma patients is only 8 months;

Whereas glioblastoma is described as a disease that affects the “essence of self”, as the treatment and removal of glioblastoma presents significant challenges due to the uniquely complex and fragile nature of the brain, the primary organ in the human body that controls not only cognitive ability, but also the actions of every organ and limb;

Whereas patients and caregivers play a critical role in furthering research for glioblastoma;

Whereas, relative to the patients of other types of cancers, brain cancer patients pay the second highest out-of-pocket costs for medical services in both the initial and end-of-life phases of care;

Whereas, although research advances may fuel the development of new treatments for glioblastoma, challenging obstacles to accelerating progress toward new treatments for glioblastoma remain, and there are no screening or early detection methods;

Whereas, in 2021, the World Health Organization reclassified brain tumors and made significant changes to the molecular characteristics of a glioblastoma diagnosis, necessitating critical biomarker testing for patients suspected of having glioblastoma;

Whereas, although glioblastoma was first described in medical and scientific literature in the 1920s, and despite its devastating prognosis, only 5 drugs and 1 medical device have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration to specifically treat glioblastoma since the 1920s, and the mortality rates associated with glioblastoma have changed little during the past 30 years;

Whereas, since the first Glioblastoma Awareness Day, the National Cancer Institute established the Glioblastoma Therapeutics Network in 2020, a network of multi-institutional teams that enhance and support the discovery and development of glioblastoma therapies by driving therapeutic agents through pre-clinical studies and early-phase clinical trials, which are necessary to rapidly evaluate potential treatments to advance toward cures and improved quality of life; and

Whereas there is a need for greater public awareness of glioblastoma, including awareness of both—

(1) the urgent unmet medical needs of glioblastoma patients; and

(2) the opportunities for research of, and treatment advances for, glioblastoma: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 17, 2024, as “Glioblastoma Awareness Day”; and

(2) encourages increased public awareness of glioblastoma;

(3) honors the individuals who have died from the devastating disease of glioblastoma or are currently living with the disease;

(4) supports efforts to develop better treatments for glioblastoma that will improve the

long-term prognosis for, and the quality of life of, individuals diagnosed with the disease;

(5) recognizes the importance of molecular biomarker testing to the diagnosis and treatment of glioblastoma;

(6) expresses support for the individuals who are battling brain tumors, as well as the families, friends, and caregivers of those individuals;

(7) urges a collaborative approach to brain tumor research among governmental, private, and nonprofit organizations, which is a promising means of advancing the understanding and treatment of glioblastoma; and

(8) encourages continued investments in glioblastoma research and treatments, including through the Glioblastoma Therapeutics Network and other existing brain tumor research resources.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 736—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADEMARKS IN THE ECONOMY AND THE ROLE OF TRADEMARKS IN PROTECTING CONSUMER SAFETY, BY DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF JULY AS “NATIONAL ANTI-COUNTERFEITING AND CONSUMER EDUCATION AND AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. TILLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 736

Whereas public awareness is crucial to safeguard consumers and businesses from unsafe and unreliable products that, through illicit activity, threaten intellectual property rights, the economic market, and even the health and well-being of consumers;

Whereas Federal statutes such as the Act of July 5, 1946 (commonly referred to as the “Trademark Act of 1946” or the “Lanham Act”) (60 Stat. 427, chapter 540; 15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as the “Lanham Act”) and the Trademark Counterfeiting Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-473; 98 Stat. 2178) regulate the unlawful act of producing and selling counterfeit products;

Whereas the Lanham Act provided the foundation for modern Federal trademark protection, creating legal rights and remedies for brand owners suffering from trademark infringement, helping consumers make informed choices by reducing the amount of confusingly similar products, and making the marketplace more fair, competitive, and safe for all;

Whereas October 12, 2024, marks the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the Trademark Counterfeiting Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-473; 98 Stat. 2178);

Whereas, according to the World Intellectual Property Organization, there was an estimated 82,500,000 active trademark registrations around the world in 2022, a 9.4 percent increase from the previous year;

Whereas counterfeit products undermine laws, including the Lanham Act, that ensure the safety of consumers, businesses, and brand owners against illegitimate products in the marketplace, from which criminal groups and bad actors are benefitting at the expense of the public and private sector;

Whereas counterfeiters use different online platforms to attract consumers to buy illegitimate goods, usually enticing consumers through cheaper prices;

Whereas the growth of both global commerce and electronic commerce has expedited the evolving problem because it has



given third-party actors an enhanced opportunity to reach consumers that they may have not previously been able to reach;

Whereas the deceptive tactics of counterfeiters and their counterfeit products pose actual and potential harm to the health and safety of United States citizens, especially the most vulnerable consumers in society, such as senior citizens and children;

Whereas, according to the 2024 Special 301 Report issued by the Office the United States Trade Representative, counterfeit items often do not comply with regulated safety standards, and as a result, vast amounts of unsafe products are constantly circulating the market and endangering the public;

Whereas goods originating in China and Hong Kong account for more than 80 percent of all global customs seizures of dangerous counterfeit goods, including foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and other goods;

Whereas counterfeit medical products pose a particular threat to the safety and health of consumers in the United States because the counterfeit product does not provide the same level of protection as an authentic article;

Whereas, in September 2021, the Drug Enforcement Administration issued its first Public Safety Alert in 6 years to warn the public about the alarming increase in the availability and lethality of fake prescription pills in the United States, pills that often contain deadly doses of fentanyl, and in 2023, the Drug Enforcement Administration seized a staggering 80,000,000 fentanyl-laced prescription pills;

Whereas counterfeit products threaten the United States economy and job creation, and according to United States Customs and Border Protection, counterfeiting and piracy cost businesses in the United States more than \$275,000,000,000 per year and have led to the loss of more than 750,000 jobs;

Whereas, in 2023, United States Customs and Border Protection seized more than 23,000,000 counterfeit goods, with an estimated manufacturer's suggested retail price of over \$2,750,000,000 if the goods were genuine, which equates to about \$7,534,246 in counterfeit goods seizures every day;

Whereas the manufacturing, trade, and consumption of counterfeit products are on the rise;

Whereas, according to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, as of 2020, at least 20 percent of counterfeit and pirated goods sold abroad displace sales in the United States, and of the \$143,000,000,000 sold of such goods, the United States economy suffers a loss of around \$29,000,000,000 per year;

Whereas businesses of all sizes collectively spend millions of dollars to protect and enforce their own brand and products by removing counterfeit products from both online and physical marketplaces;

Whereas businesses must devote resources to combating counterfeit products instead of using those resources to grow their business by hiring new employees and developing new products;

Whereas one of the most effective ways to protect consumers from the dangers of counterfeit products is through educational campaigns and awareness programs; and

Whereas organizations such as the Congressional Trademark Caucus, Federal enforcement agencies, the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center, and State enforcement agencies are actively working to raise awareness of the value of trademarks and the impact and harms caused by counterfeit products on both the national and State economies: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of July 2024 as “National Anti-Counterfeiting and Consumer Education and Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Anti-Counterfeiting and Consumer Education and Awareness Month to educate the public and raise public awareness about the actual and potential dangers counterfeit products pose to consumer health and safety;

(3) affirms the continuing importance and need for comprehensive Federal, State, and private sector-supported education and awareness efforts designed to equip the consumers of the United States with the information and tools needed to safeguard against illegal counterfeit products in traditional commerce, internet commerce, and other electronic commerce platforms; and

(4) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to combating counterfeiting by promoting awareness about the actual and potential harm of counterfeiting to consumers and brand owners and by promoting new education programs and campaigns designed to reduce the supply of, and demand for, counterfeit products.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have six requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in closed session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 9:45 a.m.

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Harrison

Dougherty and Zahra Naeini—interns in my office—be granted floor privileges until June 14, 2024.

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

#### NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING FROM THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the notice of proposed rulemaking from the Office Of Congressional Workplace Rights be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING FROM THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS (“OCWR”)

U.S. CONGRESS, OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS, Washington, DC, June 13, 2024.

Hon. PATTY MURRAY,  
President Pro Tempore, U.S. Senate,  
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM PRESIDENT: Section 207(d) of the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA), 2 U.S.C. 1316a(d), requires the Board of Directors of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (Board) to issue substantive regulations implementing section 207 of the CAA relating to the Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act of 2019 (FCA).

Section 304(b)(1) of the CAA, 2 U.S.C. 1384(b)(1), requires that the Board issue a general notice of proposed rulemaking by transmitting such notice to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate for publication in the *Congressional Record* on the first day of which both Houses are in session following such transmittal.

On behalf of the Board, I am hereby transmitting the attached Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. I request that this notice be published in the Senate section of the *Congressional Record* on the first day on which both Houses are in session following receipt of this transmittal. In compliance with section 304(b)(2) of the CAA, a comment period of 30 days after the publication of this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is being provided before adoption of the rules.

Any inquiries regarding this notice should be addressed to Martin J. Crane, Executive Director of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, Room LA-200, 110 Second Street S.E., Washington, D.C. 20540-1999; 202-724-9250.

Sincerely,

BARBARA CHILDS WALLACE,  
Chair of the Board of Directors,  
Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

#### NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING FROM THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS (“OCWR”)

Re NEW PROPOSED REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING CERTAIN SUBSTANTIVE RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS FOR JOB APPLICANTS, AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 207 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995, AS AMENDED (“CAA”)

#### Background

The purpose of this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“Notice”) is to propose substantive regulations that will implement the

Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act of 2019 (“FCA”) in the legislative branch of the federal government. The FCA, as applied by section 207 of the CAA, codified at 2 U.S.C. §1316b, places limitations on employing office requests for criminal history record information from job applicants prior to a conditional offer of employment.

The CAA applies the rights and protections of numerous federal labor and employment statutes to covered employees and employing offices in the legislative branch. Section 1316b of the CAA prohibits employing offices from requesting that an applicant for employment disclose criminal history record information before the employing office makes a conditional offer of employment to that applicant. Section 1316b also provides that applicants for employment may rely on the CAA’s existing claims procedures under subchapter IV and, through incorporation of 5 U.S.C. §9204, establishes minimum penalties and procedures to be followed before such penalties may be assessed against an employee who violates the FCA.

**What is the authority under the CAA for these proposed substantive regulations?**

The authority under the CAA for these proposed substantive regulations is found in two sections of the CAA. Section 1316b applies certain provisions of the FCA, title 5, chapter 92 of the United States Code. Section 1316b provides rights and protections to job applicants against criminal background checks prior to a conditional offer of employment. Subsection 1316b(d) requires the OCWR Board of Directors (“Board”) to issue substantive regulations to implement these protections that are:

the same as substantive regulations promulgated by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management . . . except to the extent that the Board may determine, for good cause shown and stated together with the regulation, that a modification of such regulations would be more effective for the implementation of the rights and protections under this section.

The second CAA section that provides authority to the Board to promulgate these regulations is section 304, codified at 2 U.S.C. §1384. These proposed substantive regulations implement the statutory protections embodied in section 1316b.

Although Congress has required the Board to propose substantive regulations that are the same as the FCA regulations promulgated by the Office of Personnel Management (“OPM”), Congress has not required the Board to adopt OPM’s procedural regulations for FCA violations. Section 1316b(c)(2) instead provides that:

An applicant for employment as a covered employee who alleges a violation of subsection (b)(1) may rely on the provisions of subchapter IV (other than section 1407 or 1408 of this title, or a provision of this subchapter that permits a person to obtain a civil action or judicial review) . . . .

Accordingly, the Board will address procedures through amendments to the OCWR Procedural Rules, under section 1383 of the FCA.

**Do similar rights and protections currently apply via the CAA to legislative branch employing offices and covered employees?**

No. Section 1316b creates a unique framework under the CAA providing for penalties against employees who violate the FCA.

**What rights and protections are applied to eligible employees under section 1316b?**

Congress enacted the FCA in December 2019, and the final regulations promulgated by OPM for the executive branch became ef-

fective in October 2023. The FCA’s provisions prohibit Federal employers, including employing offices in the legislative branch, from requesting that applicants for most jobs disclose criminal history information prior to extending a conditional job offer to the applicant. The FCA enforces this prohibition through the assessment of penalties against employees responsible for violations.

The selected statutory provisions that Congress incorporated into the CAA and determined would apply to employing offices are subsections 9201(1), (4), and (5) and sections 9202, 9204, and 9206 of title 5. These sections incorporate definitions found in other code sections, in particular 5 U.S.C. §7501, 5 U.S.C. §9101, and 18 U.S.C. §115(c).

Congress adopted the definitions of the terms “agency,” “criminal history record information,” and “suspension,” as found in subsections 9201(1), (4), and (5) respectively, “except as otherwise modified by” section 1316b. Section 1316b does not further modify the definitions of “agency” or “criminal history record information,” but section 1316b(c)(1) does further clarify that a “suspension” is to “be considered . . . a suspension with the level of compensation provided for a covered employee who is taking unpaid leave under section 1312” of the CAA.

Section 9202 establishes a general prohibition against inquiries regarding criminal history record information. An employee of an employing office may not request, in oral or written form, that an applicant for a position disclose criminal history record information prior to the employing office extending a conditional offer to the applicant.

Section 9202 also incorporates a number of exceptions. These exceptions allow criminal background history inquiries for law enforcement officers, for employees who would have access to classified information or who would serve in a sensitive national security position, for acceptance or retention in the armed services, or for other purposes as otherwise required by law.

Section 9204 provides for adverse actions against employees found, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing on the record, to have violated the prohibition regarding inquiries into applicants’ criminal history record information. The adverse actions include suspension of and fines imposed upon liable employees. Section 9204 additionally provides that fines and suspensions escalate based upon whether the employee has previously been found to have violated the FCA.

Section 9206 further clarifies that the FCA prohibits the request of sealed or expunged records or records relating to acts of juvenile delinquency. Section 9206 also clarifies that the FCA does not create a private right of action for any person.

**Procedural Summary**

**How are substantive regulations proposed and approved under the CAA?**

Pursuant to section 1384, the procedure for proposing and approving such substantive regulations provides that:

(1) the Board of Directors propose substantive regulations and publish a general notice of proposed rulemaking in the *Congressional Record*;

(2) there be a comment period of at least 30 days after the date of publication of the general notice of proposed rulemaking;

(3) after consideration of comments by the Board of Directors, the Board adopt regulations and transmit notice of such action (together with the regulations and a recommendation regarding the method for Congressional approval of the regulations) to the Speaker of the House and President pro tempore of the Senate for publication in the *Congressional Record*;

(4) there be committee referral and action on the proposed regulations by resolution in each House, concurrent resolution, or by joint resolution; and

(5) final publication of the approved regulations in the *Congressional Record*, with an effective date prescribed in the final publication.

For more detail, please reference the text of section 1384. This Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is step (1) of the outline set forth above.

**Are these proposed substantive regulations also recommended by OCWR’s Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Director for the Senate, and the Deputy Executive Director for the House of Representatives?**

As required by section 1384(b)(1), the substance of these regulations is also recommended by the Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Director for the Senate, and the Deputy Executive Director for the House of Representatives.

**Has the Board of Directors previously proposed substantive regulations implementing these rights and protections pursuant to section 1316b?**

No.

**What is the approach taken by these proposed substantive regulations?**

The Board will follow the procedure as enumerated above and as required by statute to ensure that the regulations contemplate and reflect the practices and policies particular to the legislative branch.

**What responsibilities would employing offices have in effectively implementing these regulations?**

Employing offices have the responsibility of ensuring that their hiring announcements and hiring processes comply with the prohibition against requesting criminal history record information prior to making a conditional offer of employment, as required by these regulations and the FCA more generally.

**Are there substantive differences in the proposed regulations for the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the other employing offices?**

No. The Board of Directors has identified no good cause for varying the text of these regulations. Therefore, if these regulations are approved as proposed, there will be one text applicable to all employing offices and covered employees.

**Are these proposed substantive regulations available to persons with disabilities in an alternate format?**

This Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is available on the OCWR’s website, [www.ocwr.gov](http://www.ocwr.gov), which is compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, 29 U.S.C. §794d. This Notice can also be made available in large print, Braille, or other alternative format. Requests for this Notice in an alternative format should be made to the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, 202-724-9250 (voice); 202-426-1913 (fax); or [ADAaccess@ocwr.gov](mailto:ADAaccess@ocwr.gov) (e-mail).

**30 Day Comment Period Regarding the Proposed Regulations**

**How long do I have to submit comments regarding the proposed regulations?**

Interested parties may submit comments regarding OCWR’s proposed regulations set forth in this Notice for a period of thirty (30) days following the date of the appearance of this Notice in the *Congressional Record*.

**How do I submit comments?**

Comments must be made in writing to the Executive Director, Office of Congressional

Workplace Rights, via e-mail at rule-comments@ocwr.gov.

#### **Am I allowed to view copies of submitted comments by others?**

Yes. Copies of submitted comments will be available for review on the Office's website at [www.ocwr.gov](http://www.ocwr.gov).

#### **Supplementary Information:**

The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995, PL 104-1, was enacted into law on January 23, 1995, and amended on December 21, 2018, by the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act. The CAA, as amended, applies the rights and protections of numerous federal labor and employment statutes to covered employees and employing offices within the legislative branch of the federal government. Included among those rights are the protections provided to applicants regarding their criminal history record information in section 207 of the CAA. These protections are the subject of these regulations.

Section 301 of the CAA (2 U.S.C. §1381) establishes the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights as an independent office within the legislative branch.

#### **More Detailed Discussion of the Text of the Proposed Regulations**

The Board proposes these substantive regulations with minimal changes from OPM's regulations. The Board made numerous editorial changes necessitated by adaptation to the legislative branch, e.g., "employing office" for "agency," or for consistency with the CAA, e.g., "claim" for "complaint." The Board relied extensively on section 1316b(d), which requires that these regulations be the same as the substantive regulation promulgated by the Director of OPM unless it determines, for good cause shown and stated together with the regulation, that a modification of such regulations would be more effective for implementation of the rights and protections under section 1316b. Where the Board determined that good cause existed to require a modification, it so modified the regulations.

#### **Introduction to the Regulations under the Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act of 2019 General Provisions**

##### **The Purpose of FCA**

The FCA, as applied by the CAA, protects job applicants in the legislative branch by prohibiting employing offices from inquiring into an applicant's criminal history record information prior to a conditional offer of employment. The FCA, as applied by the CAA, provides that employees who inquire into an applicant's criminal history record information in a manner that violates the FCA may be subject to discipline including suspensions from employment and fines.

