



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JULY 8, 2024

No. 112

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 8, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JERRY L. CARL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

INFLATION TAXES ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in the 3½ years since President Biden first took office, our country has seen inflation grow by over 20 percent.

By failing to control runaway prices that have seen the cost of gasoline spike by 50 percent and the cost of groceries rise by over 20 percent, President Biden has failed the American people.

Instead of addressing the fact that the average family is now paying an additional \$1,000 a month to afford the basics, President Biden has canceled student loan debt, increased government spending, and mandated Green New Deal initiatives that only drive costs higher and higher.

This inflation is simply a tax on every American. As a result, real wages have fallen by nearly 4 percent since 2021.

Throughout his Presidency, while Americans have been forced to use their savings just to make ends meet, President Biden has been asleep at the wheel. The American people deserve a President who will once again put their needs first. It is time to rein in the wasteful spending of the Biden administration and return to the fiscal restraint that we saw under President Trump.

ENHANCE OUR ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this past week, as we celebrated the Fourth of July, we recognized the 248th anniversary of declaring that we could govern ourselves.

As American citizens, it is our right to elect our representatives at every level of government. In recent years, however, we have seen States and localities permit noncitizens to register and vote in U.S. elections. Allowing this to occur directly undermines the sanctity of our elections.

It is time to confront and address this issue by passing the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, which would ensure that anyone registering to vote provides proof of U.S. citizenship.

Further, this legislation would provide States with access to existing Federal databases, giving them the tools that they need to clean up voter registration rolls and remove non-U.S. citizens.

Let's make this clear: Only eligible U.S. citizens should vote in each and

every American election. It is time to enhance our election security, and it is time to put a stop to noncitizens voting in U.S. elections.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS HAGER BLATNIK ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM HOUSE SERGEANT AT ARMS

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

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Thomas Hager Blatnik on his 37 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

For over 37 years, Tom worked right here in the U.S. Capitol. Shortly after graduating from Curry College, he started at the Capitol, working for the Doorkeeper of the House. Over the course of his career, he worked under five different Sergeants at Arms.

He was a familiar face to many in the House galleries and check stands, where he greeted hundreds of thousands of visitors. He loved the jobs he held, and it showed. He considered it a genuine honor to work every day in an important place where policy decisions were made and debated and laws were being passed.

He took special pride in working in the same place as his father, Congressman John A. Blatnik, who represented Minnesota's Eighth District for 28 years. Like his father, Tom enjoyed sharing information and giving tours of the Capitol, and he never missed a chance to give mementos of the Capitol Building to friends, family, and others he thought would enjoy a token of the place that was so special to him.

Tom had great admiration and affection for colleagues he worked with in the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and for the Capitol Police. He valued and admired their dedication, hard work, and bravery and stayed in close touch with many of them after they retired or moved on.

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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He genuinely and deeply cared for others. He had enormous empathy for those with disabilities and those for whom life presented special challenges because he was diagnosed with dyslexia as a child. When Congress passed the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, it was deeply meaningful to him, and he considered it a privilege both to be in the front row seat of the House gallery for the debate and was honored to join legislators and other special guests at the White House for the signing of the act into law.

I offer my hearty congratulations to Tom and thank him for nearly four decades of service to the U.S. House.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT KEITH ORMSBY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Muscatine County Vietnam veteran Staff Sergeant Keith Ormsby, who has finally received an Air Medal and his Purple Heart for injuries sustained in battle 54 years ago.

As Mr. Ormsby's Representative in Congress, I had the privilege of pinning him with the Purple Heart and personally thanking him for his dedicated service to our country during a special ceremony that took place on our Nation's Independence Day.

On January 31, 1970, while leading his platoon through the Vietnamese jungle and unloading a helicopter at a landing zone, Mr. Ormsby's unit was ambushed, resulting in him being shot and wounded.

Due to the chaotic nature of those times, the paperwork for his Purple Heart was never processed, and he was air-evacuated out of Vietnam immediately. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Muscatine County VA, we were finally able to properly recognize this hero.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Ormsby for his service to our country and expressing our gratitude to the Muscatine County VA and Eric for their exceptional work. God bless our veterans, and may God bless the United States of America.

HONORING DAWNELL DOREO ON HER RETIREMENT

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and career of Dawnell Doreo, who will be retiring after nearly four decades serving our Nation's heroes at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dawnell is a lifelong resident of Iowa's First District, having grown up on a small farm in Washington, Iowa. She began her service at the Iowa City VA Medical Center in 1986 as a ward clerk and rose up through the ranks over the decades to become a management and program analyst today.

Because of Dawn, the Iowa City VA was able to provide world-class healthcare and benefits to our vet-

erans. In her free time, Dawnell also volunteers as a court-appointed special advocate, where she serves as a fierce advocate for child welfare.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Dawnell's amazing career and wishing her the absolute best on a well-earned retirement.

JENSEN WEDEKING RECEIVES MEDAL OF MERIT

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jensen Wedeking of Bellevue, Iowa, for receiving the American Medal of Merit.

As a member of Bellevue's Boy Scout Troop 86, Jensen achieved the prestigious Eagle rank in 2023 after leading various community projects. However, his most remarkable achievement came when he saved the life of his friend.

During a nighttime drive, Jensen's friend suffered an allergic reaction to peanuts. Acting swiftly and drawing on his Boy Scout training, Jensen administered lifesaving epinephrine via an EpiPen before rushing his friend to the hospital.

This quick thinking and exemplary first aid skills really underscore Jensen's exceptional character and deep concern for others, qualities that define recipients of the Medal of Merit. This national award is bestowed upon Scouts who demonstrate uncommon valor and compassion in critical situations, criteria that Jensen undoubtedly fulfilled.

I congratulate Jensen on this well-deserved recognition and on his quick thinking.

THANKING TOM WOODRUFF

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a remarkable man whose passion for history has led to the immortalization of some of Iowa's forgotten heroes. Tom Woodruff stands as a testament to the dedication and tenacity in preserving the legacy of the Littleton brothers, Union soldiers who gallantly fought during the Civil War.

Tom's journey began with a faded scrapbook, a gift that sparked a relentless pursuit of truth. Through decades of meticulous research and community-driven efforts, he immortalized the Littleton brothers in granite, ensuring that their story endures along the Great River Road.

His leadership in constructing the Toolesboro memorial exemplifies his commitment to honoring our past with dignity and respect. His unwavering dedication and selfless service to Louisa County's history resonate deeply with us all.

I thank Tom Woodruff for his indomitable spirit and for reminding us that history, when cherished and honored, binds us together as a community and Nation.

CONGRATULATING IOWA HAWKEYES PARTICIPATING IN SUMMER OLYMPICS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor all the Iowa Hawkeyes who have qualified for the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics.

These incredible athletes, ranging from disciplines like wrestling, track

and field, rowing, and basketball, embody the excellence and determination encouraged in Iowa City.

The athletes competing have worked hard their entire lives for this opportunity, the opportunity to represent their countries in the sport that they love while the entire world watches them. Their journey to this global stage exemplifies the dedication and resilience that define what it means to be a Hawkeye.

As they prepare to represent Iowa and showcase their skills before the world, let us unite in cheering them on and sending our support. May their performances inspire future generations of athletes. Bring home the gold. As always, go Hawkeyes.

Mr. Speaker, I wish a very boisterous happy birthday to my sister Mari-Eleanor Martino.

REAUTHORIZING LONG ISLAND SOUND PROGRAM FUNDING

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5441, the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act of 2023, which I introduced as the lead Democratic sponsor along with my Republican colleague and Long Island Sound Caucus co-chair, NICK LALOTA from New York.

This overdue, bipartisan bill, which will be voted on this evening, reauthorizes critical Long Island Sound program funding, which expired at the end of the 2023 fiscal year. Congress must reauthorize this important program as soon as possible to ensure that Federal funds can continue to preserve and protect this unique body of water in the most densely populated area of our country.

Mr. Speaker, Long Island Sound is a national treasure. It is a tidal estuary that stretches 110 miles west to east, from the East River in New York City to Block Island Sound in Rhode Island. Its depth ranges from 65 feet to 230 feet, allowing transit for large and small ocean-going vessels.

Eighteen freshwater rivers flow into its salt waters, inducing an abundant array of plant life, fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, crustaceans, and birds.

It has been inhabited by humans for centuries, before European settlement up to the present. Now, more than 20 million Americans live within an hour's drive from its shores.

It is also a powerful engine to the region's economy, including maritime transportation, commercial and recreational fishing, ecotourism, and other water-dependent industries, including shipbuilding. Submarine construction at Electric Boat shipyard in Groton, Connecticut, in my district in southeastern Connecticut, employs 16,000 workers and another 7,000 at Quonset Point in Rhode Island.

With all of that activity, it is clear an organized effort is required to sustain the Long Island Sound economy in a way that balances growth with its core natural coastal habitat.

To respond to this need, Congress passed the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act, which provided Federal dollars going back to 2006 for projects to revitalize the wildlife population. In 2018, Congress reauthorized that law and greatly expanded the annual investment to \$40 million per year. Thanks to that funding, the amount of nitrogen entering Long Island Sound from sewage treatment plants has been reduced by 70 percent compared to the 1990s; hypoxic conditions have been reduced by 58 percent compared to the 1990s; over 2,239 acres of coastal habitat have been restored; and 570 conservation projects have been funded.

□ 1215

Through the advocacy of Congresswoman ROSA DELAULO, Long Island Sound received \$40 million in both 2023 and 2024, the largest funding level in the history of the program.

Mr. Speaker, to ensure that Congress can continue to support this amazing success, we must move quickly tonight and pass H.R. 5441.

Again, I thank my fellow Caucus co-chair, Representative LALOTA from New York, and the Natural Resources Committee for their leadership in moving this bill forward. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this bill.

WELCOMING LIAT BEININ ATZILI

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome Liat Beinin Atzili to Washington, D.C. She is visiting the White House today to advocate for the safe return of all Israeli hostages being held by Hamas.

Liat, a dual American-Israeli citizen, and her husband, Aviv, were violently taken hostage by Hamas on October 7 from their Kibbutz Nir Oz.

Liat's extended family lives in Waterford, Connecticut. She had, in fact, visited that coastal town just weeks before the October 7 attack.

When her cousin in Waterford, resident Jerry Fischer, learned that Liat and her husband were kidnapped, he immediately called me on the morning of October 8.

Within just a few hours, my chief of staff, Ayanti Grant, set up Liat and Aviv as missing person cases to the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, immediately putting those agencies into action.

Over the following weeks, those agencies worked with the Atzili family closely to ensure that her release was a top priority for the administration.

Thanks to President Biden and Secretary Blinken's persistent diplomatic efforts, Liat was released 53 days later, alongside 104 other hostages taken during that weeklong cease-fire last November.

Unfortunately, hours after Liat's release, she was informed that her husband, Aviv, had been murdered by

Hamas on October 7. The relief and joy that she and her family experienced upon her release was abruptly replaced by grief and sadness.

Despite her traumatic loss, Liat is here today in Washington as a living, breathing example of what diplomacy and negotiation can achieve. She wants to make sure that every other hostage gets the same result that she did.

I thank Liat, her father, Yehuda Beinin, and her cousin, Jerry Fischer, for turning this horrific experience into a call for a just and lasting peace in Palestine and Israel.

EL SALVADOR CAUCUS

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to notify the House of the creation of the Congressional El Salvador Caucus for which I will serve as chairman and for which I have appointed the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ) to serve as the bipartisan co-chairman.

Congressman GONZALEZ has extensive relationships and insights drawn from his time in El Salvador and throughout Latin America, and undeniably, that will assist in leading the caucus.

Mr. Speaker, El Salvador's President, Nayib Bukele, has converted El Salvador from the murder capital of the world into a reliable and stable partner for peace and security for the United States of America.

The Congressional El Salvador Caucus will exist to nurture and advance the U.S.-El Salvador relationship, to encourage strong borders, strong culture, and the strong reforms that President Bukele has put into effect.

They have defeated the gangs. They have put prosperity on the march in El Salvador. Even the 70,000 people who are incarcerated in that country are not just seeing their lives wasted away.

President Bukele has instituted a zero-leisure policy where they are now restoring buildings and murals and actually rebuilding the country that so many of them have a hand in ravaging through gang warfare.

The purpose of this caucus will be to vindicate the choices that President Bukele has made that, indeed, strengthen the U.S.-El Salvador relationship.

El Salvador's resurgence has not existed as a consequence of falling for the siren song of globalism. Instead, President Bukele believes that the way El Salvador can lead within Central America and, indeed, throughout the West, is by being the best version of itself; not being excessively reliant on some of these globalist institutions.

President Bukele has delivered instant justice to the satanic gangs and the endemic political corruption, but, in fact, no good deed goes unpunished.

Too often, our own government and even some Members of this Congress mount attack after attack on El Salvador and President Bukele, presum-

ably because the comeback that El Salvador is having is a living, breathing indictment of other failed ideologies.

Through the inspiration from El Salvador's astonishing transformation, the great American rejuvenation can become a reality as well, so that we can experience a triumphant return of safety and prosperity that we once inspired in others.

I invite my colleagues in the House and Senate to contact our office. We would love to have them as Members of the Congressional El Salvador Caucus as we strengthen the U.S.-El Salvador relationship and as we work to amplify some of the good decisions that are being made by President Bukele and his government. We hope that these good ideas have legs and can travel and can be copied and implemented for a more stable world.

A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve to know whether or not the President of the United States is fully capable of performing his duties. After his cringeworthy debate performance, numerous public appearances, and even small, private gatherings, many have concluded that he is not.

However, the President's doctor stated in a routine physical assessment almost 5 months ago in February that President Biden "... fully executes all of his responsibilities without any exemptions or accommodations."

Mr. Speaker, how can someone who needs pictures of what a podium and a stage are fully execute all of his responsibilities without any exemptions or accommodations?

That is the question House Republicans are asking by calling on the President's doctor to participate in a transcribed interview before the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability. Additionally, House Republicans are determined to receive the audiotapes from the President's interview with Special Counsel Robert Hur.

Yes, this is the same interview where Special Counsel Hur decided not to charge the President for his mishandling of classified documents because they were worried the President would "... present himself to a jury, as he did during our interview of him, as a sympathetic, well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory."

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker. Our country is in serious danger. Our enemies are watching the President let in millions of illegal immigrants at our southern border. They are watching as he fumbles his way through interviews where the questions are written by his staff beforehand.

This is a constitutional crisis. Each administration official, campaign staffer, congressional Democrat, or members of the press who have shielded the

President's condition from the American public are complicit in a coverup that is causing our country great pain.

Enough is enough. Mr. Speaker, it is time to restore accountability and respectability to this White House and the American people. It is the least the Tennesseans I serve back home deserve: A President of the United States capable of doing the job.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Holy God, God of now and all eternity, we approach You this day overwhelmed by everything that is far from holy, overtaken by concerns that even just this one day presents.

There is so much confusion and uncertainty. We ask that You would speak Your living and powerful word into our worrisome moments. Divide our troubled souls from our wearied spirits and discern and guide the actions and intentions of our hearts.

The darkness of our lives and the shadows of fear and frustration have descended in our workplaces, our politics, and our homes. Show us we have nothing to fear when we let Your light shine upon our lives, that You alone are our light and salvation.

There is so much that needs to be done, but we are paralyzed in our failures and incapacitated by our inadequacies. Remind us again that Your grace is sufficient for us; Your power is made perfect when we yield our whole selves, flaws and weaknesses, to Your will.