The FCA, as applied by the CAA, provides that applicants are to rely upon the procedures set forth in subchapter IV of the CAA. As a result, OCWR's procedures will differ from those contained in part 754 of the OPM regulations. The FCA, as applied by the CAA, does not provide for civil actions or judicial review of administrative determinations.

##### **OPM Regulations**

Section 1316b(d)(2) requires the Board to promulgate substantive regulations for the legislative branch. Congress required such regulations to be:

the same as substantive regulations issued by the Director of [OPM] . . . except to the extent that the Board may determine, for good cause shown and stated together with the regulation, that a modification of such regulations would be more effective for the implementation of the rights and protections under [the FCA].

OPM's regulations implementing the FCA became effective on October 1, 2023. OPM's regulations consist, in part, of minor amendments acknowledging application of the FCA to five parts of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations: parts 302 ("Employment in the Excepted Service"), 317 ("Employment in the Senior Executive Service"), 319 ("Employment in the Senior-Level and Scientific and Professional Positions"), 330 ("Recruitment, Selection, and Placement (General)"), and 731 ("Suitability"). OPM's regulations also create two new parts of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations, parts 754 ("Complaint Procedures, Adverse Actions, and Appeals for Criminal History") and 920 ("Timing of Criminal History Inquiries Prior to Conditional Offer"). Part 754 sets forth procedures for processing of complaints regarding violations of the FCA. Part 920 contains substantive regulations implementing the FCA.

#### *Section-by-Section Analysis*

##### **Parts 302, 317, and 319**

OPM made additions to parts 302, 317, and 319 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations to incorporate the requirements of the FCA into existing regulations governing the excepted service, senior executive service, and "senior-level and scientific and professional positions," respectively. Since there are no existing regulations in the legislative branch parallel to those OPM regulations, the Board found good cause not to propose parallel regulations.

##### **Parts 330 and 731**

Parts 330 and 731 relate to suitability of applicants for employment. The suitability provisions of title 5 do not apply in the legislative branch. The Board has therefore found good cause not to propose parallel regulations.

##### **Part 754**

The FCA, in section 9202(c)(2), requires that OPM adopt substantive regulations. In addition, section 9203(2) directs OPM to "establish and publish procedures under which an applicant for an appointment to a position in the civil service may submit a complaint, or any other information, regarding compliance with 5 U.S.C. §9202." OPM, citing its general authority to promulgate regulations under 5 U.S.C. §1103(a), created a new 5 CFR part 754 to implement the complaint procedure requirements of the FCA. *See Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs*, 87 Fed. Reg. 24885-01, 24887 (April 27, 2022).

The Board has found good cause not to adopt part 754 for use in the legislative branch. Part 754 of OPM's regulations is entirely procedural in nature. As such, it is outside the scope of Congress's mandate that OCWR adopt substantive regulations that are the same as substantive regulations issued by the Director of OPM except upon a finding of good cause. Rather than requiring the Board to follow OPM's procedural regulations and as Congress provided in section 1316b(c)(2), OCWR must process FCA claims using subchapter IV of the CAA (2 U.S.C. §1401 et seq.). OCWR has established interim procedures and will amend its Procedural Rules to implement procedures for FCA claims in the legislative branch pursuant to section 1383 of the CAA.

##### **Part 920**

OPM adopted 5 CFR, part 920 to set forth general rules regarding the FCA. The Board found good cause to modify part 920 to adapt it from the executive branch to the legislative branch.

##### **Subpart A**

Subpart A of part 920 of OPM's regulations contains general provisions that are applicable to the timing of criminal history inquiries. Section 920.101 contains definitions necessary for the administration of this part.

For section 920.101, the Board has found good cause to modify the definitions. The Board proposes omitting the definition of "agency" and replacing it with a definition of "employing office" based on sections 1301(a)(9) and 1301(b) of the CAA.

The Board proposes omitting the definition of "appointing authority." Section 9201(2) of the FCA defines "appointing authority" as "an employee in the executive branch of the Government of the United States that has authority to make appointments to positions in the civil service." That definition is inapplicable to the legislative branch. Moreover, since liability under the FCA attaches to individual employees, regardless of whether they have hiring authority, the term "appointing authority" is not essential to the application of the FCA in the legislative branch.

The Board proposes modifying the definition of "conditional offer" to include a CAA-specific definition of the term. Section 1316b(b)(1)(B) defines "conditional offer" as "an offer of employment as a covered employee that is conditioned upon the results of a criminal history inquiry."

The Board proposes replacing the definition of "employee" with a definition of "covered employee" based upon sections 1301(a)(3) and 1301(b) of the CAA.

The Board proposes omitting the definitions of "political appointment," as well as section 920.201(b)(2), which exempts applicants for political appointments from FCA coverage. None of the definitions of "political appointment" apply to covered employees in the legislative branch. The Board proposes this omission as opposed to the creation of an alternative definition or definitions of that term. Neither the FCA nor the CAA provides a basis for the Board to create an alternative definition of "political appointment" for the legislative branch or to exempt from the FCA's coverage employees falling within the scope of such a definition.

##### **Subpart B**

Subpart B of OPM's regulations addresses when inquiries into an applicant's criminal history record information may be made. Section 920.201(a) states that an agency cannot request an applicant's criminal history record information orally or in written form prior to giving a conditional offer of employment. This includes the following points in the recruitment and hiring process: (1) initial application, through a job opportunity announcement on USAJOBS, or through any recruitment/public notification such as on the agency's website/social media, etc.; (2) after an agency receives an initial application through its back-end system, through shared service providers/recruiters/contractors, or orally or via email and other forms of electronic notification; and (3) prior to, during, or after a job interview. This prohibition applies to agency personnel, shared service providers, contractors involved in the agency's recruitment and hiring process, automated systems (specific to the agency or governmentwide), etc. Other than minor amendments to employ terminology used in the legislative branch, the Board proposes no changes to section 920.201(a).

Section 920.201(b) of OPM's regulations tracks the requirements of 5 U.S.C. §9202(b) and (c)(1), allowing inquiries into a job applicant's criminal history, prior to making a conditional job offer to that applicant, if doing so is otherwise required by law, if the position requires a determination of eligibility for access to classified information or employment in a sensitive position (designated under the Position Designation System issued by OPM and the Office of Director of National Intelligence), or eligibility for acceptance or retention in the armed forces

(as described in 5 U.S.C. §9101(b)(1)(A)(i), (ii), or (iii)) such as for dual-status military technicians, or if it is a Federal law enforcement officer position (as defined in section 115(c) of title 18).

Paragraph (b) also makes an exception for applicants for political appointments. Pre-employment criminal history screening may be required for these positions prior to a conditional offer of employment, because of the utmost trust and discretion required in these positions. Paragraph (b) also describes other circumstances for which OPM may grant exceptions in response to a request from a hiring agency.

The Board proposes modifying subparagraphs (b)(1)(iii), (b)(1)(iv), and (b)(2), which relate to exceptions from the FCA, by omitting them. Subparagraph (1)(iii) relates to positions that have been designated under the Position Designation System as sensitive. The Board is aware of no positions in covered employing offices that would be subject to such designation. Similarly, the Board is unaware of any dual-status military technicians in the legislative branch, thereby obviating the need for subparagraph (1)(iv). The Board is also proposing to omit subparagraph (b)(2), since, as was noted above, the Board lacks the authority to create a legislative branch-specific definition of "political appointment."

Paragraph (c) adds the requirement that agencies notify applicants of the prohibition in job opportunity announcements and on agency websites/portals for positions that do not require a posting on USAJOBS, such as excepted service positions, in addition to information about agency complaint processes as required by part 754 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Other than minor amendments to employ terminology used in the legislative branch, the Board proposes no changes to section 920.201(c).

Section 920.202 of OPM's regulations defines what constitutes a violation of the FCA.

Paragraph (a) defines a violation as any oral or written request for criminal history information prior to a conditional job offer. Paragraph (b) explains that a violation occurs when a prohibited inquiry is made by agency personnel, including when they act through shared service providers, contractors involved in the agency's recruitment/hiring process, or automated systems (specific to the agency or governmentwide).

Section 920.202 of OPM's regulations also outlines several situations in which a violation could occur. An agency cannot request criminal history information upon the initial application, through a job opportunity announcement on USAJOBS, or through any recruitment/public notification such as on the agency's website/social media. An agency also cannot request this information after an agency receives an initial application through its back-end system, through shared service providers/recruiters/contractors, or orally or via email and other forms of electronic notification prior to giving the conditional offer. Additionally, the agency cannot request the information verbally prior to, during, or after a job interview prior to giving a conditional offer. Other than minor amendments to employ terminology used in the legislative branch, the Board proposes no changes to sections 920.202(a) and (b).

Paragraph (c) provides that when a prohibited request, announcement, or communication is publicly posted or simultaneously distributed to multiple applicants, it constitutes a single violation. This resolves an ambiguity in the language of 5 U.S.C. §9202(a) and prevents the absurd and unintended outcome of thousands of violations and complaints arising from a single job opportunity announcement on USAJOBS.

Other than minor amendments to employ terminology used in the legislative branch, the Board proposes no changes to section 920.202(c).

Paragraph (d) of section 920.202 of OPM's regulations explains that any violation as defined in paragraph (a) is subject to the complaint and penalty procedures in part 754 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The Board proposes modifying paragraph (d) to replace reference to part 754 with reference to subchapter IV of the CAA and OCWR's Procedural Rules.

## **PART 920—TIMING OF CRIMINAL HISTORY INQUIRIES**

### **Subpart A—General Provisions**

Sec.

920.101 Definitions.

920.102 Positions covered by Fair Chance Act regulations.

### **Subpart B—Timing of Inquiries Regarding Criminal History**

920.201 Limitations on criminal history inquiries.

920.202 Violations.

#### **§ 920.101 Definitions.**

For the purpose of this part:

*Employing office* means:

(1) The personal office of a Member of the House of Representatives or of a Senator;

(2) A committee of the House of Representatives or the Senate or a joint committee;

(3) Any other office headed by a person with the final authority to appoint, hire, discharge, and set the terms, conditions, or privileges of the employment of an employee of the House of Representatives or the Senate; or

(4) The Office of Congressional Accessibility Services, the United States Capitol Police, the Congressional Budget Office, the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, the Office of the Attending Physician, the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, the Office of Technology Assessment, the Library of Congress, the Stennis Center for Public Service, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, Congressional-Executive Commission on China, and the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

*Applicant* means a person who has applied to an employing office under its procedures for accepting applications consistent with governmentwide regulations, as applicable.

*Conditional offer* means an offer of employment as a covered employee that is conditioned upon the results of a criminal history inquiry.

*Covered employee* means any employee of—(1) the House of Representatives; (2) the Senate; (3) the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services; (4) the United States Capitol Police; (5) the Congressional Budget Office; (6) the Office of the Architect of the Capitol; (7) the Office of the Attending Physician; (8) the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights; (9) the Office of Technology Assessment; (10) the Library of Congress; (11) the Stennis Center for Public Service; (12) the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom; (13) the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission; (14) the Congressional-Executive Commission on China; or (15) the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

*Criminal history record information*—(1) Has the meaning given the term in section 9101(a) of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) Includes any information described in the first sentence of section 9101(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code, that has been sealed or expunged pursuant to law; and

(3) Includes information collected by a criminal justice agency, relating to an act or

alleged act of juvenile delinquency, that is analogous to criminal history record information (including such information that has been sealed or expunged pursuant to law).

## **§ 920.102 Positions covered by Fair Chance Act regulations.**

(a) *Positions covered.* Except as provided in paragraph (b), this part applies to all positions in any employing office.

(b) *Exempt positions.* For purposes of this part an exempt position is any position for which an employing office is required by statutory authority to make inquiries into an applicant's criminal history prior to extending an offer of employment to the applicant.

### **Subpart B—Timing of Inquiries Regarding Criminal History**

#### **§ 920.201. Limitations on criminal history inquiries.**

(a) *Applicability.* An employee of an employing office may not request, in oral or written form (including through the Declaration for Federal Employment (Office of Personnel Management Optional Form 306) or any similar successor form, the USAJOBS internet website, or any other electronic means) that an applicant for employment with an employing office disclose criminal history record information regarding the applicant before the employing office extends a conditional offer to the applicant. This includes the following points in the recruitment and hiring process:

(1) Initial application, through a job opportunity announcement on USAJOBS, or through any recruitment/public notification such as on the employing office's website/social media, etc.;

(2) After an employing office receives an initial application through its back-end system, through shared service providers/recruiters/contractors, or orally or via email and other forms of electronic notification; and

(3) Prior to, during, or after a job interview. This prohibition applies to employing office personnel, including when they act through shared service providers, contractors (acting on behalf of the employing office) involved in the employing office's recruitment and hiring process, or automated systems (specific to the employing office or governmentwide).

(b) *Exceptions for certain positions.* (1) The prohibition under paragraph (a) of this section shall not apply with respect to an applicant for an appointment to a position:

(i) Which is exempt in accordance with §920.102(b);

(ii) That requires a determination of eligibility for access to classified information;

(iii) Is a Federal law enforcement officer position meeting the definition in section 115(c) of title 18, U.S. Code.

(c) *Notification to applicants.* Each employing office must publicize to applicants the prohibition described in paragraph (a) of this section in job opportunity announcements and on employing office websites/portals for positions that do not require a posting on USAJOBS.

#### **§ 920.202. Violations.**

(a) An employing office employee may not request, orally or in writing, information about an applicant's criminal history prior to making a conditional offer of employment to that applicant unless the position is exempt or excepted in accordance with §920.201(b).

(b) A violation (or prohibited action) as defined in paragraph (a) of this section occurs when employing office personnel, shared service providers, or contractors (acting on behalf of the employing office) involved in the employing office's recruitment and hiring process, either personally or through

automated systems (specific to the employing office or governmentwide), make oral or written requests prior to giving a conditional offer of employment—

(1) In a job opportunity announcement on USAJOBS or in any recruitment/public notification such as on the employing office's website or social media;

(2) In communications sent after an employing office receives an initial application, through an employing office's talent acquisition system, shared service providers/recruiters/contractors, orally or in writing (including via email and other forms of electronic notification); or

(3) Prior to, during, or after a job interview or other applicant assessment.

(c) When a prohibited request, announcement, or communication is publicly posted or simultaneously distributed to multiple applicants, it constitutes a single violation.

(d) Any violation as defined in paragraph (a) of this section is subject to the claim and penalty procedures under subchapter IV of title 2 (other than section 1407 or 1408 of title 2, or a provision of that subchapter that permits a person to obtain a civil action or judicial review) and the OCWR Procedural Rules, consistent with these regulations.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 870

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, it be in order for the Chair to lay before the Senate the House message to accompany S. 870, and the leader or his designee be recognized to make a motion to concur in the House amendments; further, that there be up to 2 hours of debate equally divided, and upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the motion to concur with the House amendments without further intervening action or debate; finally, if the motion is agreed to, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

#### FIRE GRANTS AND SAFETY ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have some very good news. Today, we reached an agreement to move forward on bipartisan legislation to support our firefighters. Our firefighters—paid and volunteer—are brave. They risk their lives for us. And they run toward danger, not away from it. In that sense, they are like our domestic soldiers.

Passing this bipartisan legislation would be the best way to support our firefighters and ensure they have the equipment and personnel they need to do their jobs.

I have long supported this legislation. I was involved in putting it together originally, way back when, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to bring this legislation to the floor for a vote as soon as possible. We need to help our firefighters.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I come to the floor to discuss the differences between Democrat foreign policy and Republican foreign policy.

There seems to be a pattern where if a Republican President is elected, partisan pundits warn that it will be very bad for our international relations. Now, by contrast, when a Democrat President takes over from a Republican, the same partisan pundits often promise smooth overall international relations. These same left-leaning pundits then breathe a sigh of relief that our alliances will be shored up and everything will be miraculously harmonious, but if you look at the record, it often doesn't work out that way.

President Carter presided over a string of foreign policy disasters, leaving the United States looking weak and humiliated.

Ronald Reagan was portrayed as a dangerous cowboy who might start a nuclear war. On the contrary, Reagan's calculated efforts to push back against Soviet communism resulted in fewer nuclear arms and freed millions of people from repressive regimes.

In 2009, the new Vice President, Joe Biden, went to Munich to deliver the Obama administration's first major foreign policy address. That address was hailed by some in the media as announcing a more cooperative approach with European countries.

Biden's promise to defer more to other countries rather than setting the agenda was a foreshadowing of President Obama's infamous "leading from behind" policy, which turned out to be a disastrous policy.

Biden also said:

It's time to press the reset button and to revisit the many areas where we can and should be working together with Russia.

Then look at what Russia did after that comment. This comment was 6 months after Russia had invaded and occupied territory of the Republic of Georgia, which, if you remember, had sent significant forces to fight alongside the American military in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Now, can you believe that in a unilateral effort to show good—meaning good will—towards Russia, the Obama-Biden reset included abruptly scrapping planned missile defense cooperation with the Czech and Polish allies of America.

To add insult to injury, the Obama administration made the announcement about abandoning our missile defense cooperation with the Czech Republic and Poland on the anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Poland—not an ideal time to make that announcement—and, of course, that announcement turned out to be a grave error. Not only did it offend some of our most pro-American allies, but it also sent the very exact wrong message to dictator Vladimir Putin.

Putin's Russia, like the old Soviet Union before, only understands strength. They respect even enemies

that have strength. They are not going to take advantage of somebody that shows strength. Unilateral concessions are perceived by Putin as weakness and actually encourage further aggression, just like we saw against Ukraine in 2014.

The Obama response to the 2014 invasion of Ukraine was, again, dangerously weak. Sending such a signal to Putin is the wrong thing to do. This signal amounted to wagging its proverbial finger at Russia while denying Ukraine the defensive weapons needed to repel the Russian invasion.

So what did Obama do? His policy was to send helmets and blankets and then push for negotiations—another show of weakness—doing all this while leaving Ukraine helpless, with a gun to its head.

Obviously, negotiations under such circumstances effectively meant Russia keeping what it gained by force and freezing the conflict until Russia could take more land.

Is there any wonder, then, that Putin felt he could get away with taking the rest of Ukraine in February of 2022? Do you know what he was getting away with at the same time? Killing women, children, grandmothers, granddads, really kidnapping maybe 20,000 children, taking them to Russia.