Among the many gods who will pursue or threaten to entrap us this day, there will be none like You. In these moments may we always choose You. May we demonstrate our praise for You, in all that we face today, for You alone are God.

In Your immortal and merciful name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

ONE CANNOT REWRITE HISTORY

(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, President Biden is attempting to gaslight the American people by touting a 40 percent drop in daily illegal border crossings from the last couple of weeks.

He even implied that the so-called drop shows a more secure border than the one he inherited from President Trump. That is a gross misrepresentation.

No matter what the border numbers from June turn out to be, one month won't change the more than 9.6 million immigrant encounters under this President.

Let's look at the facts. May marked 39 straight months of more illegal immigrant encounters than even the highest month under the Trump administration. President Biden simply cannot rewrite history.

Each time the President boasts about a drop in encounters, he is acknowledging that he could have acted 3½ years ago but instead put our Nation at risk with his open-border policies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HONORING SERVICEMEMBERS

(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, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman MIKE MCCAUL responded the day after the bizarre Biden debate performance where Biden claimed no U.S. servicemembers died under his watch. Mr. MCCAUL correctly identified this claim as a lie as 13 were murdered in the Abbey Gate terrorist attack alone.

Sadly, this year, three Georgia Army reservists were killed on January 28 by Iran puppet Hezbollah at Tower 22 in Jordan. America will not forget Specialist Kennedy Sanders, Sergeant William Rivers, and Specialist Breonna Moffett.

The unintended reelection of Donald Trump by corrupt Judge Merchan is more evident every day. Polls for Trump overwhelmingly recognize judicial subversion with Merchan earning my invitation to be my guest for the Trump inauguration.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who have successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

We do not need new border laws. We need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as repeatedly warned by the FBI.

CONGRATULATING KATIE MOON

(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, this summer, northeast Ohio native Katie Moon will compete in her second Olympic Games.

Four years ago, she won the gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics in the pole vault. In her career, she has won golds at the Olympics, the World Athletics Championships, the Diamond League, and the NCAA Championships.

An alumna of Olmsted Falls High School in Cuyahoga County, she is a shining example of what our district has to offer. Her hard work and desire to give back to the community exemplify what it means to be an American.

From 2018 to 2023, Katie has won gold medals every year in various competitions. This summer, Katie, along with hundreds of other American athletes, will head to the Paris Olympic Games to represent our country and to once again bring home the gold.

I thank her for bringing inspiration to young people across the district and the country. I look forward to seeing her on the highest podium. Go Team USA.

RECESS

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

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

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules

on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

ALABAMA UNDERWATER FOREST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY AND PROTECTION ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 897) to provide for the establishment of the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 897

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 “Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) An ancient cypress forest dating back 50,000 to 70,000 years has been exposed in the Gulf of Mexico off the Alabama coastline.

(2) The cypress trees, which were uncovered by massive waves associated with Hurricane Ivan, are still rooted in the mud they were growing in at least 50,000 years ago.

(3) The Underwater Forest site is unique on a global scale, the only known site where trees between 50,000 and 70,000 years old have been preserved intact with the ecosystem they were growing in.

(4) Exploration of the site continues to yield invaluable scientific insight in a variety of fields, though scientists have just begun to study the ancient forest.

SEC. 3. POLICY AND PURPOSE.

(a) **POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States to protect and preserve the ancient cypress trees located off the coast of Alabama, known as the Alabama Underwater Forest.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this Act is to protect the resources of the area described in section 5(b), to educate and interpret for the public regarding the ancient Alabama Underwater Forest environment, and to manage human uses of the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary consistent with this Act.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) **SANCTUARY.**—The term “Sanctuary” means the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary designated under section 5(a).

(2) **SECRETARY.**—the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

SEC. 5. SANCTUARY DESIGNATION.

(a) **DESIGNATION.**—The area described in subsection (b) is designated as the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary pursuant to title III of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.).

(b) **AREA INCLUDED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Sanctuary shall consist only of all waters and submerged lands within the boundary described in paragraph (2).

(2) **BOUNDARY.**—The boundary referred to in paragraph (1) shall encompass only the area within the following coordinates:

(A) 30 degrees, 7 minutes, 20.2116 seconds north latitude; 87 degrees, 49 minutes, 15.7404 seconds west longitude.

(B) 30 degrees, 7 minutes, 20.2116 seconds north latitude; 87 degrees, 43 minutes, 44.8536 seconds west longitude.

(C) 30 degrees, 5 minutes, 42.6552 seconds north latitude; 87 degrees, 49 minutes, 15.7404 seconds west longitude.

(D) 30 degrees, 5 minutes, 42.6552 seconds north latitude; 87 degrees, 43 minutes, 44.8536 seconds west longitude.

(E) 30 degrees, 7 minutes, 20.2116 seconds north latitude; 87 degrees, 49 minutes, 15.7404 seconds west longitude.

(3) **CHARTS.**—The Sanctuary shall be generally identified and depicted on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration charts that shall be maintained on file and kept available for public examination during regular business hours at the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and in online format and which shall be updated to reflect boundary modifications made pursuant to this section.

SEC. 6. PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN USES.

(a) **PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES.**—The following activities are prohibited and are unlawful for any person to conduct or to cause to be conducted within the Sanctuary:

(1) Cutting, removing, or any kind of sub-surface salvage of the cypress trees.

(2) Lowering below the surface of the water any grappling, suction, conveyor, dredging, or wrecking device.

(3) Detonating below the surface of the water any explosive or explosive mechanism.

(4) Drilling or coring the seabed.

(5) Lowering, laying, positioning, or raising any type of seabed cable or cable-laying device.

(b) **EXCEPTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The prohibitions in subsection (a) shall not apply to the following:

(A) Fishing, diving, mooring, or similar recreational or commercial activities.

(B) Necessary operations of public vessels, including operations essential for national defense, law enforcement, and responses to emergencies that threaten life, property, or the environment.

(C) Construction or placement of artificial reef structures for the purpose of enhancing fishery resources, fishing opportunities, or recreational diving opportunities.

(D) Exploration, development, or production of oil or gas pursuant to a lease, permit, or other authorization, provided such lease, permit, or authorization is issued on or before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **OTHER ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, may allow a person to conduct an activity that would otherwise be prohibited under subsection (a) if such activity meets the standards of Title III of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 7. COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) **PREPARATION OF PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with appropriate Federal, State, and local government authorities and with the advisory council established under section 8, shall develop a comprehensive management plan and implement regulations to achieve the policy and purpose of this Act.

(2) **APPLICABLE LAW.**—In developing the comprehensive management plan and implementing regulations under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall follow the procedures described in sections 303 and 304 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1433 and 1434).

(3) **PLAN DETAILS.**—The comprehensive management plan required under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) facilitate all public and private uses of the Sanctuary compatible with the primary objective of Sanctuary resource protection, with a focus on facilitating—

(i) fishing, diving, or similar recreational or commercial activities; and

(ii) construction or placement of artificial reef structures for the purpose of enhancing fishery resources, fishing opportunities, or recreational diving opportunities;

(B) consider temporal and geographical zoning, to ensure protection of Sanctuary resources;

(C) identify needs for research and ecological monitoring; and

(D) ensure coordination and cooperation between Sanctuary managers and—

(i) other Federal, State, and local authorities with jurisdiction within or adjacent to the Sanctuary; and

(ii) owners, operators, and stakeholders with respect to existing oil and gas operations within or adjacent to the Sanctuary.

(b) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**—The Secretary shall provide for the participation of the general public in the development of the comprehensive management plan.

SEC. 8. ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish an advisory council pursuant to section 315 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1445a) to advise the Secretary with respect to the designation and management of the Sanctuary.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Secretary shall include a representative from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as a voting member of the advisory council.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 897, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 897, the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act.