President Obama's pursuit of a nuclear deal with Iran at all costs alienated our closest ally in the Middle East. That close ally we all know is Israel. But the Iran agreement also alarmed Saudi Arabia, which has been a longtime strategic partner of the United States.

Then you will remember the drawing of the infamous redline in Syria at the time Syria was going to gas people to death and this infamous redline, before immediately abandoning it, as Obama did, sending a very dangerous signal about America's weakness to the axis of Iran, Russia, and China, now very much cooperating as an axis like Germany, Italy, and Japan did before World War II and during World War II.

Now, all of this about the redline no doubt played into Vladimir Putin's calculations when he chose to invade Ukraine for the first time a few months later.

So far, I have just talked about Democrat administrations. I want to talk about Republican.

When Trump was elected, he scrapped the nuclear deal. This repaired the trust with our gulf partners, and not only repairing trust but leading and setting the stage for the Abraham Accords, which accords were cooperation that nobody thought could ever happen between Israel and Arab Nations because previous administrations said: We can't expect any sort of close working relationships between Israel and Arab countries if we don't have a Palestinian State. But President Trump didn't wait for a Palestinian State. Yet he had success bringing Israel into economic relationships with a lot of Gulf partners.

This major diplomatic breakthrough went way beyond the long-sought recognition of Israel by Arab and Muslim countries; it also opened the door to economic and people-to-people ties that have the potential to foster a new era of mutual understanding and peace in the Middle East.

President Obama was also overly cautious in dealing with China's aggression in the South China Sea and too overly deferential to China's imperialistic sensitivities toward Taiwan.

Now, do you remember that in 1979, the Taiwan Relations Act passed, and it mandated strong, if unofficial, economic and military ties, including military sales. This has been the basis of U.S. policy with Taiwan for decades.

The more you slow-walk military sales to Taiwan out of deference to China's feelings, the more China feels really empowered to dictate aspects of our bilateral relationships with Taiwan.

President Trump abandoned this weak and this dangerous Obama policy of appeasement.

President Trump imposed sanctions against the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline, which Russia was clearly pursuing to give Russia geopolitical leverage over Europe and Ukraine because supplying energy to other countries brings that leverage.

The Trump administration armed and trained the Ukrainian military and cooperated closely with our frontline allies like the Baltic nations and Poland.

The Trump administration stopped being deferential towards China. Arm sales to Taiwan became a regular occurrence, and U.S. Government officials got the blessing to interact with their Taiwanese counterparts. Can you imagine China feeling it has a right to tell Senators and people in the administration or U.S. House of Representatives Members: You can't go to Taiwan.

Now, this message that Trump sent—China got that message that it couldn't get away with breaking trade rules and pushing around our allies and partners in the region.

Most recently, President Biden's insistence on returning to failed Obama-era policies has resulted in foreign policy setbacks. The cascade of countries joining the Abraham Accords would likely have continued, to include even Saudi Arabia, but the Biden administration's repeated efforts to resurrect the defunct Iran nuclear deal once again damaged the trust of our regional allies and our partners—at the same time, empowering Iran.

President Biden promised to repair relations with our European allies. What he meant became clear when he dropped sanctions on the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline. This was a sign of deference towards Germany at the expense of our Eastern European allies. Germany is indeed a close ally in Europe, but Germany is not all of Europe.

Also, while it is known that there was a personality conflict between

President Trump and former Chancellor Merkel of Germany, our alliance with Germany is deep enough to survive both personality conflicts and differences over Nord Stream 2.

In hindsight, everyone, even including the Germans, can see the folly in giving Vladimir Putin the ability to turn the heat on and the lights off throughout all of Europe. And he would be glad to have that power. This gesture of good will towards Germany was certainly not worth bolstering Putin and upsetting several Central and Eastern European allies, who saw clearly what was at stake if you gave Putin that power.

Let's face it: Trump does ruffle feathers. But his policies—including pushing delinquent NATO members to spend the agreed amount on defense that they are obligated to spend on NATO security—these countries were better for it, and European security was better for it than the Obama and Biden policies that simply sought applause from certain European leaders.

There are those strongly backing Trump and then, as we know, those strongly opposed to Trump—both claiming, though, to know what he would do in a second term. I do not have much time for pontificating and political prognosticating based upon speculation. I prefer to look at the record, and I hope I have reminded people of that record.

We should demand a foreign policy based on American strength. Sometimes we talk about peace through strength, or sometimes we forget to remind people that a strong American military is the best tool to bring about world peace. So we should demand a foreign policy based upon that strength.

And we should also be on guard to not accept a failure of American leadership spun as a more collaborative approach with our allies. Our allies who are closest to the threats from Russia and China really want strong American leadership and need us to push our more reluctant allies to do what it takes to defend the free world.

That is what we saw in the first Trump administration, and it is the kind of leadership we badly, badly need right now.

I yield the floor.  
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

#### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 4541

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4541) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain provisions with respect to qualified ABLE programs permanent.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

#### GLIOBLASTOMA AWARENESS DAY

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 735, which is at the desk.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 735) designating July 17, 2024, as "Glioblastoma Awareness Day".

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 735) was agreed to.

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

#### FOREIGN EXTORTION PREVENTION TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 4548 introduced earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4548) to make a technical correction to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 by repealing section 5101 and enacting an updated version of the Foreign Extortion Prevention Act.

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

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 4548) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 4548

*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 "Foreign Extortion Prevention Technical Corrections Act".

#### SEC. 2. TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO 2024 NDAA.

(a) REPEAL OF PREVIOUS VERSION OF FEPA.—Section 5101 of the National Defense



Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) is repealed, and each provision of law amended by that section is amended to read as it read on the day before the date of enactment of that Act.

(b) PROHIBITION OF DEMAND FOR BRIBE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 63 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§1352. Demands by foreign officials for bribes

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) FOREIGN OFFICIAL.—The term ‘foreign official’ means—

“(A)(i) any official or employee of a foreign government or any department, agency, or instrumentality thereof; or

“(ii) any senior foreign political figure, as defined in section 1010.605 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation;

“(B) any official or employee of a public international organization;

“(C) any person acting in an official capacity for or on behalf of—

“(i) a government, department, agency, or instrumentality described in subparagraph (A)(i); or

“(ii) a public international organization.

“(2) PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘public international organization’ means—

“(A) an organization that is designated by Executive order pursuant to section 1 of the International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288); or

“(B) any other international organization that is designated by the President by Executive order for the purposes of this section, effective as of the date of publication of the order in the Federal Register.

“(b) PROHIBITION OF DEMAND FOR A BRIBE.—

“(1) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful for any foreign official or person selected to be a foreign official to corruptly demand, seek, receive, accept, or agree to receive or accept, directly or indirectly, anything of value personally or for any other person or non-governmental entity, by making use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce—

“(A) from—

“(i) any person (as defined in section 104A of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 (15 U.S.C. 78dd-3), except that that definition shall be applied without regard to whether the person is an offender) while the foreign official or person selected to be a foreign official, or a person acting on behalf of the foreign official or person selected to be a foreign official, is in the territory of the United States;

“(ii) an issuer (as defined in section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a))), or any officer, director, employee, or agent of an issuer or any stockholder thereof acting on behalf of the issuer; or

“(iii) a domestic concern (as defined in section 104 of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 (15 U.S.C. 78dd-2)), or any officer, director, employee, or agent of a domestic concern or any stockholder thereof acting on behalf of the domestic concern; and

“(B) in return for—

“(i) being influenced in the performance of any act or decision of the foreign official or person selected to be a foreign official in the official capacity of the foreign official or person selected to be a foreign official;

“(ii) being induced to do or omit to do any act in violation of the lawful duty of the foreign official or person selected to be a foreign official;

“(iii) conferring any improper advantage; or

“(iv) using the influence of the foreign official or person selected to be a foreign official

with a foreign government or instrumentality thereof to affect or influence any act or decision of that government or instrumentality,

in connection with obtaining or retaining business for or with, or directing business to, any person.

“(2) PENALTIES.—Any person who violates paragraph (1) shall be fined not more than \$250,000 or 3 times the monetary equivalent of the thing of value, imprisoned for not more than 15 years, or both.

“(3) JURISDICTION.—An offense under paragraph (1) shall be subject to extraterritorial Federal jurisdiction.

“(4) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of State as relevant, shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and post on the publicly available website of the Department of Justice, a report—

“(A) focusing, in part, on demands by foreign officials for bribes from entities domiciled or incorporated in the United States, and the efforts of foreign governments to prosecute such cases;

“(B) addressing United States diplomatic efforts to protect entities domiciled or incorporated in the United States from foreign bribery, and the effectiveness of those efforts in protecting such entities;

“(C) summarizing major actions taken under this section in the previous year, including enforcement actions taken and penalties imposed;

“(D) evaluating the effectiveness of the Department of Justice in enforcing this section; and

“(E) detailing what resources or legislative action the Department of Justice needs to ensure adequate enforcement of this section.

“(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This subsection shall not be construed as encompassing conduct that would violate section 30A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78dd-1) or section 104 or 104A of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 (15 U.S.C. 78dd-2; 15 U.S.C. 78dd-3) whether pursuant to a theory of direct liability, conspiracy, complicity, or otherwise.”

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 63 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“1352. Demands by foreign officials for bribes.”

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 17,  
2024

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, June 17; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Oler nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed during today’s session ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following my remarks.

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

(Mr. FETTERMAN assumed the Chair.)

ANNIVERSARY OF DACA

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I rise today because this Saturday marks the 12th anniversary of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy, or DACA, as many know it.

This policy has given hope to so many hard-working individuals who call America home. It has allowed children of immigrants who were brought here as kids to flourish, strengthen our economy, and remain in the only country they have ever really known. These are our children.

When President Obama created DACA in 2012, it was a temporary solution focused on helping young people thrive. And with the establishment of DACA, we told them that if they stayed in school, they worked hard, and they contributed, we would help them stay here. That was a real promise that gave so much hope to thousands of amazing young people.

Now, it has been 12 years, and DACA recipients have done what they promised to do. They have gone to college. They have become part of our workforce. They pay billions of dollars in taxes. And listen to this: 49 percent of the initial group of DACA recipients in 2012 are college educated. As of 2023, there are over 544,000 recipients in the United States. And 10,730 of them live in my home State of Nevada.

But Dreamers aren’t percentages and figures. They are people. I have had the honor of meeting many of them, and, let me tell you, these Nevadans make our State stronger. They are teachers. They are doctors, engineers, small business owners, and community leaders. And they have families. And they have spent the last 12 years holding up their end of the bargain, and it is past time for us to hold up ours.

This has been especially urgent in recent years, when litigation challenging DACA and attacks on the program by former President Trump and his allies have caused turmoil for Dreamers in this country. By failing to pass legislation to permanently protect Dreamers and put them on a path to citizenship, we are failing to fulfill our promise to these individuals. We are leaving them behind.

We know that their status in this country, their safety and stability in their homes could change soon because of lawsuits that are still making their way through the courts. Dreamers abide by our laws. They have worked hard for an education, and they contribute to their communities every single day. They have earned their place

in our country and deserve the privilege, protection, and responsibility of citizenship.

Now is the time to pass the Dream Act, to ensure that Dreamers can continue contributing to the only home they have ever known, without living in fear that their lives may be upended.

But here is the deal. At the end of the day, it all comes down to this: My colleagues on the other side of the aisle need to step up, keep their word, and pass a permanent solution to Dreamers.

Now, I wish I didn't have to stand here and give this speech. This is supposed to be a bipartisan issue that we can all get behind. The American people certainly feel that way. But we are running into the same issue over and over again.

How many times have I stood right here on the Senate floor and told stories about the Dreamers I know in my State? And how many times have I called for the Dream Act to pass and pushed to give Dreamers the certainty that they deserve?

I want to be honest with the Dreamers in my State and around the country. The reason we haven't passed that legislation in the Senate yet is because we need bipartisan support.

And some Senate Republicans have said over and over that we need to fix DACA and protect Dreamers. So where are they now? They are turning their backs on people who are depending on them, because the reality is that far-right extremists are only interested in Dreamers when they can use them as political pawns.

First—I remember this—some of my Republican colleagues said they needed to pair a solution for Dreamers with border security. I remember this because we had a real proposal to support border security and protect Dreamers in 2018. And then President Trump said: If you bring me that bipartisan bill, I will sign it into law.

And what did he do? He didn't sign it. He changed his mind.

And then my colleagues on the other side of the aisle said: Wait. Here is what we will do. If you work on border security—if you work on that first and you make some policy changes, then we are willing—then we are willing—to help Dreamers, and we will focus on that afterward.

So just this year—we remember—we had a bipartisan legislation to secure our border that was actually endorsed by the National Border Patrol Council,

and the immigration attorneys said it was a great first step. But what happened? Again, former President Trump requested that Senate Republicans tank the bill. And why? So that he could campaign on the chaos and not give a win to this Congress or this current administration.

Well, I will tell you what. Like the Dreamers in my home State and across this country, I am frustrated. I am angry that politics are causing so many Dreamers across the country to put their lives on hold. It is unacceptable. That is not what this Congress—that is not what working with the White House—should be. We should be solving problems in this country, not using people and their families as political pawns.

The time for stalling is over. It is time for my Republican colleagues to uphold their end of this deal and protect Dreamers, because while they tie themselves in knots and play all these political games, hundreds of thousands of lives are hanging in the balance.

These aren't just statistics here in Washington. They are real people in our States, in our communities, with families, contributing to our economy and an essential part of our workforce.

Enough is enough. Let's come together on this and work out a solution that is going to help Dreamers and continue to benefit this country. In 12 years—in 12 years—it is the least we can do for a generation of people who have given everything they have to the United States. I, for one, won't stop trying.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,  
JUNE 17, 2024, AT 3 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until Monday, June 17, 2024, at 3 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:09 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 17, 2024, at 3 p.m.

## NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

CAROLINE A. CRENSHAW, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2029. (REAPPOINTMENT)

### FINANCIAL STABILITY OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

GORDON I. ITO, OF HAWAII, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FINANCIAL STABILITY OVERSIGHT COUNCIL FOR A TERM

OF SIX YEARS, VICE THOMAS E. WORKMAN, TERM EXPIRED.

### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

KRISTIN N. JOHNSON, OF GEORGIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE GRAHAM SCOTT STEELE.

### FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

CHRISTY GOLDSMITH ROMERO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE MARTIN J. GRUENBERG.

CHRISTY GOLDSMITH ROMERO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 21, 2028, VICE MARTIN J. GRUENBERG.

### THE JUDICIARY

MARY KATHLEEN COSTELLO, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, VICE CYNTHIA M. RUFÉ, RETIRED.

LAURA MARGARETE PROVINZINO, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA, VICE WILHELMINA MARIE WRIGHT, RETIRED.

NOEL WISE, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE EDWARD J. DAVILA, RETIRING.

### IN THE AIR FORCE

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

*To be brigadier general*

COL. WILLIAM J. CREEDEN

### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. MARK H. LANDES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. PAUL T. STANTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. MATTHEW W. MCFARLANE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. DAVID J. FRANCIS

### IN THE NAVY

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

*To be rear admiral*

REAR ADM. (LH) PHILIP E. SOBECK

## CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate June 13, 2024:

### FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

JUDY W. CHANG, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2029.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING REBECCA BUCK AS A FINALIST FOR THE 2024 EDUCATION MINNESOTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. ANGIE CRAIG**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate Rebecca Buck on being a finalist for Education Minnesota's 2024 Teacher of the Year.

Rebecca has taught in District 191 for twelve years, being recognized as the 2020 recipient of the district's Spirit of Excellence Award, which honors employees who exemplify the best of what District 191 strives for. As an elementary school music teacher, she is an inspiration to her community and the students she works with. Her dedication and passion shine through the connections she makes with her students and their love for music.

Ms. Buck strives to practice and advocate for equitable, inclusive education, ensuring students in her class are represented in the curriculum and have opportunities to share their own cultures with classmates. This recognition by her peers and officials at Education Minnesota is supported by the immense appreciation for her contribution to public service in my district.

I am honored to recognize Rebecca Buck today as a model for meaningful educators, and I thank her for the work she is doing to create community in her classrooms.

ILLEGITIMATE WAR CRIMINAL  
PUTIN

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, having the extraordinary opportunity to visit the people of Russia beginning in 1990 from St. Petersburg to Moscow to Novosibirsk to Chelyabinsk (which is the Sister City of my state capital, Columbia), I believe facts reveal that war criminal Putin's presidency is non-binding and not a direct or legitimate representation of the Russian people.

The inspiring people of Russia deserve better than endless corruption and dictatorship. War criminal Putin has shown time and time again that he is willing to subvert the law and the will of the people by continuing to enrich himself and his cronies. The United States should make it clear that it will not recognize desperate attempts by Putin to cling to power and continue murderous activities, enriching oligarchs across the globe.

I have introduced bipartisan resolutions with Tennessee Congressman Steve Cohen noting that the election irregularities that kept Putin in power made his continuation in office illegit-

imate. In March 2024, H. Res. 1087 stated that ". . . any attempt by the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin to remain in office beyond May 7, 2024, shall warrant non-recognition on the part of the United States."

Author, professor, and journalist David Satter, a former Financial Times Moscow correspondent and former senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, has documented the basis of overwhelming evidence, the September 1999 apartment bombings which brought Putin to power were carried out by the Russian security services, and that the Putin regime has been illegitimate since the first day of his accession to power.

Satter's writings in National Review, August 17, 2016, and his book, *The Less You Know, the Better You Sleep: Russia's Road to Terror and Dictatorship Under Yeltsin and Putin* (Yale University Press), include the following analysis and perspectives:

"The bombings in the cities of Buynaksk, Moscow, and Volgograd killed more than 300 persons and injured hundreds of others. They were blamed without evidence on Chechen terrorists and used as a pretext to start a new war against the semi-independent Republic of Chechen. When Putin was put in charge of the war his popularity soared, making it possible for him to be elected as Russia's second post-Soviet president in March 2000.

"It is clear, however, that what had taken place was the greatest political provocation since the burning of the Reichstag. In an almost unbelievable slipup, Gennady Seleznev, the Speaker of the Duma and a close Putin associate, announced in the Duma on September 13, 1999, that a building in Volgograd had been blown up. The building that had blown up on that day was in Moscow. A building in Volgograd was blown up three days later, on September 16, 1999.

"On September 17, 1999, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, head of the Liberal Democratic party at the time, demanded an explanation from Seleznev on how he had known about the bombing in advance. Zhirinovskiy stood at the podium in the Duma and shouted, "Do you see what is happening in this country? You say an apartment building was blown up on Monday and it explodes on Thursday. This can be evaluated as a provocation." Seleznev refused to give a response, and Zhirinovskiy's microphone was shut off while continuing to insist on one.

"In March 2002, *Noviy Investiya*, a daily newspaper published in Moscow, Russia, obtained the transcript of Seleznev's words on September 13, 1999. Which were: "Here is a communication which they transmit. According to a report from Rostov-on-Don today, this past night, an apartment house was blown up in the city of Volgogradsk." When asked who informed him of the bombing three days in advance, he responded, "Believe me, not [exiled oligarch Boris] Berezovsky," who had accused Putin of orchestrating the bombing. Seleznev then said that on September 13, 1999, he was referring to an explosion in Volgogradsk on September 15, 1999, that was part of a war between criminal gangs and caused no deaths. Even if Seleznev was referring to this explosion on September 15, how was he aware of it two days in advance, on September 13?"

"On September 22, 1999, a fifth bomb was discovered and quickly deactivated in the basement of a building in Ryazan. The bomb was found to be planted not by Chechen terrorists but by agents of the Russian FSB. On September 24, 1999, Head of the FSB, Nikolai Patrushev, stated that the bomb was a dummy, planted as part of a training exercise in Ryazan. Although, the bomb tested positive for hexogen, the same explosive used in the four successful apartment bombings in Buynaksk, Moscow, and Volgogradsk. Not a single local government agency in Rayzan, including the local branch of the FSB, was informed in advance of the "exercise," even though Russian law on civil defense requires any exercise in residential areas are planned and confirmed in advance with local officials. For two days, local authorities in Ryazan believed they were dealing with an attempted terrorist attack while official Russian media continued to inform people that an attempted terrorist attack had been averted and Russian air force began the bombing of Grozny, the capital city of the Chechen Republic.

"On February 2002, after three failed motions in the Duma to investigate the Ryazan incident failed due to opposition from the pro-Putin Unity party, a group of Duma deputies and human-rights activists formed a public commission to discover the truth on their own. Among these members were Sergei Yushenkov, Yuri Shechekochikhin, Anna Politkovskaya, and Alexander Litvinenko, who were all murdered by 2006. This developed a fear in people to investigate or question the September 1999 apartment bombings and how Putin came into power.

"The terror regime in Russia began with the 1999 apartment bombings, which served as a prelude for the attack on the Beslan school with grenades and flamethrowers that killed nearly 300 hostages, most of them children, in 2004, the shooting down of the MH17 civilian airliner in 2014 and the Russian war against Ukraine with its human wave attacks from the Russian side and hundreds of thousands of casualties.

Speaking the full truth about the Putin regime is the first step toward ending the carnage";

HONORING RICK AND SUSAN WILCOX FOR THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RICK WILCOX MAGIC THEATER

**HON. MARK POCAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the Record the following Proclamation Honoring Rick and Susan Wilcox for the 25th Anniversary of the Rick Wilcox Magic Theater:

Whereas Rick Wilcox was intrigued by magic at age 10, began his magic career astonishing guests at a restaurant in Brookfield, Wisconsin during high school, funded his UW-Madison degree with magic shows, and has never stopped pursuing his passion for magic and illusion;

Whereas Rick became a nationally sought-after act for corporate events with his showmanship and quick wit, and while managing

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

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

his entertainment business full-time, he married Susan in 1996 who happily became his business partner and eventually agreed to join him on stage;

Whereas Rick and Susan Wilcox, despite the glamour of performing around the world, determined to bring their business home to Wisconsin, and with extraordinary encouragement from their families, purchased and renovated a neglected, unoccupied 550-seat theater in Wisconsin Dells, transforming it into an economic, employment and enchantment engine for the region;

Whereas The Rick Wilcox Magic Theater became the first-of-its-kind when it opened on May 17, 1999: a theater dedicated to the art of magic, entirely owned, operated, and headlined by its namesake,

Whereas Since 1999, as owners and performers, Rick and Susan Wilcox have managed every aspect of their small business: producing and starring in thousands of shows for Midwestern families, hiring hundreds of staff members, maintaining the theater and property, and delighting tens of thousands with their unique on-stage chemistry, and mix of family-friendly comedy and illusion;

Whereas Rick and Susan Wilcox, by unanimous vote of their peers, won the magic community's most prestigious award, the 2024 Milbourne Christopher Illusionist Award, placing these two Wisconsin natives among the pantheon of magic's most-celebrated illusionists, including such past winners as David Copperfield, Doug Henning, Harry Blackstone, Lance Burton, and Siegfried and Roy;

Whereas The Rick Wilcox Magic Theater is nationally recognized as "Wisconsin's Best" on the Reader's Digest list of "The 50 Best Family Travel Destinations in Each State," is the No. 1 rated activity in Wisconsin Dells by TripAdvisor, and continues to be a central part of the tourism industry in Wisconsin, and

Whereas The Rick Wilcox Magic Theater celebrated a remarkable milestone on May 17, 2024: 25 amazing years in business, and will continue to be a central part of the tourism industry in Wisconsin Dells; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved That I, Mark Pocan, U.S. Congressman for Wisconsin's Second District, do hereby express my sincere appreciation to the Rick Wilcox Magic Theater and Rick and Susan Wilcox for their incredible 25 years of bringing magic, comedy, and joy to families in Wisconsin.

CELEBRATING LOS ANGELES BOYS  
AND GIRLS CLUB'S 80TH ANNI-  
VERSARY

**HON. JIMMY GOMEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club for their 80 years of providing essential services to some of the most vulnerable residents in California's 34th Congressional District.

Founded in 1944, the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club has nurtured and empowered generations of youth and families, providing them with essential resources and opportunities for growth.

Over the years, the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club has evolved, adapted, and ex-

panded to meet the changing needs of the Northeast Los Angeles community.

Some of the essential services provided by the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club include developmental programming for children, academic support, sports, psycho-educational groups, leadership development, pre-employment preparation, art and dance, and gang prevention and intervention.

These programs have resulted in improved math proficiency, improved reading test scores, a lifelong interest in regular exercise leading to an improved health-conscious habits that prioritize health, and proper nutrition for the youth of Northeast Los Angeles.

Additionally, the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club provides services to support the entire family unit through case management, weekly food distribution, positive community events, and emergency and crisis response services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone for the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club, and I look forward to seeing all that they do in the next 80 years and beyond.

HONORING HARRODSBURG,  
KENTUCKY

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the citizens of Harrodsburg, Kentucky as they celebrate the 250th anniversary of their founding.

James Harrod and a team of men were sent by Lord Dunmore to Kentucky to survey land promised by the British crown to soldiers who served in the French and Indian War. Harrod was the first to map out a town on June 16, 1774, making Harrod's Town (later Harrodsburg) the first permanent British settlement west of the Alleghenies and the first city in Kentucky. By 1776, they had established a county court, a county militia, and named James Harrod as a delegate to the Virginia Assembly. A blockhouse was established at Fort Harrod for the protection of settlers. After the Revolutionary War ended, the town grew rapidly and the original log cabins were replaced with brick structures.

Many men from Harrodsburg fought in the war of 1812. After the war, agriculture and education were very important. Bacon College, Greenville Institute for Young Ladies, and the Harrodsburg Female Academy all opened between 1839 and 1847. Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill was founded in 1805 and became very prosperous. The local economy was based on livestock, hemp, wheat, corn, and valuable racehorses. By the middle of the 1800's, Harrodsburg had been home to three Kentucky governors and one U.S. Ambassador as well as a nationally known resort, Graham Springs.

Like many areas in border states, Harrodsburg was divided by the Civil War and experienced much loss and destruction. Citizens picked up and treated wounded soldiers from both Union and Confederate forces following the nearby Battle of Perryville. After the war, the city rebuilt and prospered once again. The 20th century brought the Dix River Dam, constructed in the 1920's to provide electricity,

and the reservoir, Lake Herrington, became a tourist attraction. A reproduction of Old Fort Harrod was constructed as well as a monument to George Rogers Clark which was dedicated by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1934. Shaker Village was restored and became another tourist attraction. There has always been a strong military presence in Harrodsburg and World War II was no exception. Company D of the 192nd Tank Battalion was stationed in the Philippines in 1941 and included 66 from Harrodsburg. Forced to surrender to the Japanese, more than 7,000 American soldiers died from the brutal Bataan Death March, including 29 Harrodsburg men.

Today the city of Harrodsburg continues as a thriving community with robust agriculture, tourism, and industry. Dedicated leaders from founder James Harrod to today's Mayor Bob Williams have led the city of Harrodsburg. I am honored to lift up this great American community before the United States Congress and to congratulate them on their 250th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent because a meeting with constituents ran long. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 250.

SUPPORTING THE MEDAL OF  
HONOR FOR GUAM VETERANS

**HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters in support of awarding the Medal of Honor to three Guam natives who served in the Vietnam War.

CALL TO ACTION: SUPPORT MEDAL OF HONOR  
FOR GUAM VETERANS

As veterans and residents of Guam, we have a unique opportunity to support three of our own who have displayed extraordinary valor in service to our nation. Delegate James Moylan has introduced amendments to the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to authorize the President of the United States to award the Congressional Medal of Honor (MOH) to:

CSM Martin Manglona, U.S. Army Retired  
SGM Juan Ogo Blaz, U.S. Army Retired  
SPC4 Joseph Meno Perez, U.S. Army Retired (Medical)

These three veterans, all of whom served in the Vietnam War, have already been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC), the U.S. Army's second highest honor. However, they have never been given a fair chance at being considered for the MOH, despite their actions mirroring those of other soldiers who have received this prestigious award.

WHY THIS MATTERS

No other veteran from Guam or the Marianas has ever been awarded the MOH.

SPC4 Perez absorbed the explosion of a hand grenade to save his battalion, an act of valor that has earned the MOH for others.

SGM Blaz and CSM Manglona exemplified bravery that saved the lives of those within their battalion.

These veterans endured many indignities due to their ethnic backgrounds yet persevered to serve with distinction.

#### HOW YOU CAN HELP

We urge all veterans and residents of Guam to sign this statement in support of Delegate Moylan's amendments to authorize the MOH for these three heroes. By standing together, we can ensure that their bravery and sacrifice are properly recognized, and that this injustice is finally corrected.

Please sign below. Together, we can make a difference and honor the legacy of these brave sons of the Marianas.

ANTHONY TALJERON.  
CORINA BALLESTA.  
GLENN MANGLONA.

Hon. MIKE ROGERS,  
*Chairman, House Armed Services Committee,*  
*Transmitted via Delegate James C. Moylan.*

Háfa Adai Chairman ROGERS: We write in hopes that as an important member of the U.S. House of Representatives, with full voting privileges, you will support the effort from Guam Del. Jim Moylan to award the Congressional Medal of Honor to three of America's bravest soldiers, at long last. The valor displayed by CSM Martin Manglona (U.S. Army Ret.), SGM Juan Ogo Blaz (U.S. Army Ret.), and SPC4 Joseph Meno Perez (U.S. Army Ret.) saved the lives of their fellow soldiers and should be honored with the highest distinction available to America's men and women in the armed forces.

Utilizing the National Defense Authorization Act to accomplish these awards is justified when considering all three of these men displayed their acts of heroism during the Vietnam War, a conflict that started to involve ground troops from the United States nearly 60 years ago. This legislative avenue is also prudent when considering the undeniable valor shown by these men—documented as recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross.

SGM Blaz charged into enemy fire over and over again to save men from another platoon, all while knowing American forces were outmanned and outgunned at an enemy base camp.

CSM Manglona fought day and night in a jungle conflict, rescuing and resupplying troops despite being injured himself.

SPC4 Perez, who passed away in 2006, seized a grenade and used his own body to shield his fellow soldiers from the blast, miraculously surviving the explosion.

We also believe it is important to share that these three men were part of the first generation of CHamorru people who were granted American citizenship through the enactment of the Organic Act of 1950. They repaid this historic act of Congress with fearlessness, fidelity, and faith—traits that have become the hallmark of the generations of Pacific Island veterans who followed them. We sincerely pray that, given all of this perspective from fellow lawmakers and civil servants, you agree these three soldiers deserve to be the first generation of Mariana Islanders who are recognized with the highest honor the United States bestows to its defenders of democracy.

Si Yu'os ma'ase (With thanks),

TINA ROSE MUÑA, MA'ASE  
BARNES (D),

*Vice Speaker, 37th*  
*Guam Legislature,*  
*Chairwoman, Com-*  
*mittee on Federal,*  
*Foreign & Regional*  
*Affairs.*

FRANK F. BLAZ JR. (R),  
*Minority Leader, 37th*  
*Guam Legislature,*

*Vice Chair, Com-*  
*mittee on Federal,*  
*Foreign & Regional*  
*Affairs.*

JOE S. SAN, AGUSTIN (D),  
ROY A.B. QUINATA (D),  
WILLIAM A. PARKINSON (D),  
DWAYNE SAN NICOLAS (D),  
JESSE A. LUJÁN (R),  
CHRISTOPHER M. DUENAS  
(R),

THOMAS J. FISHER (R),  
*Senators, 37th Guam*  
*Legislature.*

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BOB GOOD

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 248, and NAY Roll Call No. 249.

### HONORING PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH ON HIS 100TH BIRTH- DAY

SPEECH OF

### HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize multiple testaments to the character of President George H.W. Bush on what would have been his 100th birthday.

Texas A&M Today's article entitled, "Remembering the Character of George H.W. Bush" induces remarks from the 41st President's former Chief of Staff, Jean Becket, and the author of his biography, Jon Meacham. The article said:

"Anniversaries are about more than just the person being commemorated—they tell us about how we see ourselves at that moment, Pulitzer-Prize winning author and presidential historian Jon Meacham said Wednesday on what would have been President George H.W. Bush's 100th birthday.

"Speaking to a crowd gathered at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center on the Texas A&M University campus, Meacham said there's not been a single moment in American history when the country has been more in need of what the 41st president represented than now. During Bush's remarks in 1990 commemorating the centennial of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, he quoted a motto etched onto a plaque that sat on Eisenhower's desk. 'Gently in manner, strong in deed.'

"It's hard to imagine a better description of Bush," Meacham said.

"Meacham spoke alongside Jean Becker, Bush's chief of staff for nearly 25 years, as part of a three-day centennial celebration hosted by the George & Barbara Bush Foundation. In addition to sharing some of their favorite memories about the president, the importance of character and the qualities that defined Bush were the focus of much of their discussion.

"Bush, known for his humility, likely 'would not approve' of the amount of attention being paid to him this week, Becker said. The former president's reluctance toward discussing himself and his legacy was

exemplified by an anecdote Becker shared about a visit Bush made to his presidential library and museum in College Station before it opened in 1997.

"Bush was invited to walk through the library one last time to point out any changes he wanted made before the opening. 'In the car on the drive back to Houston, he turned to me and said, 'Jean, I have a big problem with the museum,' she said. And he said, 'Jean, it's too much about me.'

"Meacham said Bush had a similar reaction after he read the former president a draft of his eulogy.

"The eyes were very attentive. He was listening to every possible bit, let's be clear,' Meacham said I got to the end, and he said, 'That's great—awful lot about me.'"

"Meacham, who wrote the 2015 biography "Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush," eulogized Bush at his funeral following his death in November 2018.

"Meacham said Bush's humility wasn't an affectation. But he also acknowledged the complications of a man who wanted to serve in a subtle and decent way, but 'also wanted to bend the arc of history in the direction he thought it should go.'

"If we overly canonize him, he loses the capacity to teach," Meacham said, adding that it's important to acknowledge that Bush was fallible.

"Bush represented a man who was driven by ambition, but who ultimately put service above self," Meacham said. He also warned against 'overly romanticizing a past in a way that prevents us from rising to the occasion.' When putting together his new book, 'The Call To Serve,' Meacham said he was thinking about what Bush's legacy means at this time.

"The easy answer is the climate,' he said 'Here's this decent, gentlemanly figure who represented a long-ago order. All true. But it was 20 minutes ago—it's not impossible to recover if we summon the same reserves of character. Because character, as the Greeks taught us, is destiny.'

"Becker, who is also promoting a new book, 'Character Matters,' said she's often pessimistically asked, 'Where's the next George Bush?' This outlook is a mistake, she said.

"The people who think there are no more George Bushes, yeah, there are,' Becker said 'You just have to vote for them. You all control this. Quit voting for people who don't have character. . . . The people are out here, and they're willing to serve. We just have to follow his example of 'do what's right for the country.' Not what's right for you, not what's right for the party, but what's right for the country.'

"Becker and Meacham's panel was attended by hundreds of members of the public, as well as members of the Bush family and alumni of his administration. Becker said the former president would have loved that the centennial celebration served as a reunion.

"He loved all these people. The party part of it he would love, and seeing everybody, but he definitely would complain to me and Jon, 'Quit talking about me, talk about other people,' Becker said.

"While Becker said Bush hated discussing 'the L word'—his legacy—the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M 'is his legacy, and it was really important to him.'

"He would be so proud of the Bush School graduates, because they're doing exactly what he wanted them to do,' she said 'They're everywhere—the State Department, particularly, the CIA, city managers. They're doing everything, and he would be very proud.'

"When it came time to choose a location for his presidential library after Bush left the White House, there was interest from several schools, including the University of Houston and his alma mater, Yale University, Becker said. But even though Bush did not attend Texas A&M, the university "had his heart," she said.

"He loved service. That was his life motto, and he fell in love with A&M the first time he came and gave a speech here," Becker said. "It was sort of a slam dunk that it would be here, and he loved it up here."

"The "41@100" celebrations continue Thursday with the grand opening of the Marine One/4141 Locomotive Pavilion. The new 29,000-square-foot building at the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library & Museum features the retired Marine One helicopter used frequently by Bush during his time in office, as well as the Union Pacific 4141 locomotive that led Bush's funeral train from Houston to his final resting place on the library grounds. The building will be open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m."

The Today Show's article entitled, "Jenna Bush Hager shares letter to her late 'Gampy' George H.W. Bush on his 100th birthday" shared remarks that the former President's granddaughter had to say about her grandfather. The article said:

"He was gentle," Jenna said. "He led with kindness. He wanted to be the type of leader that listened."

"Jenna Bush Hager is remembering her late grandfather, the United States' 41st president, George H.W. Bush, on what would have been his 100th birthday.