Representative CARL’s legislation seeks to protect an underwater forest located 10 miles off the coast of Gulf Shores, Alabama, in the Gulf of Mexico.

At roughly 60,000 years old, this forest provides a window into our past in a way that is not found anywhere else on Earth. Protecting this resource is critical for the research efforts that it supports.

This forest was first discovered by local fishermen in 2004 in the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan and has received attention from scientists and universities around the world.

H.R. 897 designates the forest as a sanctuary in a manner which embraces the multiple use of our Nation’s natural resources. The legislation protects the forest by prohibiting the cutting or removing of the forest’s trees while also providing protections for national

security and law enforcement activity, commercial and recreational fishing, and energy production that was previously permitted or authorized.

I commend my colleague, Representative CARL, for his efforts to advance the legislation. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 897, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 897 would establish the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary, which would safeguard a remarkable and ancient natural reserve.

In 2004, Hurricane Ivan unearthed a well-preserved ancient cypress forest, still rooted in the mud, 60 feet underwater in the Gulf of Mexico, south of Gulf Shores, Alabama.

Scientific analysis of the cypress trees reveals that they are over 50,000 years old, dating back to a time when the sea levels were approximately 400 feet lower than today.

This forest is a unique relic of our planet's past and the only known site where a coastal forest of such antiquity remains preserved.

The Alabama underwater forest is a valuable source of information, offering insights into ancient climate conditions, regional rainfall patterns, insect populations, and plant life on the Gulf Coast before humans inhabited the Americas.

However, its preservation is under threat.

In 2020, a furniture company applied for a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers to harvest the ancient cypress wood for profit.

Establishing this marine sanctuary will prevent commercial exploitation and protect this irreplaceable ecosystem for future generations. It will ensure that the site remains undisturbed, allowing for continued scientific research and environmental education.

Additionally, the sanctuary will provide opportunities for ecotourism and research, boosting the local economy while fostering a greater understanding of our natural heritage.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to protect and preserve this unique piece of natural history. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CARL), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, my bill, the Alabama Underwater Forestry National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act is an important measure to safeguard Alabama's ancient underwater cypress forest.

Importantly, this bill strikes a balance between conservation and recreational use of this site. By designating the underwater forest as a national marine sanctuary, we are preserving a one-of-a-kind, 60,000-year-old natural marvel. There isn't anything

quite like Alabama's underwater forest that has been discovered in terms of the size and the age that we are dealing with here.

The underwater forest offers an opportunity for recreational opportunities such as scuba diving and fishing. The bill ensures that the site remains protected, prohibiting the removal of ancient trees while allowing responsible access for the public. Just like Yellowstone or Yosemite, this forest should be accessible to tourists while protected from disruptive activities—and this bill does just that.

It is critical to recognize the benefits that will ripple through south Alabama's economy. We are not just preserving a natural wonder; we are laying the foundation for sustained economic gains. This legislation ensures the underwater cypress forest remains a source of pride, wonder, and economic opportunity for generations to come.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this bill.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Adoption of H.R. 897 will protect the underwater forest in the Gulf of Mexico for future scientific and research efforts while allowing for the multiple uses of the Gulf to continue to occur.

This legislation also ensures that the Department of Commerce and NOAA work with State and local officials in Alabama, including the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This approach to conservation and the protection of natural resources is consistent with the approach that Republicans have taken toward these issues ensuring that the State and local officials are consulted and that voices with varying perspectives are heard and accommodated.

Mr. Speaker, I will just add that this is a very unique opportunity. A little over 20 years ago we had no idea this forest was even there, and because the hurricane had deep waves that scoured the forest floor, they found this marvelous resource of a cypress forest that once grew obviously on dry land when the ocean was at least 60 and probably many feet less deep than it is right now.

To be able to have this to study to tell us more about our past which should inform us about our future is truly remarkable.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 897, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

LONG ISLAND SOUND RESTORATION AND STEWARDSHIP REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5441) to reauthorize Long Island Sound programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5441

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 "Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF LONG ISLAND SOUND PROGRAMS.

(a) LONG ISLAND SOUND GRANTS.—Section 119(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1269(h)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2024 through 2028".

(b) LONG ISLAND SOUND STEWARDSHIP GRANTS.—Section 11(a) of the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act of 2006 (33 U.S.C. 1269 note; Public Law 109-359) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2024 through 2028".

(c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 119(g) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1269(g)) is amended by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (3).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5441, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5441, the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act of 2023.

Representative LALOTA's legislation reauthorizes programs that promote collaboration between Federal agencies, State and local governments, and other stakeholders to protect and preserve the Long Island Sound.

H.R. 5441 reauthorizes the Long Island Sound Study through 2028 at current funding levels. The Long Island

Sound Study was created in 1985, and for several decades it has been instrumental in protecting the sound and its broader watershed. The Long Island Sound Study established the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan that focuses on habitat restoration, water quality monitoring, and sets ecosystem targets for the next 20 years.

A component of the program also provides grants to local officials deploying restoration projects. The program has been responsible for the restoration of more than 2,000 acres of habitat.

With 4 million people living in the sound's communities, and 9 million in its watershed, protection of this resource helps to safeguard the region's economy and the environment.

The Long Island Sound Study has been updated in recent decades to create more effective partnerships to manage the sound, to ensure that all stakeholders are at the table, and to provide resources to local officials carrying out projects.

I thank Representative LALOTA for his work on a bipartisan basis to reauthorize these important programs.

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

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 21, 2024.

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WESTERMAN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 5441, the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act of 2023. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, with an additional referral to the Committee on Natural Resources. Specifically, there are certain provisions of H.R. 5441 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, agree the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 5441 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation that falls with the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Rule X jurisdiction, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved on this or similar legislation as it moves forward. Further, this does not prejudice the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with respect to the appointment of conferees and should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would appreciate your agreement to support my request to have the Committee represented on the conference committee.

Finally, I would ask that a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest in the bill be included in the Committee Report and Congressional

Record during consideration of H.R. 5441 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, June 21, 2024.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRAVES: I write regarding H.R. 5441, the "Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act of 2023." The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and additionally to the Committee on Natural Resources, and was ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources on June 12, 2024.

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and appreciate your willingness to forgo any further consideration of the bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will not formally consider H.R. 5441 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained therein.

I am pleased to support your request to name members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to any conference committee to consider such provisions. I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill and will include such letters in the committee report on H.R. 5441. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 5441 would reauthorize the Long Island Sound programs at the current funding level of \$40 million annually through fiscal year 2028. These vital programs include the Long Island Sound Grants and the Long Island Sound Stewardship Grants.

The Long Island Sound is a tidal estuary and marine sound, and it is a unique and irreplaceable natural resource. It stretches approximately 110 miles across the north shore of Long Island and the coast of Connecticut.

Its extensive watershed reaches into Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Quebec.

The sound was formed around 15,000 years ago when a terminal moraine dam failed, allowing freshwater from glacial Lake Connecticut to mix with the Atlantic Ocean. This newly formed estuary supported indigenous communities for over 11,000 years before European colonization.

Today, the areas surrounding Long Island Sound are heavily developed, leading to significant degradation of its water quality and ecosystems due to pollution from industry, agriculture, sewage, and runoff.

Despite this, the sound's unique hydrology and geology support diverse

coastal ecosystems, including marshes, tidal pools, dunes, and eelgrass meadows.

These habitats are home to abundant wildlife, including the endangered shortnose sturgeon. Protecting these ecosystems and species remains an ongoing and critical challenge that requires continuous support.

The management of Long Island Sound falls to the States, not the Federal Government. In 1985, Congress established the Management Conference of the Long Island Sound Study to address significant environmental issues affecting the sound.

This conference brings together the EPA, New York State, Connecticut, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions to restore and protect the sound and its watershed.

The conference oversees numerous initiatives, including monitoring and pollution control programs, grant coordination, public education, outreach, and policy development.