"On June 12, Jenna paid tribute to her late 'Gampy' by reading to viewers a letter she wrote to him about his impact on her life.

Dear Gampy,

We miss you. We miss your letters and emails. We miss racing through the waves of the Atlantic on your boat fishing . . . laughing and debating around the dinner table.

We miss your rules: Don't be afraid to shed a tear when your heart is broken or because a friend is hurting. Nobody likes an overbearing big shot. As you succeed, be kind to people. Thank those who help you along the way.

We miss your quiet compassion, like when you shaved your head for the son of your secret service agent who had leukemia.

We miss your belief that our country is greater when we work together, and your lifelong dedication to our country as one of the youngest navy pilots in World War II.

On this day, many of your grandkids—inspired by you—will jump out of a plane. Your milestone birthday tradition that you so proudly did in honor of the nation's military.

Gampy, you have been gone for eight years, but we feel you still as we look into the sky and see a thousand points of light . . . in simple acts of love . . . in the smiles of your great grandchildren.

"Jenna's tribute had TODAY co-anchor Hoda Kotb in tears.

"The life lessons he taught that you summed up in that short piece were incredible," Hoda said "And what struck me so, was the kindness. It's like, we're better when we're kinder."

"He was gentle," Jenna said "He led with kindness. He wanted to be the type of leader that listened."

"George H.W. Bush passed away at the age of 94 in 2018, less than 8 months after the death of his wife of 73 years, Barbara Bush.

"Jenna and her twin sister, Barbara, were both greatly influenced by their Gampy. Barbara chose to marry right after getting engaged to Craig Coyne in 2018, so that her ailing grandfather could attend.

"George H.W. Bush, like Jenna, loved putting his feelings down on paper.

"He wrote us the most beautiful letters when he was in his 70s, 80s, about being together, about how all he wanted was to come home and that that was what brought him the most joy, was to be surrounded by his grandkids and his family," Jenna shared on TODAY on June 5.

George H.W. Bush and Barbara shared six children: Former President George W. Bush, 77, Jeb Bush, 71, Neil Bush, 69, Marvin Bush, 67, Dorothy Bush Koch, 64, and Pauline "Robin" Bush, who died at the age of 3 from leukemia."

The Wall Street Journal's article entitled "The George Bush Century" by James A. Baker III, the former President's Secretary of State, said:

"At a time of political dysfunction, the 100th anniversary of President George H.W. Bush's birth provides an opportunity to examine his leadership traits, which could help America regain its national footing. Those qualities—which made him the best one-term president in U.S. history and one of the best ever—include these:

"Selflessness. Born into a family with a tradition of public service, Bush put his nation above himself. He did so as the 20-year-old son of an influential East Coast banker who risked his life as a Navy pilot and was shot down over the Pacific during World War II. As president he was domestically rebuked for refusing to thump his chest after the Berlin Wall fell. He reasoned that triumphalism might hinder tense relations with the faltering but still dangerous Soviet Union.

"Trustworthiness. What started as a wary relationship with Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet Union's last leader, developed into a strong, personal bond that Gorbachev credited with improving relations between the countries. The two worked together to reunite Germany, eject Iraq's troops from Kuwait and negotiate two nuclear arms-reduction treaties.

"Pragmatism. Bush recognized that savvy responses were often more effective than bold ones. Conservative in nature, he preferred stability and calm. His decision against marching to Baghdad in 1991 was driven by a pragmatic assessment of potential risks of occupation. The decision, much criticized at the time, proved wise.

"Respect for experience. Bush often advised aspiring young politicians to avoid being like a Dalmatian in a fire house, running every time the bell rings. Instead, he told them to get a job, start a family and do other things that would allow them to build a full life. By the time he became president, Bush had worked in the Texas oil patch, raised five children to adulthood, and served as a congressman, ambassador to the United Nations, top diplomat in China, director of the Central Intelligence Agency and vice president. No one knew the world as thoroughly and clearly.

"Leadership by example. Always a work-horse rather than a show horse, Bush let his actions speak for him. The "kinder, gentler nation" he envisioned wasn't merely a political bromide. He and Barbara Bush dedicated personal time to support and promote education and service-oriented programs. The Bushes didn't show class. They were class.

"Bipartisanship. He didn't mind butting heads with Democrats, or with fellow Republicans for that matter. But he refused to demonize opponents, and he always looked across the aisle for bipartisan solutions, such as the Clean Air Act and Americans with Disabilities Act.

"The political climate was far more temperate when Bush was in the White House than it is today. Debates could be rancorous,

but they reached nothing like today's feverish and destructive pitch. As I watch the calamity that American politics has become, I yearn for the brand of wise, courageous and humble leadership that George H.W. Bush embodied. His virtues remind us of what we have lost—and can regain if we follow his example."

Joe Strauss, former Speaker of the Texas House, had this to say about the former President in the San Antonio Express-News article "Celebrating President George H.W. Bush, who governed with principle."

"This week marks what would have been the 100th birthday of President George H.W. Bush. It is a time to celebrate a man who distinguished himself by what he accomplished and how he led.

"Bush's presidency from 1989 to 1993 was highly consequential: The United States won the Cold War, helped broker the peaceful reunification of Germany and liberated Kuwait from Saddam Hussein. Bush signed the landmark American with Disabilities Act and the Clean Air Act. Strength and diplomacy abroad, combined with kindness and compassion at home, defined his time in the White House" . . .

"Sununu writes, "President Bush's decades of integrity and credibility allowed him to move these powerful leaders in unison toward a common goal. They trusted his tactics and strategy, and most importantly they trusted that he would ensure that they shared the credit for the success of this world-changing effort" . . .

"Bush, however, did not waver. He said of one critic, 'He couldn't have been uglier and meaner. But that just made me more determined to do what was right.'

"As president, he agreed to a deficit-reduction deal with congressional Democrats that reduced spending while also making modest increases in tax rates. Because he had famously promised not to raise taxes, Bush knew this decision could cost him reelection, and in large part, it did. But the deal also reversed growing deficits and paved the way for a balanced federal budget in the years after he left office.

"Throughout his life, Bush demonstrated the moral fiber that we should expect, if not demand, from great leaders. Even many Americans who disagreed with his policies understood that he put his service to others above any personal gain or glorification—a style that is growing less and less familiar in an age when we seem to measure elected officials by their visibility in the media rather than their effectiveness in office."

HONORING DR. JOHN REILLY, JR.  
ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of John Reilly, Jr., MD, and congratulate him on his upcoming retirement. For nearly a decade, Dr. Reilly served as the Dean of the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Vice Chancellor for health affairs at CU Anschutz, where he led the charge in establishing Aurora and Colorado as national leaders in health care and biomedical research.

During his tenure, he elevated CU Anschutz to the top tier of academic medical centers in the Nation, expanded programs to serve more people across our state, and recruited leaders who will extend this legacy for decades to



come. During Dean Reilly's tenure, medical school curriculum and clinical training settings were updated to better prepare medical students for productive and fulfilling careers, medical research for the school of medicine grew by 67 percent, and CU Medicine faculty cared for more Coloradans than any other medical group—serving 727,000 people through 4.2 million patient visits in 2023.

Dr. Reilly's commitment to community service is exemplified by his efforts to strengthen partnerships for those residing in Colorado. Under his guidance, CU Anschutz established the Aurora Wellness Community, a transformative initiative aimed at enhancing access to primary care for underserved populations in north Aurora. The Aurora Wellness Community Center will offer comprehensive health and wellness programming, including childcare and a food bank to address the diverse needs of north Aurora. Further, under the leadership of Dr. Reilly, the CU School of Medicine collaborated with Traverse Academy, a school within the Cherry Creek School District, which led to the establishment of the Nation's first mental health treatment facility operated by a school district.

Dean Reilly's contributions to improving health care access, quality, and research will be felt in Colorado and across the country for decades to come. I want to congratulate Dean Reilly again on his upcoming retirement and thank him for his service to our community, Colorado, and our Nation.

CELEBRATING CHICAGO CUBS  
LEGEND, RYNE SANDBERG

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ryne Sandberg and join the Chicago Cubs in celebrating the dedication of his new statue outside of historic Wrigley Field.

A Hall of Fame second baseman, Mr. Sandberg played 15 seasons with the Chicago Cubs, starting in 1982. By the time Mr. Sandberg retired in 1997, he held the record for most Gold Glove Awards by a second baseman, the most consecutive errorless games by a second baseman and the most home runs by a second baseman. In 2005, Mr. Sandberg was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and had his number, 23, retired by the Cubs.

Mr. Sandberg is a living legend and as a Cubs fan I could not be happier that he is receiving a statue here in Illinois' 5th District. Mr. Speaker, please join me and all our colleagues in the House of Representatives in recognizing Mr. Sandberg's legacy and congratulating him on the unveiling of his statue.

RECOGNIZING WORLD OCEAN DAY

**HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize World Ocean Day, celebrated annually on June 8th. This day of-

fers a valuable opportunity to celebrate our oceans, which are not only a source of immense beauty and wonder but also a vital component of our U.S. economy. As we commemorate this day, I want to emphasize the significance of fishing communities and the necessity of maintaining abundant ocean resources. They are integral to the economic health and sustainability of fishing communities and our Nation.

The fishing and seafood industries plays a significant role in our economy at home in Virginia. In 2022, the Commonwealth of Virginia had 28,729 jobs in the U.S. Seafood Industry, according to the Fisheries Economics of the United States 2022 Report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. These jobs resulted in \$851,594 in income for Virginians and \$3,519,973 in sales, inserting millions of dollars back into our communities.

Fishing communities look different across the United States, but they all depend on healthy ocean ecosystems for their livelihoods. These communities form the backbone of coastal economies, and thriving fisheries help them provide jobs, protect food security, and secure cultural heritage and recreational opportunities for all Americans. The economic impact of the fishing industry is substantial, contributing billions of dollars to the national economy and supporting countless families and businesses.

However, fishing communities face unprecedented challenges on many fronts. Pollution and other environmental challenges threaten the health of marine ecosystems and the sustainability of fish stocks, which in turn directly impacts fishing communities and jeopardizes their way of life and economic stability. At the same time, coastal development and the loss of working waterfronts are also making it more difficult for fishing communities to survive.

To secure the future of our fishing communities and the economic vitality of our oceans, we must prioritize fishing communities and the sustainable fisheries that support them. This includes:

**Sustainable Fishing Practices:** Implementing management efforts that prevent overfishing and promote the rebuilding of fish populations.

**Habitat Protection:** Safeguarding critical marine habitats, such as coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds, which support a diverse range of marine life, including fish.

**Pollution Reduction:** Addressing sources of ocean pollution, including plastic waste and chemical runoff, to protect marine ecosystems and the species that inhabit them.

**Adaptability to change:** Enhancing the resilience of fisheries and coastal communities through adaptive management strategies.

**Resilient fishing communities:** Preserving working waterfronts and improving the ability for fisheries to avoid and recover from disasters.

In recognition of this year's World Ocean Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding our oceans and the communities that depend on them. By working together to conserve marine ecosystems and achieve sustainable fisheries, we can secure a brighter future for our fishing communities and for generations to come.

CONGRATULATING MARIE HANSEN AS A FINALIST FOR THE 2024 EDUCATION MINNESOTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. ANGIE CRAIG**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate Marie Hansen on being a finalist for Education Minnesota's 2024 Teacher of the Year.

Marie has taught at Burnsville High School for sixteen years, taking after her father who was a teacher and coach for 35 years. As a teacher of 11th grade AVID, 11th grade English, dual-enrollment courses with a local community college and 10th grade English, she is an inspiration to her community and the students she works with.

Ms. Hansen believes that her students are preparing to take the world by storm, and lead with humor, warmth and curiosity as they grow into our nation's next generation of leaders. This recognition by her peers and officials at Education Minnesota is supported by the immense appreciation for her contribution to public service in my district.

I am honored to recognize Marie Hansen today as a model for meaningful educators, and I thank her for the work she is doing to create community in her classrooms.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 258, I mistakenly voted NO when I intended to vote YES. It is a general principle of mine to vote NO if I do not know the full extent of the amendment. I did not have the complete information on the amendment while on the floor at the time of the vote. Since then, I have gathered more information and based on that information I would have voted in support of the amendment.

RECOGNIZING MERIDIAN HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. MICHAEL GUEST**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Meridian High School basketball team and Coach Ron Norman on the exceptional achievement of winning the 2024 MHSAA 7A Basketball State Championship. This championship is a result of the team's incredible work ethic and determination throughout this season.

The 2024 MHSAA 7A championship is the team's first championship since 2017 and is a testament to what can be accomplished when a group of individuals come together as a team. During this season, these young men were put to the test against tenacious opponents, and they did not waver. In the end,

their spectacular efforts culminated in a prized championship victory.

I would also like to offer my congratulations to Coach Ron Norman for winning his second state title during his tenure at Meridian High School, as well as to his staff for such a successful season. These coaches have been excellent leaders for these young athletes throughout the season and have set them up for great future successes. The young men on this team are great examples to their classmates and community of what can be achieved through working together towards a common goal. We look forward to seeing what all of these exceptional young men achieve in the future.

Again, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Meridian High School basketball team for their state championship victory.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CRATERS OF THE MOON

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my esteemed colleagues, Senator MIKE CRAPO, and Senator JAMES E. RISCH, to commemorate a truly remarkable milestone in our Nation's history—the 100th anniversary of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. Situated in the vast expanse of Idaho, Craters of the Moon stands as a testament to the unique geological wonders of our planet and the importance of preserving our natural heritage for future generations.

On May 2, 1924, President Calvin Coolidge signed the proclamation establishing Craters of the Moon as a national monument. Craters of the Moon has a rich history, both geologically and culturally, spanning much further beyond its time as federally managed and protected land. Craters of the Moon offers countless opportunities for hiking, camping, cross-country skiing, wildlife viewing, and backcountry travel. Exposed fissures, lava fields, lava tubes, craters, and cinder cones form a strangely beautiful volcanic sea on central Idaho's Snake River Plain.

The significance of Craters of the Moon extends far beyond its stunning natural beauty. Its central feature is the Great Rift, a 52-mile-long crack in the Earth's crust. It serves as a living laboratory for scientific research, offering invaluable insights into the processes of volcanic activity and ecosystem development. Its rugged terrain also provides a habitat for a diverse array of plant and animal species, many of which are found nowhere else on Earth.

Additionally, Craters of the Moon holds profound cultural and historical significance for the people of Idaho and the broader United States. For centuries, Native American tribes have revered this land as sacred, and its exploration by early pioneers and scientists has helped shape our understanding of the natural world.

Idaho's abundance of parks, forests, and public lands makes our state a wonderful place to live, work, and play. As we celebrate the centennial of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, let us reaffirm our commitment to preserving and protecting this

extraordinary place for future generations. Let us honor the stewardship of those who have worked tirelessly to safeguard its natural and cultural treasures and let us inspire a new generation of Americans to explore, appreciate, and conserve our Nation's unparalleled natural heritage.

In recognition of this historic milestone, and Craters Centennial Celebration, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and in reaffirming our commitment to preserving our Nation's natural wonders for the benefit of all.

THANKING COLONEL ARIEL  
BATUNGBACAL FOR HER SERV-  
ICE TO OUR NATION

**HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) Commander, Colonel Ariel Batungbacal, farewell and thank you as she departs command, after serving at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base for the past four years—first as a NASIC Group Commander and then as the NASIC Wing Commander.

Colonel Batungbacal commissioned in 2001, quickly rising through the ranks to Colonel and, most recently, confirmed to the rank of Brigadier General. In other words, through 23 years of dedicated service to her Nation, Colonel Batungbacal has earned a spot in the top two percent of all eligible members who achieve the General Officer rank. An outstanding achievement.

Colonel Batungbacal distinguished herself through her dedicated service to the Department of Defense and her visionary leadership of NASIC, the U.S. Air Force's Service Intelligence Center. During her command, Colonel Batungbacal led the Center through an unprecedented organizational change, adopting an A-staff structure and realigning squadrons to better support mission execution for the high-end fight.

Colonel Batungbacal elevated NASIC's analytic ecosystem by accelerating a multi-year digital transformation effort, prioritizing systems and processes that serve to increase information sharing and remove barriers to collaboration. By weaving these transformation efforts into the Center's near and long-term strategies, she provided the organization with an integrated, measurable path to success. The entire Center has leveraged this effort to accelerate 20 analytic modernization projects, with 245 efforts pending future Center action.

Under her leadership, NASIC led a joint DoD and FBI project concerning a high visibility national effort, enabling critical analysis and dissemination to policy makers. While in command, she also hosted two U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence retreats, effectively showcasing NASIC's efforts aligned to the National Defense Strategy. This unprecedented, bipartisan committee retreat was also attended by 10 senior leaders of the intelligence community. I brought two Speakers of the House to witness the NASIC magic themselves and experience

first-hand the tremendous impact these "MacGyvers" of the Air Force have on our national defense posture.

During her tenure as the NASIC Wing Commander, Colonel Batungbacal oversaw the completion of a \$155 million military construction project—one of the largest in Wright-Patterson's history. Most impressive, this project finished ahead of schedule and under budget. The world-class, purpose-built addition increased NASIC's footprint by 255,000 sq. feet, providing an additional 980 seats and cutting-edge lab space to the U.S. Air Force's largest Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility.

With an intentional focus on workforce development, Colonel Batungbacal repurposed an existing facility to provide internal training opportunities to grow and enhance the careers of her nearly 3,800-member force. Since the building's reopening in 2023, NASIC has hosted nearly 150 classes, training an excess of approximately 1920 individuals. Instructors are often in-house NASIC employees and specialists in their field, offering unique learning opportunities to enhance their colleagues' skillsets.

In addition to her impressive accomplishments as Commander, Colonel Batungbacal's creativity and innovation has shaped the way NASIC is perceived across the Intelligence Community, the Department of Defense, and the state of Ohio. Colonel Batungbacal has left a lasting impression with her creative vision, unifying the mission across the Center and pioneering a recognizable NASIC brand. She will be missed, but I appreciate the lasting efforts she made upon NASIC, Wright-Patterson, and the Dayton community. We wish her the best of luck in her next endeavors at A2/6.

APPRECIATING MAJOR WILLIAM  
HENRY LUTHER

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am grateful to honor the remarkable life of Major William Henry Luther, a highly decorated hero of the Vietnam War, who will be laid to rest at the Dallas-Fort Worth Veterans National Cemetery in Dallas, Texas on June 20th. Major Luther, the brother of Second District resident and Publisher of Linc, Inc. community newspapers, Kirk Luther, also leaves behind wife Jackie Mae, daughter Tracey, son Robert, five grandchildren, one great grandchild, and numerous extended family members and friends. I offer my sympathy to his family.

I include in the RECORD the following obituary for William Henry Luther:

William Henry Luther, a veteran of the war in Vietnam and longtime resident of Edgecliff Village, Texas, passed away on December 10, 2023 in his home. Bill, as he was known to most, was born November 7, 1939 to Kirk Charles Luther and Elizabeth (Betty) Jane Luther in Berwyn, Illinois. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1956. Bill was first deployed to Korea where he served with a medical unit and was there when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

After Korea, Bill was deployed to Vietnam for three combat tours during the 60s. For

his heroic actions as a helicopter pilot fighting in some of the bloodiest battles with the 1st Air Cavalry Division including the TET Offensive and the City of Hue, Khe Sahn, and the invasion of the A'Shau Valley, the U.S. Army recognized Bill for his honorable service with a Silver Star (one of the highest honors to be bestowed upon a combat veteran) the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star (1st OLC), the Purple Heart, the Air Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal w/DVC 60, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry w/PALM, Senior Army Aviation Badge, Army Aviator Badge, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Civil Actions Medal (Unit Citation), Valorous Unit Citation and the Meritorious Service Medal. Bill was the true definition of a warrior and retired from military service with the rank of Major after 22 years, 5 months and 5 days from Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

Bill married Jackie Mae Riddle on July 22, 1967 at Fort Rucker, Alabama, and together they raised two children, Robert and Tracey.

After his retirement from military service Bill joined Defender Industries in Columbia, SC and was promoted to the Senior Operations Officer of the southwestern territory which included Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. During that time he moved his family to Ft. Worth and eventually Edgecliff Village where he resided until his passing. Bill was an avid golfer and served two terms as an Alderman on the Edgecliff Village City Council.

Bill is survived by his wife Jackie Mae Luther of Fort Worth, TX.; his daughter, Tracey Scancellia and husband, Jimmy Aguirre; his son, Robert S. Luther and wife, Debra M. Luther, as well as five grandchildren, Jonathan Scancellia, Joseph Scancellia, Bradley W. Luther, Kristina K. Luther, Kelli M. Luther and one great grandchild, Theodore W. Luther; his brother, Kirk F. Luther and wife Kathy A. Luther along with 2 nephews, Aaron K. Luther and Nicholas C. Luther and two great nephews, Jonah Luther and Elijah Luther.

William will be laid to rest with full military honors at Dallas Ft. Worth Veterans National Cemetery on June 20, 2024 at 11:00 am. Remembrances can be made by visiting Wounded Warrior Project at support.woundedwarriorproject.org.

### CELEBRATING ROCKY'S PASTIES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and congratulate Rocky's Pasties on their 100-year anniversary. I am extremely grateful to be able to celebrate this incredible milestone with the Rocky's Pasties family and our community. A small takeout food business specializing in hand made Cornish style pastries, Rocky's has been family owned and operated for four generations. For the past 100 years, they have shown their dedication to delivering meals the old-fashioned way while carrying a piece of their ancestors with them. They have shown their commitment to this community by preparing daily meals from scratch, using only the freshest ingredients. The Rocky's Pasties friendly environment is a testament to their 100-year history. Rocky's Pasties has been described as an "unexpected gem" but if you are a part

of this community you know it is no surprise. As we reflect on the past 100 years at Rocky's they have exceeded the expectations and I know they will continue to do so for the next 100 years to come. I am honored to have such an amazing community in the 7th congressional district, and I look forward to what is to come.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF O. LOUIS SOTO

#### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, on May 8, 2024 we lost my father, Lou Soto. He was an amazing dad, loving husband, and joyful grandfather. He was a Navy veteran, computer programmer, as well as a football, baseball and basketball fan. He had a calm, loving, and amiable demeanor, one that inspired peace in others. He had many friends, loved to dance, grill, host BBQs and listen to music.

His story embodied the American Dream. Born in Manati, Puerto Rico, he traveled to the mainland at nine years old. He then served in the Navy as a young man during the Vietnam era. He and my mother, Jean, bought their first home thanks to a VA Loan and attended college thanks to the GI Bill, where he took night classes to finish his degree while working in the day and raising his young family. He worked in computers and information technology for many years. He now leaves behind his wife Jean, son Lou, grandchildren LJ, Mateo, and Sabrina, and myself as well as many other family members. The imprint he has left on our lives, we will carry with us forever.

He was a Catholic and man of faith. Our family will miss him dearly, knowing he now joins the angels, and is finally at peace.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS, IV

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I was on the floor but was distracted and missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 254.

### RECOGNIZING MY CONSTITUENT ADVOCATE, DAVID CHERNACK, FOR HIS EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S

#### HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Constituent Advocate, David Chernack, for his work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. At the end of April, David departed my office for a new opportunity to serve as the Immigration Constituent Advocate in the Office

of Rep. Angie Craig, and I could not be more proud or grateful for his service.

Hailing from California, David came to Minnesota for college at the University of Minnesota. While in college, David got hooked on Minnesota politics and spent time interning for Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR and Governor Tim Walz before graduating and joining our office.

The constituents of Minnesota's Third District were fortunate to be served by David who always went the extra mile to help a constituent in need. David's ability to treat each individual as if they were his top priority has impressed our entire office. In under a year, he held two job titles- Staff Assistant and Hospitality Director and most recently, Constituent Advocate- and brought intellectual rigor, tireless dedication, and trademark quirkiness to each role. Our fondest memories include his drives to random parking lots to shepherd lost constituents to our office, lunches consisting of three variations of simple carbs with no protein or produce in sight, and expressions of undying gratitude when given even the smallest treat.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have his dedication and leadership, and he will be dearly missed. However, I'm extraordinarily happy that he will continue to do this work and serve the Nation and the people of Minnesota's Second Congressional District. I wish David all the best in his future endeavors and thank him for a year of faithful service to this Nation—and many more to come.

### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DR. GEORGE EVERETT BARNES

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a tenacious and self-motivated leader, the late Dr. George Everett Barnes. Dr. Barnes showed what could be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Dr. George Everett Barnes was born in Collins, MS, on August 10, 1941. He was the youngest of nine siblings born to Elmer and Lora Barnes. During the course of his life, his parents stressed the importance of God, family, education, and hard work. He would find his calling as a devoted husband, father, educator, and servant. These values are evidenced by the fact that all nine siblings attended and graduated from Jackson State University. They went on to establish the Barnes Family Endowed Scholarship Fund to aid students majoring in education.

Dr. Barnes graduated from Carver Central High School in Collins and went on to advance his education at Jackson State University (BS, Mathematics), Louisiana State University (MA, Mathematics), Mississippi State University (EdS, Community College Education), and the University of Southern Mississippi (PhD, Educational Administration). He furthered his studies at the University of Illinois and Auburn University.

While attending Jackson State University, he met his wife, Doris. They married in June 1963 and celebrated their 61st anniversary

this year. To this union, three children were born: Cheryl Barnes, Gregory Barnes, and Kimberly McCants.

Dr. Barnes began his career as a mathematics teacher at Hinds Agricultural High School in 1962. This would begin his 51-year professional and family life in Utica. During his tenure, Dr. Barnes served as an assistant basketball coach, college math instructor, Hinds AHS Principal, and Academic Dean and Acting President of Utica Junior College. When he retired, he was the Vice President for the Utica and Vicksburg-Warren Campuses and Administrative and Student Services.

Dr. Barnes loved meeting people, talking to people, and helping them as well. He valued knowing that he made a difference in the lives of others and served as a positive role model for his family, friends, and colleagues. His interests in building humanity, specifically, were time consuming yet fulfilling. He worked tirelessly to build the cultural character in the surrounding communities. He leaves a legacy of dedicated and committed leadership, and his work never went unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life, legacy, and service of Dr. George Everett Barnes for his passion and unwavering dedication in the field of education. May his legacy continue in our hearts and in our interactions with friends and family.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call No. 253 on June 12, 2024. Had I been present, my vote would have been Nay.

#### HONORING PASO-WEST SUBURBAN ACTION PROJECT'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of P.A.S.O.—West Suburban Action Project (Proyecto de Acción de los Suburbios del Oeste), a community-based social justice organization in Melrose Park whose mission is to build stronger communities where residents can live dignified lives regardless of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic or immigration status.

Since its founding in 2009, P.A.S.O. has become one of the leading immigrant rights organizations through grassroots organizing and coalition building working in collaboration with partners to create systemic, social change that leads to more equitable and just communities for people of all backgrounds.

Over the past fifteen years, P.A.S.O. has been a pillar of our community and a beacon of hope for so many. From supporting immigrants and refugees training them to defend their rights, to providing health education to seniors and parents, to championing workers rights, and providing free educational opportunities in Spanish, P.A.S.O. supports communities in the quest for change.

I am honored to commemorate P.A.S.O. on their 15th Anniversary.

Congratulations (Felicidades!).

#### HONORING STAFF SERGEANT HARRY MARKS, III

### HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Staff Sergeant Harry Marks, III, Hometown Hero.

Born in Greenfield, Indiana, Staff Sergeant Harry Marks, III has been an invaluable and dedicated member of the Borough of Bellmawr since November 1984 alongside his wife, Barbara.

Staff Sergeant Marks enlisted in the United States Army at the age of 17 years old where he began basic training at Ft. Knox, Kentucky until he reached 18 years old. He was then relocated to Fort Dix, New Jersey where he received AIT training as a Gas and Diesel Mechanic before leaving for Indian Town Gap in Pennsylvania, where he awaited orders for Vietnam. In 1971, he was stationed outside of Inchon, Korea where he served for 13 months at the Nike Herc Missile Site Staff Sergeant Marks returned to the United States as a part of the Mobile Calvary Unit also recognized as the "Armored Calvary". Prior to his deployment to Kaiserslautern, Germany, he was stationed at Fort Steward, Georgia. In 1974, Staff Sergeant Harry Marks was deployed with the 43rd maintenance battalion and while in Germany, he was promoted and transferred to the 34th Signal Battalion B Company where he remained until 1981.

Following his active-duty service, Staff Sergeant Harry Marks became a life-member of the VFW Crescent Park Post 9563 in Bellmawr, New Jersey and served as Commander from 2018 to 2021, Staff Sergeant Harry Marks has served as the elected Junior and Senior Vice commander of VFW District 7 and presently serves as Commander of both District 7 and Crescent Park Post 9563.

Staff Sergeant Harry Marks is a two-time recipient of the Good Conduct Medal and expert Badge for M16, a recipient of the National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Overseas Service Ribbon

Today, he continues to support the local Vineland Veteran Hospital, local fundraisers, and is an active participant in VFW Memorial Day, 4th of July events, and the VFW State convention.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending Staff Sergeant Harry Marks, III of the Borough of Bellmawr New Jersey, a dedicated resident who has honorably served both his community and country.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOHN P. SULLIVAN, 37 YEARS OF ACTIVE DUTY IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY

### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and distinct pleasure to offer a few words in recognition of the impending retirement of Lieutenant General John P. Sullivan, a fellow graduate of Fordham University, after 37 years of faithful and dedicated service to our Nation. Lieutenant General Sullivan, most recently the 17th Deputy Commander of the United States Transportation Command, will officially retire from active duty in the United States Army on 1 September 2024.

A native son of Massachusetts, and a decorated combat veteran who served and led our Nation's finest in combat during Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Joint Forge, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, General Sullivan epitomizes the consummate soldier, servant leader, and advocate for our servicemembers and their families. Over the course of his exceptional career, he has successfully led at the tactical, operational, and strategic level to defend this Nation, decisively win our battles, and advance our most critical national objectives. Whether at the head of the 548th Corps Support Battalion and the 595th Transportation Brigade, as the 27th Chief of Transportation and Commandant of the U.S. Army Transportation School, as the Commander of the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command stationed in the Republic of Korea, as the Commander of the 1st Theater Sustainment Command stationed in the United States Central Command theater, or as the Deputy Commander of U.S. Transportation Command, General Sullivan unquestionably exemplified the best the Army has to offer in its officer corps.

While at U.S. Transportation Command, General Sullivan personally endeavored to inform this Congress of the readiness of strategic mobility forces critical to deploying, maneuvering, sustaining, and redeploying the most capable military in our Nation's history. More importantly, he ensured that the Joint Staff, Department of Defense, and this Congress were aligned in understanding the criticality of recapitalizing our aging strategic sea-lift fleets, aerial refueling assets, and strategic airlift fleets to sustain our competitive advantage over potential near-peer adversaries in global power projection. In close partnership with the National Defense Transportation Association, General Sullivan worked diligently to enhance our national emergency preparedness programs so that the Defense Transportation System remained ready and responsive to emergent national security needs. We all witnessed the power of these essential relationships and capabilities in 2021, when U.S. Transportation Command helped execute the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in history, Operation Allies Refuge, relocating over 124,000 refugees over a 14-day period.

In his address to Congress in 1951, General Douglas MacArthur noted that "old soldiers never die—they just fade away." Mr. Speaker, I could not in good conscience let Lieutenant General John P. Sullivan simply fade away

without recognizing his sustained loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage over 37 years of devoted service to this great Nation. I wish him and his family well in retirement.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL  
BRET DAUGHERTY

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major General Bret Daugherty, who will retire at the end of this month from the Washington National Guard, after 44 years of service protecting the great state of Washington and our nation.

Major General Daugherty began his military service in 1980, serving nine years on Active Duty in the Army. After transitioning to the Army National Guard, he rose to the rank of Adjutant General and became the longest-serving National Guard leader in the United States.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Major General Daugherty navigated unprecedented emergencies across the state of Washington with diligence. Whether he was facilitating access to vaccinations and masks, responding to some of our state's worst natural disasters, or ensuring the security of our national elections, he completed these duties with unfaltering resiliency.

Major General Daugherty's accomplishments also laid the groundwork for an improved collaborative environment that Washingtonians benefit from today. When I had the honor of meeting with him in 2021, I was particularly inspired by his dedication to public service and commitment to supporting the members of Washington's National Guard. His mindfulness of the future of our nation, and care for the personnel who serve it, are clear in both his words and actions.

I commend Major General Daugherty on his decades of service to Washingtonians and the Guard. Congratulations on his retirement and may he enjoy this next chapter.

RECOGNIZING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF EVAPCO, INC. IN MADERA COUNTY

HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the momentous occasion of Evapco's 45th anniversary and the significant completion of the Sierra building expansion in 2024.

Evapco is a global industry-leading manufacturing company with global resources and solutions for worldwide heat transfer applications, it is employee owned, and was founded in the United States. Evapco launched its second U.S. manufacturing company in Madera, California, in 1979, and now employs more than 234 individuals.

Evapco's expansion in Madera County has not only created more jobs in the congressional district that I represent but is also a testament to my constituents' dedication and hard work. It also has bolstered Evapco's production capabilities and will help it meet growing demand for advanced cooling solutions in our community, the Central Valley of California, and beyond.

My constituents enjoy working for Evapco as it follows the vision of "one global team, united to be universally recognized as the superior provider of a full spectrum of heat transfer solutions." And its commitment to teamwork has enabled its employees—my constituents—to excel. It is a team their employees and customers alike can count on for a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Evapco's 45th anniversary in California and recognizing its success in expanding in my district to produce innovative water-saving, "Eco-Air" dry-cooling products, which will improve the quality of life of my constituents, Californians, and communities around the world.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
DETECTIVE PAUL DIGIACOMO—  
JUNE 26, 2024

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD the following Proclamation honoring the retirement of Detective Paul DiGiacomo:

Whereas: Detective Paul DiGiacomo, President of the Detectives' Endowment Association, Inc. (DEA), is to be recognized on June 26, 2024, on the occasion of his retirement from the New York Police Department. The people of New York City thank him for his four decades of service and his commitment to representing the interests of approximately 18,000 active and retired New York Police Department Detectives, the largest detectives' union globally.

Whereas: A Brooklyn native and the son of a transit police officer, Detective DiGiacomo commenced his service in law enforcement with the Housing Police in 1983 before transitioning to the New York Police Department in 1985.

Whereas: Throughout his distinguished career spanning nearly four decades, Detective DiGiacomo has served in various capacities, from patrolling the 70th Precinct in Brooklyn to working in plainclothes with the Borough's Anti-Crime Unit, demonstrating his dedication to protecting and serving the community.

Whereas: Detective DiGiacomo's ascent within the NYPD ranks was marked by his diligent work in the Brooklyn South Narcotics unit, where he rose to prominence in the Major Case Unit while concurrently advocating for his fellow officers as a delegate for the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (PBA).

Whereas: Recognized for his exceptional investigative skills, Detective DiGiacomo earned his Detective's gold shield in 1993 and contin-

ued to excel in assignments within the Organized Crime Investigation Division (OCID), including roles in various gun units and narcotics task forces.

Whereas: In 1999, Detective DiGiacomo assumed the role of Sergeant-at-Arms for the DEA, a position he held with distinction until his promotion to Detective, second grade, by the NYPD in December 2001, in recognition of his exemplary service in an extensive undercover operation related to the homicide of a Queens Police Officer.

Whereas: Detective DiGiacomo's leadership within the DEA continued to evolve as he was elected to successive positions on the Executive Board, culminating in his appointment as President in January 2020, where he now leads the union in navigating challenges ranging from collective bargaining to legislative advocacy amidst a complex socio-political landscape. DiGiacomo spearheads all union activity, including collective bargaining, political activities, overseeing the health and welfare funds, the Annuity Fund, and the union's not-for-profit charity, the DEA Widows' and Children's Fund. The union also engages in a wide variety of internal and external public relations ventures and fraternal functions.

Whereas: Under Detective DiGiacomo's stewardship, the DEA remains steadfast in its mission to protect the rights and welfare of its members, advocating against detrimental policies such as "bail reform" and spearheading initiatives like the legislation named after Detective Brian Simonsen aimed at combating cellphone theft.

Whereas: Despite facing unprecedented challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, and civil unrest, Detective DiGiacomo remains resolute in his commitment to advancing the interests of NYPD Detectives with unwavering solidarity and dedication.

It is with great admiration and gratitude that we recognize Detective Paul DiGiacomo for his exceptional leadership and tireless advocacy on behalf of the dedicated men and women of the New York Police Department.