Reauthorizing these programs through H.R. 5441 is essential for the sound's continued recovery and conservation. These efforts will help restore water quality, protect vital ecosystems, and ensure the sound remains a vibrant and healthy resource for future generations.

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

□ 1615

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA).

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, for so many communities across Suffolk County and beyond, the Long Island Sound is so much more than a body of water. It is a way of life that has sustained and provided for our communities for generations. The Long Island Sound is a cornerstone of our environmental makeup, a driver of our local economy, and a hub of recreational and cultural activities for millions of people, Mr. Speaker.

For decades, the sound has faced numerous environmental challenges, including pollution, habitat loss, and the impacts of a changing world. These challenges have threatened the health of the sound and the well-being of the communities that rely on it.

That is why it is incredibly important that, later today, we will be voting on and hopefully passing my legislation, the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act of 2023. This critical piece of legislation seeks to reauthorize vital programs that have been essential in preserving and restoring one of our Nation's most treasured natural resources, the Long Island Sound.

My legislation addresses these challenges head-on by authorizing robust funding and strategic initiatives to improve water quality, restore habitats, and enhance the resilience of the

sound's ecosystems. This bill also reauthorizes crucial programs that have already made significant strides in reducing nitrogen pollution, protecting wetlands, and promoting sustainable development along the shoreline.

This legislation is not only about environmental protection but investing in the future of our communities and the people who rely on the sound. By continuing to safeguard the sound, we are supporting the local economies that depend on tourism, fishing, and other maritime industries. We are also ensuring that future generations can enjoy the natural beauty and recreational opportunities that the sound offers.

I thank my colleague from across the aisle and the sound, Congressman JOE COURTNEY of Connecticut, members of the bipartisan Long Island Sound Caucus who have worked tirelessly on this legislation for more than a year, including my good friends Representatives D'ESPOSITO and GARBARINO, and Chairman GRAVES and Chairman WESTERMAN, whose leadership was instrumental in getting this legislation to the floor. Our collective efforts reflect a shared commitment to the health and prosperity of the entire region.

I also thank the various stakeholders, environmental organizations, and community leaders who all pitched in and who have tirelessly advocated for the protection and restoration of the sound, especially my friends at Save the Sound and Citizens Campaign for the Environment.

Mr. Speaker, the Long Island Sound is an irreplaceable natural asset, and we have to protect it. This legislation provides the tools and resources necessary to continue the important work of restoring and preserving this vital ecosystem. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill and reaffirming our commitment to the Long Island Sound.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO).

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, as a son of a mariner and someone who has grown up on Long Island and in its waterways, I am proud to have cosponsored Congressman LALOTA's legislation, H.R. 5441, the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act of 2023.

The bill reauthorizes Federal funding for the EPA to implement the Long Island Sound Conservation and Management Plan, as well as provide stewardship grants to New York State, municipal governments, and community stakeholder groups engaged in conservation activities around the sound.

By passing this critical piece of legislation, we can work to ensure the Long Island Sound program is reauthorized at adequate funding levels and the

sound's watershed and coastal habitats receive the attention they deserve. Not only will the program and grants provided help enhance the aesthetic beauty of the sound, but they will also help provide critical support for water-quality enhancement initiatives, which remain a key policy priority of mine.

The Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act of 2023 represents the latest iteration of Long Island's commitment to preserving our local environment, which is a tradition that stretches back to President Theodore Roosevelt, who spent many years of his life advancing conservation initiatives.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to support conservation efforts that benefit my constituents, New York at large, and this great Nation. I applaud Congressman LALOTA for introducing this legislation, as it is critical to preserving the Long Island that we love and call home. I look forward to helping get this bill across the floor.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, the management of the United States' natural resources requires effective coordination between all levels of government and local stakeholders. The legislation sponsored by Representative LALOTA reauthorizes programs that support the health and well-being of the Long Island Sound.

By reauthorizing these programs, we allow this critical work to continue, conserving an important resource that is vital for the region's economy and the environment.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5441.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

WATER MONITORING AND TRACKING ESSENTIAL RESOURCES (WATER) DATA IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5770) to reauthorize certain

United States Geological Survey water data enhancement programs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5770

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 "Water Monitoring and Tracking Essential Resources (WATER) Data Improvement Act".

SEC. 2. WATER DATA ENHANCEMENT BY UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

Section 9507 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 10367) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking the heading and inserting "FEDERAL PRIORITY STREAMGAGE PROGRAM";

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking "national streamflow information program, as reviewed by the National Research Council in 2004" and inserting "Federal priority streamgaging program";

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking "national streamflow information program" each place it appears and inserting "Federal priority streamgaging program";

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking "2009" and inserting "2023";

and

(II) in clause (ii), by inserting "precipitation" before "water-quality sensors";

and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking "National Streamflow Information Program as reviewed by the National Research Council," and inserting "Federal needs established through regular solicitation of feedback, such as that documented in the report titled 'Re-prioritization of the U.S. Geological Survey Federal Priority streamgaging program, 2022' (Open-file Report 2023-1032).";

(E) in paragraph (5), by striking "national streamgaging network" each place it appears and inserting "Federal priority streamgaging network";

and

(F) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking "national streamflow information program" and inserting "Federal priority streamgaging program";

and

(II) by striking "2023" and inserting "2028";

and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking "2019" and inserting "2028";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting "and Tribes" after "agencies" and

(ii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by inserting "or Tribal lands" after "within a State";

and

(II) by inserting "or Tribe" after "water resource agency";

(B) in paragraph (6), by inserting ", a Tribe" after "a State";

and

(C) in paragraph (7)—

(i) by striking "such sums as are necessary" and inserting "\$4,000,000 per fiscal year";

and

(ii) by striking "2009 through 2023" and inserting "2023 through 2028";

(3) by striking subsection (c);

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

and

(5) in subsection (c)(4) (as so redesignated by this subsection), by striking "2019" and inserting "2028".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5770, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my colleague Mr. NEGUSE's bipartisan bill, which reauthorizes the Federal priority streamgages and the national groundwater resources monitoring programs through fiscal year 2028 at existing funding levels.

The USGS operates and maintains a nationwide streamgaging network, which monitors the amount of water flowing through streams and rivers across the country at any given point in time. Data from this network is used by public and private users, including government agencies responsible for water management and emergency responses, utilities, environmental agencies, and recreational interests. This data informs Americans on whether conditions are safe for fishing, boating, or rafting.

Additionally, the national groundwater resources monitoring program administers a network of water-level wells and water-quality wells. The USGS makes this data publicly available through the National Groundwater Monitoring Network data portal. Given the groundwater is managed by individual States, this data enables States, stakeholders, and individuals to make decisions using the best available science.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Representative NEGUSE's H.R. 5770, the WATER Data Improvement Act.

The WATER Data Improvement Act represents a bipartisan approach to ensuring that water resource managers have the data they need to provide communities and the environment with access to safe, clean water.

The legislation will promote successful drought resiliency strategies, strengthen essential programs, and increase water quality by reauthorizing the U.S. Geological Survey's national groundwater resources monitoring network, its Federal priority streamgage network, and improved water estimation, measurement, and monitoring grant funding through 2028.

The impacts of these programs and grants have been transformative. The national groundwater resources monitoring network brings together Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies' groundwater monitoring efforts while the Federal priority streamgage net-

work measures streamflow information to promote access to crucial groundwater and streamflow data for water resource managers. The legislation would also provide grants to develop, improve, and implement new methodologies and technologies for collecting, analyzing, and delivering water resource data.

With 2024 on track to be the hottest year on record and many communities throughout the West facing a historic drought crisis, it is imperative that we provide water resource managers with the tools that they need to collect and provide accurate data to develop and implement innovative water management and conservation plans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the WATER Data Improve Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, my gratitude to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. LEE), my distinguished colleague, for her leadership on this particular issue, her leadership in the Colorado River Caucus over the course of these last several years as the Upper Basin and Lower Basin States grapple with a historic drought, as was articulated.