WELCOME PARKER HANNAH  
GRISHAM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Preston and Alyssa Grisham, of West Columbia, South Carolina, on the birth of their new baby daughter, Parker Hannah Grisham was born on June 6, 2024, at 11:44 a.m., weighing 7 pounds and 7 ounces at Lexington Medical Center, West Columbia. She has been born into a loving home, where she will be raised by her parents who are devoted to her well-being and bright future. Parker is also blessed with three wonderful grandparents, Mattie Grisham, Cindy Greenberg, and Todd Douty. Her birth is a blessing. On behalf of my wife Roxanne, and our entire family, we want to wish Preston, Alyssa, and Parker all the best.

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S4061–S4098*

**Measures Introduced:** Twenty-five bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4529–4553, S.J. Res. 97, and S. Res. 732–736. **Pages S4084–85**

#### Measures Passed:

**U.S. Flag and the Pledge of Allegiance:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 732, celebrating the 247th anniversary of the creation of the flag of the United States and expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Page S4064**

**Glioblastoma Awareness Day:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 735, designating July 17, 2024, as “Glioblastoma Awareness Day”.

**Page S4096**

**Foreign Extortion Prevention Technical Corrections Act:** Senate passed S. 4548, to make a technical correction to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 by repealing section 5101 and enacting an updated version of the Foreign Extortion Prevention Act.

**Pages S4096–97**

#### Measures Considered:

**Right to IVF Act:** Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 4445, to protect and expand nationwide access to fertility treatment, including in vitro fertilization.

**Pages S4067–75**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 48 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 197), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill.

**Page S4075**

Senator Schumer entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill.

**Page S4075**

**Office of Congressional Workplace Rights—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the notice of proposed rule-making from the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights be printed in the Record.

**Page S4091**

**Fire Grants and Safety Act—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader, it be in order for the Chair to lay before the Senate the House message to accompany S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs, and the Leader, or his designee, be recognized to make a motion to concur in the House amendments; that there be up to two hours of debate, equally divided, and upon the use or yielding back of that time, Senate vote on the motion to concur in the House amendments without further intervening action of debate.

**Page S4095**

**Message from the President:** Senate received the following messages from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, with respect to North Korea; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–56)

**Pages S4081–82**

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, with respect to Belarus; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–57)

**Page S4082**

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001, with respect to the Western Balkans; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–58)

**Page S4082**

**Oler Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Katherine E. Oler, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

**Pages S4075–76**



A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, June 13, 2024, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 17, 2024. **Page S4076**

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4076**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, June 17, 2024; and that the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of Thursday, June 13, 2024 ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 17, 2024. **Page S4097**

**Kasubhai Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon. **Page S4076**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Katherine E. Oler, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. **Page S4076**

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S4076**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4076**

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 63 yeas to 33 nays (Vote No. EX. 196), Judy W. Chang, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2029. **Pages S4064–66**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Caroline A. Crenshaw, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2029.

Gordon I. Ito, of Hawaii, to be a Member of the Financial Stability Oversight Council for a term of six years.

Kristin N. Johnson, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Christy Goldsmith Romero, of Virginia, to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal

Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of five years.

Christy Goldsmith Romero, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for the remainder of the term expiring December 21, 2028.

Mary Kathleen Costello, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Laura Margarete Provinzino, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

Noel Wise, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

4 Army nominations in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral. **Page S4098**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S4082**

**Measures Read the First Time:** **Page S4096**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S4082–84**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Page S4084**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S4085–86**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S4086–91**

**Additional Statements:** **Page S4081**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S4091**

**Privileges of the Floor:** **Page S4091**

**Record Votes:** Two record votes were taken today. (Total—197) **Pages S4066, S4075**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:09 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, June 17, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4098.)

## Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

### APPROPRIATIONS: SEC AND CFTC

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, after receiving testimony from Gary Gensler, Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission; and Rostin Behnam, Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill entitled, “National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2025”.

**FAA OVERSIGHT OF AVIATION MANUFACTURING**

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine FAA oversight of aviation manufacturing, after receiving testimony from Michael Whitaker, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation.

**BLM OVERSIGHT**

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Bureau of Land Management, after receiving testimony from Tracy Stone-Manning, Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on Finance:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of James R. Ives, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of the Treasury, and Rose E. Jenkins, of the District of Co-

lumbia, Adam B. Landy, of South Carolina, and Kashi Way, of Maryland, each to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court.

**NOMINATIONS**

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Jennifer D. Gavito, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the State of Libya, Joshua M. Harris, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, Peter W. Lord, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Juan Carlos Iturregui, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, and Tracey Ann Jacobson, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee ordered favorably reported S. 4199, to authorize additional district judges for the district courts and convert temporary judgeships, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

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# House of Representatives

**Chamber Action**

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 26 public bills, H.R. 8723–8748; and 5 resolutions, H.J. Res. 167; and H. Res. 1297–1300, were introduced.

**Pages H4060–62**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages H4063–64**

**Reports Filed:** There were no reports filed today.

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Van Drew to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

**Page H3977**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 11:25 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m.

**Page H3986**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 4:04 p.m. and reconvened at 4:31 p.m.

**Page H4036**

**Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025:** The House considered H.R. 8070, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of

the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, June 14th.

**Pages H3990–H4036, H4036–47**

Agreed to:

Luna amendment (No. 47 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551) that prohibits the promotion of critical race theory and associated race-based theories;

**Pages H4001–03, H4036**

Ogles amendment (No. 51 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551) that is a Prohibition on Mask Mandate to Prevent the Spread of COVID–19 on a Military Installation in the United States;

**Pages H4007–08**

Breechen amendment (No. 54 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551) that prohibits drag shows, drag queen story hours, and similar events;

**Pages H4011–12**

Rogers (AL) en bloc amendment No. 2 consisting of the following amendments printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551: Rogers (AL) en bloc amendment No. 2 consisting of the following amendments printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551: Boebert (No. 4)

that prohibits DoD from contracting with entities that are engaged in a boycott of the state of Israel; Curtis (No. 9) that prohibits the Secretary of Defense from knowingly permitting the sale, at a commissary store or military exchange, of any good, ware, article, or merchandise from any company that has engaged in or engages in a boycott of the State of Israel; Biggs (No. 10) that expresses a sense of Congress about the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship and the need to continue offering security assistance and related support; Ogles (No. 18) that states no funds authorized by this Act may be used to carry out any provision of law that diverts away funds appropriated for assistance for the Indo-Pacific region through September 30, 2025; Davidson (No. 38) that prohibits funding to Ukraine until the President submits a strategy to Congress for U.S. involvement in Ukraine; Gosar (No. 39) that prohibits the administration from diverting any funds from barracks construction for U.S. troops to facilitate further aid to Ukraine; Rosendale (No. 57) that amends Section 1021(b) of the FY12 NDAA to limit the authority of the U.S. military to indefinitely detain individuals pursuant to the 2001 AUMF, to exclude American citizens from being subject to detention; McCormick (No. 58) that amends Section 565—Transition Assistance Program: Department of Labor Employment Navigator and Partnership Pilot Program—to provide for a coordination partner for the implementation of such program; Donalds (No. 61) that requires the Department of Defense use the term “Taiwan” instead of the term “Chinese Taipei”; Luttrell (No. 118) that requires the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Chief Data and Artificial Intelligence Officer, to coordinate and accelerate the adoption of large language models by the Department of Defense by improving the access and quality of the existing structured and unstructured data of the Department to ensure such data is immediately ready to use in conjunction with machine learning applications being developed, tested, or in production by the Armed Forces; Donalds (No. 119) that establishes a comprehensive, forward-looking national strategy to deploying advanced portable nuclear microreactors to assist with natural disaster response efforts; Green (TN) (No. 120) that directs the Commander of Army Special Operations Command to establish an exchange program between Army special operations forces and the special operations forces of the Polish Army; Bilirakis (No. 121) that requires a report on multilateral exercises in the Eastern Mediterranean; Gottheimer (No. 122) that authorizes a Report Authored by the Secretary of Defense to study steps Israel, the U.S., and Egypt can take to enhance international security measures on the Gaza-Egypt border to ensure Hamas and

other actors cannot use tunnels or methods via the Mediterranean Sea to smuggle weapons and illicit goods; Self (No. 123) that Names the Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport vessel that has been ordered (Hull Number T-EPP-16) after Lieutenant General Richard E. Carey; Green (TN) (No. 124) that Mandates that the Department of Defense produce a report to Congress on the feasibility of furnishing the national guard of every state a cyber unit to ensure the state has the ability to quickly respond to cyber attacks; Frost (No. 125) that requires the Department of Defense and Armed Services Inspectors General to evaluate and report the cost of financial investigations and the amount directly or indirectly recovered through financial investigations; Tenney (No. 126) that closes loopholes for child predators under the Uniform Code of Military Justice by ensuring that existing enhanced penalties for sexual crimes involving children are applied equally to all sexual predators; Green (TN) (No. 127) that requires the Secretary of Defense to ensure that the Department maintains access to a top-tier subterranean training facility for the improvement of training for Special Operations Forces (SOF) units; Roy (No. 128) that states that none of the funds authorized to the Department of Defense or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available directly or indirectly to the Government of Iran; Roy (No. 129) that Requires DOD to submit a detailed justification for the Department’s yearly end strength request; Budzinski (No. 130) that requires the Department of Defense to issue regulations to the Department of the Army to ensure all boots are Berry-amendment compliant and meet the highest quality and performance standards; Porter (No. 131) that requires the screening and registry of individuals with health conditions resulting from unsafe housing units; Salazar (No. 132) that requires the Armed Forces Pest Management Board to conduct a study on the use and presence of herbicide agents and toxic chemicals by the Department in the Panama Canal Zone during the period beginning on January 1, 1958, and ending on December 31, 1999; Perry (No. 133) that makes it the policy of the United States to reject any attempt by the People’s Republic of China to mandate that U.S. vessels provide them with information about U.S. vessels (ship name, call sign, location, type of cargo) in areas that China illegally includes as part of its maritime claims; Bowman (No. 135) that requires a report on military recruitment practices in public secondary schools; Pappas (No. 136) that requires the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Entrepreneurial Development at the Small Business Administration and the

Director of Small Business Programs at the Department of Defense to submit to a report on the memorandum of understanding between the agencies; Guest (No. 137) that prohibits the Secretary of the Air Force from using a programmatic basing decision for strategic basing and requires the Secretary of the Air Force, within 30 days of enactment, to update the Department of the Air Force's instruction or other policy to include this prohibition; Ogles (No. 138) that directs the Secretary of Defense to invite the naval forces of Taiwan to any Rim of the Pacific exercise that is to take place following enactment of this Act; Ogles (No. 139) that amends Section 1259 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 to add another contingency on PRC eligibility to participate in Rim of the Pacific Exercises: holding an internationally recognized free and fair presidential election; Lee (NV) (No. 140) that requires the Director of the Defense Health Agency (DHA), in collaboration with certain military medical treatment facilities, to submit a report to Congress on the provision of emergency and trauma care to civilian patients; Himes (No. 141) that expresses the sense of Congress the importance of comprehensive cislunar Space Domain Awareness capabilities and the need to ensure the safety of flight of civil and commercial missions in cislunar space; Biggs (No. 142) that requires the Department of Defense to perform an audit; Wenstrup (No. 143) that directs the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study regarding the immune response levels of servicemembers to COVID-19 infection and vaccination, specifically including testing to detect nucleocapsid protein immunoglobulin-G antibodies and to detect T-cell immune response; Biggs (No. 144) that requires the Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and United States Agency for International Development to submit to Congress a report on agreements made by the United States with the Taliban; Ogles (No. 145) that on Page 599, Line 15, inserts the words "classified or" before "unclassified", permitting DOD decisions/justifications on designating particular Chinese Military Companies to remain classified; Austin Scott (GA) (No. 146) that modifies Section 9062 of 10 USC (Composition of the Air Force) to include the Air Force's Air Logistics Complexes; Norman (No. 147) that requires the cost of any project funded with financial support from the DOD to disclose the cost to taxpayers; Norman (No. 148) that authorizes the President to award Major James Capers Jr. the Medal of Honor for acts of valor as a member of the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, in which he was awarded the Silver Star; Aderholt (No. 149) that tasks the Under Secretary for Defense and Acquisition to incorporate global demand into program

guidance for major defense acquisition programs. Ensures that programs plan for the complete demands on the U.S. defense industrial base beyond domestic requirements; Pascrell (No. 150) that requires the Department of Defense to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of eliminating outpatient rehabilitation therapy maximums for active-duty service members who suffered a traumatic brain injury while exercising their official duties; Pascrell (No. 151) that requires the Department of Defense to conduct a study to analyze the feasibility of recognizing the approval of non-governmental accreditation bodies for transitional and residential brain injury treatment programs for active-duty service members that sustained a brain injury while completing their official duties; Porter (No. 152) that requires a GAO report on the implementation of the adjudication process for military medical malpractice claims; Pascrell (No. 153) that requires the Department of Defense to develop a Traumatic Brain Injury Oversight Strategy and Action Plan to standardize identification, treatment, tracking, monitoring and referral guidelines for Traumatic Brain Injury programs across all military branches; Norman (No. 154) that establishes that it is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of the Navy shall name a vessel of the United States Navy the "U.S.S. Major James Capers Jr."; Rodgers (WA) (No. 155) that expresses a sense of Congress regarding military service by individuals with amputations; Rodgers (WA) (No. 156) that changes the way the Soldier's Medal affects military retirement pay; Curtis (No. 157) that modifies and updates a report regarding Iranian involvement in the narcotics trade; Higgins (LA) (No. 158) that prohibits the Department of Defense from contracting with shipyards controlled by a foreign adversary; Casten (IL) (No. 159) that requires the DOD and HHS to collaborate on a study of barriers to mental health care for military pilots, aviators, and air traffic controllers, and report to congress on their recommendations to address these barriers; Radewagen (No. 160) that requires the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing a unit of the National Guard in the territories of American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Davis (IL) (No. 161) that modifies the Department's Adoption Reimbursement Program, authorized under Section 1052 of Title 10, to increase the authorized allotment Members of the Armed Forces are eligible to receive per adoption and grants the Sec. of Defense the authority to advance or reimburse funds to pre-adoptive servicemembers; Pascrell (No. 162) that requires the Department of Defense to conduct a study to analyze the enhancement of diagnostic screening tools for traumatic brain injury (TBI), including identifying point-of-injury solutions

for TBI testing to improve the medical care available to forward-deployed units; Stauber (No. 163) that increases (with an offset to Defense-wide RDT&E) Army RDT&E funding by \$5 million for the demonstration of high-pressure waterjet cut and capture system to demilitarize underwater munitions; Porter (No. 164) that requires a study on the feasibility and effectiveness of routine neuroimaging modalities in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of brain injury among servicemembers due to blast pressure exposure during combat and training; Alford (No. 165) that revises the DoD Small Business Strategy Reporting Requirements; Grothman (No. 166) that requires the Secretary of Defense to ensure that, to the extent practicable, commercial positions in the Department of Defense are filled by civilian employees or contractors rather than a member of the Armed Forces; Porter (No. 167) that states the DOD Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, shall issue guidance on how DOD will—(1) categorize all spare parts in the global spares pool and hold them accountable under a contract (2) consider a spare part asset to be government-furnished property (3) make contractors report government-owned global spares pool losses of spare parts that are not accountable under a contract, until all spare parts in the global spares pool are made accountable under a contract and losses are entered into the GFP Module for DCMA's adjudication (4) provide disposition instructions, consistent with federal regulations, for spare parts in the global spares pool that are excess, obsolete, or unserviceable until such parts are entered into the GFP Module for disposition; Carter (No. 168) that prohibits any funding from cutting services provided by Combat Readiness Training Centers operated by the U.S. Air National Guard; Mast (No. 169) that clarifies that the Secretary of each Military Department retains personal responsibility and authority over a service member that is under consideration by a medical evaluation board or while subject to the Integrated Disability Evaluation System; Stanton (No. 170) that requires the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on what off-the-shelf information technology products the Department of Defense uses that are manufactured, produced, or assembled by entities subject to the control of a foreign adversary; Schneider (No. 171) that instructs the SBA Administrator to carry out a program to be known as 'Boots to Business Program' to provide entrepreneurship training to covered individuals; Larsen (WA) (No. 172) that requires DoDEA to provide an introduction on artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML); Eshoo (No. 173) that expresses the sense of Congress that the Navy should name a future commissioned ship after William B. Gould, a

formerly enslaved sailor who served in the Navy during the Civil War; Larsen (WA) (No. 174) that requires the military branches to provide an online distance education course on artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML); Cartwright (No. 175) that requires Department of Defense (DoD) officials to submit to Congress information regarding the minimum annual investment in DoD depots and industrial facilities needed to prevent further infrastructure deterioration; and Kuster (NH) (No. 176) that requires the National Guard Bureau to submit an annual report to Congress on the number of national guard members who received sexual assault prevention and response training; **Pages H4014–28**

Rogers (AL) en bloc amendment No. 3 consisting of the following amendments printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551: Rogers (AL) en bloc amendment No. 3 consisting of the following amendments printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551: Porter (No. 177) requiring reporting of open interface standards; Waltz (No. 178) that requires an assessment and report by TRANSCOM on the Global Household Goods Contract during peak season; Calvert (No. 179) that modifies the Innovators Information Repository to include DIU and CDAO, plus periodic update requirements and a report to defense committees; Buchanan (No. 180) that requires the Secretary of the Navy to report to Congress on the benefits and feasibility of establishing a training and safety program for operating Assault Amphibious Vehicles; Molinaro (No. 181) that directs the Secretary of the Army to submit a report on the progress of the Black Hawk helicopter program; Molinaro (No. 182) that requires an updated report on the U.S. Bio-defense Strategy, including an assessment on the current and potential biological threats against the United States; Buchanan (No. 183) that requires the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the House Armed Services Committee on the effectiveness of the Future Soldier Preparatory Course and include recommendations on actions to improve or expand the program; Molinaro (No. 184) that directs the DoD's Chief Artificial Intelligence Office to report to Congress on the effectiveness of the agency's current AI workforce and identify gaps in skills and training required to preserve the United States' global technological competitiveness; Buchanan (No. 185) that mandates the Department of Defense to promptly notify the Department of Veterans Affairs about someone transitioning from active duty to a veteran with an opioid use disorder; Buchanan (No. 186) that requires the Department of Defense to conduct a study on the accessibility of mental health care providers and services for members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty; Buchanan (No.

187) that expresses a sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should raise the Family Separation Allowance to \$400 per month, as authorized by the FY24 National Defense Authorization Act; Buchanan (No. 188) that requires the Department of Defense to maintain prescription drop boxes on all military bases to allow for the safe disposal of unused prescription drugs, including opioids; James (No. 189) that states that upon the cancellation of FARA and UH-60V programs, the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan to field certain Army aviation components concurrently and proportionately in the Army National Guard; Reschenthaler (No. 191) that requires a report on security cooperation with the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands and the treatment of and human rights abuses committed against U.S. citizens by the Government of Turks and Caicos Islands; Casar (No. 192) that requires a GAO study assessing the child care programs that exist across the Department of Defense including: Child Development Centers, Family Child Care, Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood, and Child Care in Your Home; Grothman (No. 193) that requires quarterly reporting from the Department to Congress on any instances of foreign actors infiltrating or attempting to infiltrate a military installation, facility, or real property under the jurisdiction of the Department; Jacobs (No. 194) that Amends Department of Defense annual reports on its Assessment, Monitoring, and Evaluation of security cooperation programs to include a description of challenges experienced in program execution; Meng (No. 195) that provides for hybrid or remote options for paid fellowship opportunities for military spouses through the Permanent Military Spouse Career Accelerator Program; Spartz (No. 196) that requires DoD IG to reconcile the numbers on U.S. aid to Ukraine; Case (No. 197) that directs the Department of Defense (DoD) to assess wildfire mitigation, response and recovery capabilities and shortfalls in Hawai'i; Crockett (No. 198) that Directs the Secretary, in consultation with ODNI, to provide Congress a report on the administrative and legal challenges that would need to be addressed by, as well as anticipated benefits from, any future legislation to accelerate security clearance reviews for military spouses by allowing information from the security clearance review of the married servicemember's Spousal Review to be used in the security clearance review of the military spouse; Lee (NV) (No. 199) that requires the Secretary of Defense to designate Creech Air Force Base, located in Indian Springs, Nevada, as a remote or isolated installation; Schneider (No. 200) that expands bereavement leave in connection with the death of a spouse or child for servicemembers from 2 to 12 weeks;

Moskowitz (No. 201) that requires an assessment of the accuracy of Gaza Ministry of Health Casualty Reporting; Torres (CA) (No. 202) that directs the Secretary of the Department of Defense to submit a report to Congress on transferring military acquired credentials to the civilian workforce; Barr (No. 203) that expresses a Sense of Congress Regarding the Feasibility Study for Blue Grass Army Depot and Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant; Fitzpatrick (No. 204) that makes a modification to multiyear procurement authority for certain critical minerals; Spartz (No. 205) that includes Oversight committees in briefings on DoD's financial audits; Davidson (No. 206) that reduces funding to the Office of the Secretary of Defense by 5 percent if they fail to submit reports to Congress required under Section 725 of the FY24 NDAA; Wenstrup (No. 207) that updates credentialing and privileging under the military health system to expand the recognition of board certification for physicians; Barr (No. 208) that directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of the Army, the Commanding General, Army Materiel Command and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology to develop a requirement for the establishment of a shipping container production facility within the United States at an Army installation found to meet feasibility and readiness goals; Sherrill (No. 209) that instructs the Department of Defense to conduct outreach to institutions of higher education to support their entrance into the Skillbridge Program as Skillbridge Program providers, through which they will connect transitioning servicemembers to in-demand employment and training opportunities; Pettersen (No. 210) that directs the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs to convene a working group of subject matter experts from the extramural community and Military Health System to develop a strategy and the medical research and development requirements to deliver pre-hospital, life-saving interventions in Arctic environments; Ciscomani (No. 211) that provides for the conveyance of land from Ft. Huachuca Army Installation in Sierra Vista, Arizona to the City of Sierra Vista; Pettersen (No. 212) that requires the National Guard Bureau to brief Congress on the effectiveness of existing child care support services provided to National Guard members during Weekend Drill commitments; Pfluger (No. 213) that requires Psychological Performance Training for US servicemembers to improve psychological health and overall member quality of life; Soto (No. 214) that authorizes an increase to the U.S. Air Force's Aerospace Propulsion program to support high-hypersonic detonation propulsion research and



technology with an offset to the Air Force's Administration account, an historically under executed account; Buchanan (No. 215) that requires the Secretary of Defense to create a strategy to support the transition of military aviation mechanics to commercial aviation mechanics after active duty service; Soto (No. 216) that authorizes an increase to the U.S. Army's Soldier Lethality Technology program to support adaptive and intelligent adversary-threat models with an offset to the Army's Other Personnel Support account, an historically under executed account; Austin Scott (GA) (No. 217) that requires a report from the Chief of Naval Operations, in consultation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, on recommended modifications to the Expeditionary Transfer Dock Ships that will best enable at-sea sustainment of Joint Interagency Task Force South partner nation patrol vessels and United States Coast Guard Fast Response Cutters; Buchanan (No. 218) that requires the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress on military technology and weapons lost to the Taliban during the Afghanistan withdrawal; Schneider (No. 219) that requires a DOD briefing on Iranian support for nonstate actors in North Africa. Revision changes 'stop Iran' to 'deter Iran'; Buchanan (No. 220) that expresses the sense of Congress that the United States should remain committed to helping the Philippines maintain the safety and security of the Philippines, including helping the Philippines to defend against threats to such safety and security from China; Obernolte (No. 221) that directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the relevant Service Secretaries, to develop an assessment of the health care system supporting certain military installations in order to ensure adequate health care for the civilian and military workforce; Schneider (No. 222) that instructs Secretary of Defense and Director of DIA to advocate on the Foreign Threat Intelligence Committee for \$25,000,000 incentives for information regarding top Hamas terrorists; Buchanan (No. 223) that requires the Director of the Defense Health Agency to conduct a study and report to Congress on how the agency can increase access to telehealth services, including how telehealth can better mental health treatment outcomes; Smith (NJ) (No. 224) that requires the GAO to investigate the US Army's bio-weapons program from the years 1945–1972, specifically experiments regarding vector-borne diseases, including Lyme disease; Barr (No. 225) that directs the Defense Intelligence Agency to provide an annual assessment in the China Military Power Report (or other relevant publication) on China's investments and influence in the Pacific Islands and an assessment on how their activities have or have not impacted U.S. military strategy in the region, as it relates to the Pacific Is-

lands; Walberg (No. 226) that requires the Secretary of Defense to submit an annual report to Congress on DoD's assistance to USCBP and DHS to secure our northern border; Slotkin (No. 227) that requires a GAO report on how Federal agencies are collecting information on contractual conflicts of interest between the U.S. and Chinese governments; Burlison (No. 229) that authorizes the President to award the Medal of Honor to Chief Warrant Officer Gregory McManus; Schneider (No. 230) that recognizes the African Lion exercise hosted by Morocco and requires a report to Congress; Buchanan (No. 231) that requires the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a plan and strategy to construct a memorial at the Arlington National Cemetery to commemorate the 13 servicemembers who died during the chaotic Afghanistan withdrawal; Golden (No. 232) that modifies the current Opt-in to an Opt-out option on the DD-2648 for sending transitioning servicemembers' information to state veterans' agencies to ensure servicemembers have the resources for a smooth transition to civilian life; Westerman (No. 233) that provides the state of Arkansas 3 years to request permanent ownership of the former Army Navy Hospital in Hot Springs, AR; Magaziner (No. 234) that requires TRICARE's managed care support contractors to keep provider directories up to date;

**Pages H4028–36**

Rosendale amendment (No. 52 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551) that prohibits TRICARE from covering and the Department of Defense from furnishing gender transition surgeries and gender hormone treatments for individuals that identify as transgender (by a recorded vote of 213 ayes to 206 noes, Roll No. 262);

**Pages H4008–09, H4037–38**

Van Duyne amendment (No. 55 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551) that prohibits the Secretary of Defense from paying for or reimbursing expenses relating to abortion services (by a recorded vote of 214 ayes to 207 noes, Roll No. 263);

**Pages H4012–14, H4038–39**

Grothman amendment (No. 41 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551) that establishes a permanent hiring freeze for diversity, equity, and inclusion jobs in the Department (by a recorded vote of 216 ayes to 206 noes, Roll No. 265);

**Pages H3993–94, H4039–40**

Norman amendment (No. 42 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551) that eliminates any offices of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within the Armed Forces and Department of Defense along with the personnel in said offices (by a recorded vote of 211 ayes to 208 noes, Roll No. 267); earlier, votes of the Delegates and Resident Commissioner were decisive on the previous vote (by a recorded vote of 212 ayes to 212 noes, Roll No. 266) and a separate vote in the House was required;

**Pages H3994–95, H4040–41**

Higgins (LA) amendment (No. 43 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551) that eliminates the position of Chief Diversity Officer of the Department of Defense and prohibits the establishment of any substantially similar position (by a recorded vote of 214 ayes to 210 noes, Roll No. 268);

**Pages H3995–97, H4041–42**

Williams amendment (No. 45 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551) that prohibits funding of companies who function to demonetize domestic entities based on their lawful speech (by a recorded vote of 218 ayes to 206 noes, Roll No. 270);

**Pages H3998–H4000, H4043**

Steube amendment (No. 46 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551) that prohibits DODEA from purchasing, displaying, or maintaining material that promotes radical gender ideology or pornographic content (by a recorded vote of 221 ayes to 202 noes, Roll No. 271);

**Pages H4000–01, H4043–44**

Boebert amendment (No. 48 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551) that is a prohibition on federal funding for the Countering Extremist Activity Working Group or implement any recommendations from the group (by a recorded vote of 215 ayes to 206 noes, Roll No. 272);

**Pages H4003–04, H4044–45**

Mills amendment (No. 49 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551) that strikes exemption that allows military chain of command or senior civilian leadership to approve the display of unapproved flags at military installations (by a recorded vote of 217 ayes to 206 noes, Roll No. 273); and

**Pages H4004–06, H4045**

Norman amendment (No. 53 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551) that prohibits the provision of gender transition procedures, including surgery or medication, through the Exceptional Family Medical Program (by a recorded vote of 218 ayes to 205 noes, Roll No. 275).

**Pages H4009–11, H4046–47**

Rejected:

Greene (GA) amendment (No. 37 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551) that sought to provide that none of the funds made available by this Act may be used for assistance to Ukraine (by a recorded vote of 74 ayes to 343 noes, Roll No. 261);

**Pages H3990–91, H4037**

Gaetz amendment (No. 40 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551) that sought prohibition on the transfer of cluster munitions (by a recorded vote of 134 ayes to 286 noes, Roll No. 264);

**Pages H3991–93, H4039**

Clyde amendment (No. 44 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551) that sought to direct the Secretary of the Army to relocate the Reconciliation Memorial, also known as the Reconciliation Monument, to its original location in Arlington National

Cemetery (by a recorded vote of 192 ayes to 230 noes, Roll No. 269); and

**Pages H3997–98, H4042–43**

Waltz amendment (No. 50 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551) that sought to edit the provision signed into law in the FY24 NDAA, reverting it back to the House-passed language to create sex-neutral physical fitness standards for combat MOS (by a recorded vote of 205 ayes to 216 noes, Roll No. 274).

**Pages H4006–07, H4045–46**

H. Res. 1287, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8070) and relating to the consideration of House Report 118–527 and an accompanying resolution was agreed to yesterday, June 12th.

**Presidential Messages:** Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to North Korea declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2024—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 118–146). **Page H3989**

Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2024—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 118–147). **Page H3989**

Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to Belarus declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, is to continue in effect beyond June 16, 2024—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 118–148). **Page H3989**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Fifteen recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4037, H4037–38, H4038–39, H4039, H4039–40, H4040–41, H4041, H4042, H4042–43, H4043, H4044, H4044–45, H4045, H4046, and H4046–47.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

## *Committee Meetings*

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Appropriations:* Full Committee held a markup on the Defense Appropriations Bill, FY 2025; the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill, FY 2025; and the Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill, FY 2025. The Defense Appropriations Bill, FY 2025; the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations

Bill, FY 2025; and the Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill, FY 2025 were ordered reported, as amended.

**MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY:  
EXAMINING SOLVENCY AND IMPACTS TO  
THE FEDERAL BUDGET**

*Committee on the Budget:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Medicare and Social Security: Examining Solvency and Impacts to the Federal Budget”. Testimony was heard from Paul Spitalnic, Chief Actuary, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services; and Stephen Goss, Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration.

**MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Education and Workforce:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 618, the “Improving Access to Workers’ Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act”; H.R. 8606, the “Never Again Education Reauthorization and Study Act of 2024”; H.R. 8648, the “Civil Rights Protection Act of 2024”; H.J. Res. 165, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to “Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance”; H.R. 6816, the “Promoting Responsible Oversight to Eliminate Communist Teachings for Our Kids Act”; H.R. 5567, the “Combating the Lies of Authoritarians in School Systems Act”; H.R. 8649, the “Transparency in Reporting of Adversarial Contributions to Education Act”; H.R. 7227, the “Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act of 2024”; and H.R. 8534, the “Protecting Student Athletes’ Economic Freedom Act”. H.J. Res. 165 was ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 618, H.R. 8606, H.R. 8648, H.R. 6816, H.R. 5567, H.R. 7227, H.R. 8649, and H.R. 8534 were ordered reported, as amended.

**CHECKING-IN ON CENTER FOR MEDICARE  
AND MEDICAID INNOVATION: ASSESSING  
THE TRANSITION TO VALUE-BASED CARE**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Checking-In on CMMI: Assessing the Transition to Value-Based Care”. Testimony was heard from Elizabeth Fowler, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services.

**SECURING AMERICA’S CRITICAL  
MATERIALS SUPPLY CHAINS AND  
ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP**

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials held a hearing entitled “Securing America’s Critical Materials Supply Chains and Economic Leadership”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**THE SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL  
PROTECTION**

*Committee on Financial Services:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Semi-Annual Report of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection”. Testimony was heard from Rohit Chopra, Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

**THE PLIGHT OF AMERICANS DETAINED  
ABROAD**

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Accountability held a hearing entitled “The Plight of Americans Detained Abroad”. Testimony was heard from Rena Bitter, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State; Roger D. Carstens, Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, Department of State; and Raj Maan, Director, Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

**A CASCADE OF SECURITY FAILURES:  
ASSESSING MICROSOFT CORPORATION’S  
CYBERSECURITY SHORTFALLS AND THE  
IMPLICATIONS FOR HOMELAND SECURITY**

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “A Cascade of Security Failures: Assessing Microsoft Corporation’s Cybersecurity Shortfalls and the Implications for Homeland Security”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**HEARING ON THE MANHATTAN DISTRICT  
ATTORNEY’S OFFICE**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Hearing on the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office”. Testimony was heard from Andrew Bailey, Attorney General, Missouri; James E. Trainor III, Commissioner, Federal Election Commission; and public witnesses.

**EXAMINING GOVERNMENT  
ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE’S FINDINGS TO  
ADDRESS DATA GAPS AND IMPROVE  
DATA COLLECTION IN THE TERRITORIES**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs held a hearing entitled “Examining GAO’s Findings to Address Data Gaps and

Improve Data Collection in the Territories”. Testimony was heard from Jacobo Orenstein-Cardona, Executive Assistant, Government of Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico; Lola Leon Guerrero, Director, Government of Guam, Hagatna, Guam; Latesha Love-Grayer, Director, Government Accountability Office; Melissa Braybrooks, Economist, Department of the Interior; and public a witness.

#### **DESTROYING AMERICA’S BEST IDEA: BIDEN’S BORDER CRISIS, DESECRATING NATIONAL PARK LANDS AND DAMAGING COMMUNITIES**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Destroying America’s Best Idea: Biden’s Border Crisis, Desecrating National Park Lands and Damaging Communities”. Testimony was heard from Jaime Williams, Assembly Member, 59th District, New York State Assembly, Brooklyn, New York; and public witnesses.

#### **WHAT WE HAVE HERE . . . IS A FAILURE TO COLLABORATE: REVIEW OF GAO’S ANNUAL DUPLICATION REPORT**

*Committee on Oversight and Accountability:* Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce held a hearing entitled “What We Have Here . . . is a Failure to Collaborate: Review of GAO’s Annual Duplication Report”. Testimony was heard from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General, Government Accountability Office.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 8613, the “NSF and USDA Interagency Research Act”; H.R. 8665, the “Supercritical Geothermal Research and Development Act”; H.R. 8673, the “Expanding Partnerships for Innovation and Competitiveness Act”; and H.R. 8674, the “Milestones for Advanced Nuclear Fuel Act”. H.R. 8613 and H.R. 8673 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 8665 and H.R. 8674 were ordered reported, without amendment.

#### **ENVIRONMENTALISM OFF THE RAILS: HOW CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD WILL CRIPPLE THE NATIONAL RAIL NETWORK**

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:* Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a hearing entitled “Environmentalism Off the Rails: How CARB will Cripple the National Rail Network”. Testimony was heard from Alan Abbs, Legis-

lative Officer, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, California; and public witnesses.

#### **REVENUE, RIDERSHIP, AND POST-PANDEMIC LESSONS IN PUBLIC TRANSIT**

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing entitled “Revenue, Ridership, and Post-Pandemic Lessons in Public Transit”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

#### **A CALL TO ACTION: MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE SPINAL CORD INJURY DISORDERS (SCI/D) VETERAN COMMUNITY**

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “A Call to Action: Meeting the Needs of the Spinal Cord Injury Disorders (SCI/D) Veteran Community”. Testimony was heard from Erica Scavella, Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Services, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

#### **CRISIS ON CAMPUS: ANTISEMITISM, RADICAL FACULTY, AND THE FAILURE OF UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP**

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Crisis on Campus: Antisemitism, Radical Faculty, and the Failure of University Leadership”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### *Joint Meetings*

#### **SILENCED DISSENT**

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:* Commission concluded a hearing to examine silenced dissent, focusing on the plight of political prisoners and search for accountability, after receiving testimony from Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Democratic Belarus; Thorhildur Sunna AEvarsdottir, Council of Europe; and Annie Wilcox Boyajian, Freedom House.

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#### **COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024**

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

##### **Senate**

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

##### **House**

No hearings are scheduled.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

3 p.m., Monday, June 17

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Monday:** Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Katherine E. Oler, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 5:30 p.m.

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

9 a.m., Friday, June 14

## House Chamber

**Program for Friday:** Complete consideration of H.R. 8070—Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025.

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