I could not say it any better than she did as to the bipartisan approach that she and others are championing here in the United States Congress. I am proud to add this particular piece of legislation to that approach. Of course, my gratitude to Chairman WESTERMAN and Ranking Member GRIJALVA for their consideration of this important bill.

I have the honor and the privilege of representing the great State of Colorado in the United States Congress, and the headwaters of the Colorado River are in my district. In Colorado, we know how important it is to preserve, protect, and strengthen these critical water resources and how important data is to that effort, which is why this bill is so important.

As has been explained by both the chairman and Representative LEE, the Federal priority streamgage network is a federally funded network of streamgages to measure streamflow information for forecasting, flood and drought planning, water-quality monitoring, and more. The national groundwater resources monitoring network is a collaborative network that serves a similar purpose.

At the end of the day, the improved water estimation, measurement, and monitoring technologies programs provide grants to develop and implement new technologies and methodologies to measure water resources data. Each of these programs, I can certainly tell you, Mr. Speaker, is a valuable source

of information for water users across the State of Colorado, across the Upper Basin States, the Lower Basin States, and, indeed, across the Rocky Mountain West.

It is critical these efforts be supported and authorized, which is why I am proud to sponsor this important bipartisan legislation.

It is a simple bill, a noncontroversial bill, one that I hope will earn the support of every Member of this august body, and I certainly look forward, after the House has considered it, to getting it across the finish line with our partners in the Senate, Senator LUMMIS and Senator HICKENLOOPER, of course, from the great State of Colorado.

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

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today reauthorizes programs that provide data and inform real-time decisionmaking and long-term planning. The USGS water data is fundamental to national and local economies, protection of life and property, and effective management of our Nation's water resources.

□ 1630

I know personally in Arkansas if I want to go float on the Nation's first wild and scenic river, the Buffalo National River, the first thing I do is go online and look at the data from the USGS water gauges to determine where the best place is to float. This data is used all across the country in many different ways.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Congressman NEGUSE's work on the legislation, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5770, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5770, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF RESTRICTION ON AMENDMENTS TO OR MODIFICATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF AMERICAN SAMOA

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6062) to restore the ability of the people of American Samoa to approve amendments to the territorial constitution based on majority rule in a democratic act of self-determination, as authorized pursuant to an Act of Congress delegating administration of Federal territorial law in the territory

to the President, and to the Secretary of the Interior under Executive Order 10264, dated June 29, 1951, under which the Constitution of American Samoa was approved and may be amended without requirement for further congressional action, subject to the authority of Congress under the Territorial Clause in article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the United States Constitution.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6062

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

SECTION 1. REMOVAL OF RESTRICTION ON AMENDMENTS TO OR MODIFICATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF AMERICAN SAMOA.

Section 12 of Public Law 98-213 (48 U.S.C. 1662a) is repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 6062, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6062, sponsored by Delegate RADEWAGEN, aims to improve the amendment process for the Constitution of American Samoa. I appreciate Delegate RADEWAGEN's work on this bill and her tireless efforts to represent the needs and views of American Samoa.

H.R. 6062 would repeal section 12 of Public Law 98-213, which requires any amendments or modifications to the Constitution of American Samoa, as approved by the Secretary of the Interior, to be made only by an Act of Congress. This law was enacted in 1983 when there was concern among American Samoans about the Department of the Interior making unilateral amendments to the Constitution of American Samoa. The change in Federal law ensured Congress would step in if the DOI attempted to make such amendments.

These concerns proved to be unfounded, and since 1984, American Samoa has made attempts to return to the previous policy of Department of the Interior Secretarial approval. Many now believe the current congressional approval requirement has stalled American Samoa's constitutional amendment process.

H.R. 6062 would revert American Samoa's constitutional amendment process to the pre-1983 status quo by requir-

ing approval from the Secretary of the Interior for amendments to the Constitution of American Samoa.

I would like to note that Congress will retain authority over American Samoa as provided by the Territorial Clause of the United States Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6062, which is sponsored by our colleague from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN).

This bill would eliminate the requirement for Congress to approve changes to the American Samoan Constitution in addition to the Secretary of the Interior.

When American Samoa drafted and ratified its constitution in the 1960s, only the Secretary of the Interior was empowered to ratify amendments to it. However, in 1983, legislation was enacted to add Congress, in addition to the Secretary of the Interior, to the approval process for making changes to the American Samoan Constitution.

American Samoan leaders at the time objected to this additional step and urged returning to the prior process of needing only the Secretary to approve changes to their constitution.

In particular, American Samoan leaders feared that congressional involvement could threaten their current political status, which incorporates their traditional "matai," "chief" and communal land ownership system.

This legislation removes the duplicative, unnecessary step of requiring congressional approval for American Samoa to amend its own constitution. It is a commonsense bill that promotes democracy and self-determination.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN), who is the sponsor of the bill.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 6062, which repeals the outdated statute requiring amendments to American Samoa's Constitution be ratified by Congress.

I want to thank Chairman WESTERMAN and Subcommittee Chair HAGEMAN for their efforts to move this bill through committee, and I thank Ranking Members GRIJALVA and LEGER FERNANDEZ for making this a bipartisan effort. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to my fellow territorial Delegates, Delegate MOYLAN and Delegate SABLAN, for their cosponsorship and support.

The original piece of legislation that H.R. 6062 repeals was moved through without regular order, and over the past several decades, multiple attempts were made to walk back the bill and allow the necessary hearings and oversight to occur. Today that misstep has been corrected.

H.R. 6062 provides equal treatment among the U.S. territories, as no other territory has a similar restriction on editing their local laws. It is a critical and key piece of legislation for American Samoa, allowing us to enact constitutional changes as approved by our people without the burden of unnecessary bureaucracy in Washington.

This bill is designed to restore the essential structure of our government to what it was intended to be, providing a much-needed adjustment to the previous 1983 law. The 1983 law, as it stands, is inconsistent with the principles of local self-government over local affairs, an area where Congress has rightly delegated local authority to us. The current law imposes restrictions that are outdated and counterproductive, hindering our ability to govern ourselves effectively.

This bill is about more than just procedural changes. It is about reaffirming our commitment to self-governance and democratic values. By removing unnecessary obstacles, we are reinforcing the principle that the people of American Samoa have the right and the ability to govern themselves.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I, too, have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, once again, H.R. 6062 would reinstate the process to approve amendments to the Constitution of American Samoa via approval by the Secretary of the Interior and address concerns of American Samoans.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Delegate RADEWAGEN for her work on this legislation. I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6062.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ACCELERATING APPRAISALS AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5443) to establish a policy regarding appraisal and valuation services for real property for a transaction over which the Secretary of the Interior has jurisdiction, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5443

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 “Accelerating Appraisals and Conservation Efforts Act” or the “AAACE Act”.

SEC. 2. APPRAISAL AND VALUATION SERVICES FOR REAL PROPERTY.

(a) **LICENSE, CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.**—A covered appraiser needs to be licensed or certified in only 1 State to perform appraisal or valuation services for real property in any State for a transaction over which the Secretary has jurisdiction.

(b) **USE OF NON-FEDERAL COVERED APPRAISERS.**—If the Secretary uses a non-Federal covered appraiser to perform appraisal or valuation services for real property for a transaction described in subsection (a), the Secretary—

(1) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, use a non-Federal covered appraiser who is a certified general real property appraiser licensed in a State in which the real property that is the subject of the transaction is located; and

(2) may only use a non-Federal covered appraiser who is a certified general real property appraiser licensed in a State other than one in which the real property that is the subject of the transaction is located if a non-Federal covered appraiser described in paragraph (1) is, as determined by the Secretary—

(A) unavailable to complete an assignment within a reasonable period of time;

(B) not assignment qualified; or

(C) not cost competitive.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter for at least the following 4 years, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that includes the following:

(1) A comparison using quantitative data of—

(A) the number of requests for appraisal and valuation services received by the Department during the reporting period and the number of requests for such services received by the Department in each of the 5 years before the reporting period; and

(B) the amount of time required for the Department to complete a request for appraisal or valuation services before the date of the enactment of this section and after the date of the enactment of this section.

(2) A qualitative assessment of the impact of subsection (a) in providing flexibility to the Secretary when contracting with non-Federal covered appraisers.

(3) Recommendations, if any, for congressional action that could help the Department operate more efficiently or overcome challenges with respect to timely completion of requests for appraisal or valuation services while ensuring the independence, impartiality, and objectivity of such services.

(4) An overview of the workforce of the Department with regard to appraisal and valuation services provided by the Department, including hiring and staffing during the reporting period with respect to employees and contractors of the Department.

(5) A complete list of cases in which the authority granted under section 2 of this Act was used during the reporting period, describing for each case the specific criteria used to satisfy the conditions of this Act.

(d) **STATUTORY CLARIFICATIONS.**—

(1) **APPLICABILITY OF RELEVANT LAWS AND REGULATIONS.**—Except as provided in paragraph (3), nothing in this section shall be interpreted to affect the application of any Federal or State law or regulation to a non-Federal covered appraiser with regard to the performance by such non-Federal covered appraiser of appraisal and valuation services for real property.

(2) **JURISDICTION REQUIREMENT.**—Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to authorize a

non-Federal covered appraiser to perform appraisal and valuation services for real property in a State in which such non-Federal covered appraiser is not licensed or certified to perform such services except to the extent that such services are performed for a transaction over which the Secretary has jurisdiction.

(3) **NONAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN RELEVANT LAWS AND REGULATIONS.**—Any provision of a Federal or State law or regulation enacted before the date of the enactment of this section that requires a covered appraiser to be licensed or certified in a specific State to perform appraisal or valuation services for real property in that State shall not apply to any transaction over which the Secretary has jurisdiction.

(e) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—Not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, the text of all policies (including any successor policies), including reference manuals, guidance documents, handbooks, standard operating procedures, and statements of policy specific to the scoping, contracting, and review of appraisals performed for the Department by Federal or non-Federal covered appraisers, shall be made publicly available online and provided upon request.

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COVERED APPRAISER.**—The term “covered appraiser” means a State-licensed or -certified real property appraiser.

(2) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Department of the Interior.

(3) **REPORTING PERIOD.**—The term “reporting period” means the 1-year period before the date on which a report is submitted under subsection (c).

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and each territory and possession of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5443, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5443, legislation offered by Representatives LEE and JOYCE. This bill would allow appropriately credentialed non-Federal appraisers to perform appraisal and valuation services for the Department of the Interior regardless of whether they are licensed or certified in a particular State.

This has been a longstanding practice for Federal appraisers. However, non-Federal appraisers must be credentialed in the State where they are conducting valuation or appraisal services. This disparity has led, in part, to an appraisal backlog that prevents the Department of the Interior from fulfilling its responsibilities to convey, exchange, or dispose of land in a timely manner.

The Committee on Natural Resources has heard numerous concerns about the length and complexity of Federal land transactions throughout this Congress, including the cumbersome appraisal process. This process affects communities that wish to take over Federal land for economic or conservation purposes, as well as sportsmen and -women who seek to consolidate checkerboard land ownership to allow for greater public access.

This bill will address inefficient bureaucratic bottlenecks without jeopardizing the integrity of the valuation and appraisal process.

Under this legislation, all appraisals must still be conducted in accordance with applicable standards found in the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions and the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

This is good, bipartisan legislation that will remedy inefficiencies and improve land management. I would like to commend Representatives LEE and JOYCE for their efforts on this bill and thank them for engaging the committee early in the legislative process.

Mr. Speaker, I support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chair of the committee for his leadership.

Today, I am pleased that the House is considering the Accelerating Appraisals and Conservation Efforts Act, known as the AAACE Act, my bipartisan, bicameral bill to cut red tape for everyone who relies on the Federal Government to buy, sell, or transfer public land.

It will speed up appraisals and approvals for Nevada housing projects and cut governmental red tape that drives up housing costs. Outdoor enthusiasts will be able to enjoy the public lands they have fought to preserve, and it will allow for better and faster infrastructure to power our communities.

The U.S. Department of the Interior oversees hundreds of millions of acres of public lands nationwide. Its Bureau of Land Management alone stewards roughly 70 percent of the lands in my home State of Nevada.

Before the Department of the Interior is able to buy, sell, lease, trade, or conduct any type of land-related transaction, it must first make sure that these activities are done at fair market value to protect the public trust.

However, while full-time Federal appraisers are able to work quickly and easily across State lines, the private appraisers on whom the Department of the Interior must now rely to satisfy the growing demands on the agency can only work in specific States or territories in which they are individually credentialed.

This is slowing progress across the country on a range of conservation,

economic, housing, and infrastructure goals, all dependent on the Department of the Interior's ability to complete land transactions promptly.

My bipartisan AACE Act would help alleviate and prevent appraisal bottlenecks by building upon a decades-old precedent of limited license reciprocity for appraisers established under the Bush-Quayle administration.

It would enable the Department of the Interior to contract with private appraisers who are appropriately credentialed in one State to perform appraisal valuation services on the Department of the Interior's behalf in any State.

Importantly, it would also require the Department of the Interior to continue to prioritize working with local appraisers, unlocking the enhanced flexibility provided by the bill only when no assignment-qualified or cost-competitive local appraisers are available.

In short, this legislation would maximize DOI's efficiency without spending a single additional dollar of taxpayers' money. It better positions America's principal land management agency to complete land transactions of all kinds more effectively and efficiently, ensuring that the Federal Government can deliver on these critical projects without getting in its own way.

That is why the bill has the support of Republican and Democratic Members of Congress, Senators, and Governors. It is also supported by the DOI and organizations ranging from Conservation Lands Foundation to Trout Unlimited to the Nevada Housing Coalition and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. It benefits everyone, from conservationists to developers, who all find themselves waiting at the back of the same Federal appraisals line.

□ 1645

I thank my colleague and good friend, Representative DAVE JOYCE, for writing this much-needed legislation with me to provide a simple, bipartisan solution to a simple, bipartisan problem.

I thank Senator CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO for championing this common-sense legislation in the Senate. It is essential that we pass the bill in this Congress so we can get it to the President's desk without delay and deliver as soon as possible on the lands projects that Americans need.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to support my legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, in a previous career having been licensed to do appraisals and having studied the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice and been tested on

that, I am glad to say that this legislation doesn't exempt appraisers from having to abide by those standards. It just streamlines the process on Federal land so that appraisals can happen in a more timely manner.

This bipartisan bill will improve the management of hundreds of millions of acres of land and is a commonsense solution to make government more efficient. We need that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5443, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATURNER) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 897; and

H.R. 5441.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

ALABAMA UNDERWATER FOREST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY AND PROTECTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 897) to provide for the establishment of the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 349, nays 19, not voting 64, as follows:

[Roll No. 336]

YEAS—349

Adams	DesJarlais	Kiggans (VA)
Aderholt	Dingell	Kildee
Aguilar	Donalds	Kiley
Alford	Duarte	Kilmer
Allen	Duncan	Kim (CA)
Allred	Edwards	Kim (NJ)
Amo	Ellzey	Krishnamoorthi
Amodei	Emmer	Kustoff
Armstrong	Escobar	LaHood
Arrington	Eshoo	LaLota
Auchincloss	Espallat	Lamborn
Bacon	Estes	Landsman
Baird	Ezell	Langworthy
Balderson	Fallon	Larsen (WA)
Balint	Feenstra	Larson (CT)
Banks	Ferguson	Latta
Barr	Finstad	LaTurner
Barragan	Fischbach	Lawler
Beatty	Fitzgerald	Lee (CA)
Bentz	Fitzpatrick	Lee (FL)
Bera	Fleischmann	Lee (NV)
Bergman	Flood	Lee (PA)
Beyer	Fong	Leger Fernandez
Bice	Foster	Letlow
Bilirakis	Foushee	Levin
Bishop (GA)	Fox	Lieu
Blumenauer	Frankel, Lois	Lofgren
Boebert	Franklin, Scott	Loudermilk
Bonamici	Frost	Lucas
Bost	Fry	Luetkemeyer
Boyle (PA)	Gaetz	Luna
Brown	Garbarino	Lynch
Brownley	Garcia (IL)	Mace
Bucshon	Garcia, Mike	Malliotakis
Budzinski	Garcia, Robert	Maloy
Burchett	Gimenez	Manning
Burgess	Golden (ME)	Matsui
Bush	Goldman (NY)	McBath
Calvert	Gomez	McClain
Caraveo	Gonzales, Tony	McClellan
Carbajal	Gonzalez,	McClintock
Carey	Vicente	McCollum
Carl	Gooden (TX)	McCormick
Carson	Gottheimer	McGarvey
Carter (GA)	Graves (LA)	McGovern
Carter (LA)	Green (TN)	McHenry
Carter (TX)	Grothman	Meeks
Cartwright	Guthrie	Menendez
Casar	Hageman	Meng
Case	Harder (CA)	Meuser
Casten	Harris	Mfume
Castor (FL)	Harshbarger	Miller (IL)
Castro (TX)	Hayes	Miller (OH)
Chavez-DeRemer	Hern	Miller (WV)
Cherfilus-	Higgins (LA)	Miller-Meeks
McCormick	Hill	Mills
Chu	Hinson	Molinaro
Ciscomani	Horsford	Moolenaar
Clark (MA)	Houchin	Moore (UT)
Clarke (NY)	Houlihan	Moran
Cleaver	Hoyle (OR)	Morelle
Cline	Hudson	Moulton
Cohen	Huizenga	Mrvan
Cole	Issa	Mullin
Collins	Ivey	Murphy
Comer	Jackson (IL)	Napolitano
Connolly	Jackson (NC)	Neal
Correa	Jackson (TX)	Neguse
Costa	Jacobs	Nehls
Courtney	James	Newhouse
Craig	Jayapal	Nickel
Crawford	Jeffries	Norcross
Crockett	Johnson (GA)	Nunn (IA)
Crow	Johnson (LA)	Oberholte
Cuellar	Johnson (SD)	Ocasio-Cortez
Curtis	Jordan	Omar
D'Esposito	Joyce (OH)	Pallone
Davidson	Joyce (PA)	Palmer
Davis (NC)	Kamlager-Dove	Panetta
Dean (PA)	Kaptur	Pappas
DeGette	Kean (NJ)	Pascarell
DeLauro	Keating	Pelosi
DelBene	Kelly (IL)	Perez
Deluzio	Kelly (MS)	Peters
DeSaulnier	Kelly (PA)	Petterson
	Kennedy	Pfleger

Pingree	Sherrill	Torres (NY)
Pocan	Simpson	Trahan
Porter	Slotkin	Turner
Quigley	Smith (MO)	Underwood
Ramirez	Smith (NE)	Valadao
Raskin	Smith (WA)	Van Drew
Reschenthaler	Smucker	Van Dyne
Rodgers (WA)	Soto	Van Orden
Rogers (AL)	Spanberger	Vargas
Rose	Spartz	Vasquez
Ross	Stansbury	Veasey
Rouzer	Stanton	Velázquez
Ruiz	Stauber	Wagner
Rulli	Steel	Walberg
Ruppersberger	Stefanik	Waltz
Rutherford	Steil	Wasserman
Ryan	Steube	Schultz
Salinas	Stevens	Watson Coleman
Sánchez	Strickland	Webster (FL)
Scalise	Strong	Wenstrup
Scanlon	Takano	Tenney
Schiff	Thanedar	Williams (GA)
Schneider	Thompson (CA)	Williams (NY)
Scholten	Thompson (MS)	Williams (TX)
Schrier	Thompson (PA)	Wilson (FL)
Schweikert	Tiffany	Wilson (SC)
Scott (VA)	Timmons	Wittman
Scott, Austin	Titus	Womack
Scott, David	Tlaib	Yakym
Sessions	Tonko	Zinke
Sewell	Torres (CA)	
Sherman		

NAYS—19

Biggs	Good (VA)	Perry
Bishop (NC)	Gosar	Posey
Brecheen	Greene (GA)	Rosendale
Burlison	Lesko	Roy
Clyde	Mooney	Self
Crane	Norman	
Fulcher	Ogles	

NOT VOTING—64

Babin	Green, Al (TX)	Owens
Bean (FL)	Griffith	Peltola
Blunt Rochester	Grijalva	Pence
Bowman	Guest	Phillips
Buchanan	Himes	Pressley
Cammack	Hoyer	Rogers (KY)
Cárdenas	Huffman	Salazar
Cloud	Hunt	Sarbanes
Clyburn	Jackson Lee	Schakowsky
Crenshaw	Khanna	Smith (NJ)
Davis (IL)	Kuster	Sorensen
De La Cruz	LaMalfa	Suozzi
Diaz-Balart	Luttrell	Swalwell
Doggett	Magaziner	Sykes
Dunn (FL)	Mann	Tokuda
Evans	Massie	Trone
Fletcher	Mast	Waters
Galleo	McCaull	Weber (TX)
Garamendi	Moore (AL)	Wexton
García (TX)	Moore (WI)	Wild
Granger	Moskowitz	
Graves (MO)	Nadler	

□ 1850

Messrs. MOONEY and FULCHER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. CARBAJAL and GOMEZ changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 336.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2024.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter received from the Honorable Jena M. Griswold, Colorado Secretary of State, containing unofficial results of the Special Election for Representative to Congress for the Fourth Congressional District of Colorado held on June 25, 2024.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

JENA M GRISWOLD,
COLORADO SECRETARY OF STATE,
Wednesday, July 3, 2024.

Re Current unofficial election results for vacancy election in Colo-CD4.

Hon. KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. MCCUMBER: This is to advise you that as of 5:00 p.m. (Mountain time) on July 3, 2024, the unofficial results of the Congressional Vacancy Election held on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, for the U.S. Representative in Congress from the Fourth Congressional District of Colorado, show that Greg Lopez received 98,959 votes, reflecting 58.39% of the total number of votes cast, for that office.

To the best of our knowledge and belief at this time, no contest has been filed for this election.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by all counties in CD-4 district, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Sincerely,

JENA GRISWOLD.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE GREG LOPEZ, OF COLORADO, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Colorado, the Honorable GREG LOPEZ, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

His certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the Representative-elect and the members of the Colorado delegation present themselves in the well.

All Members will rise and the Representative-elect will please raise his right hand.

Mr. LOPEZ appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 118th Congress.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE GREG LOPEZ TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Colorado is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, as the dean of the Colorado congressional delegation, I am so honored to welcome Representative-elect LOPEZ to this Chamber to represent Colorado's Fourth Congressional District for the next 6 months.

Representative-elect LOPEZ is an Air Force veteran, a small business owner, a husband, and a father. Born into a hardworking family in pursuit of the American Dream, Representative LOPEZ is committed to working to improve the lives of his constituents.

He met his wife, Lisa, during his military service, and they married and moved to Colorado, where they raised their two children. At the age of only 27, Representative LOPEZ was elected mayor of Parker, Colorado, which was, at the time, the fastest growing town in Douglas County.

He worked with the town to improve infrastructure, manage growth, and support families and small businesses. Following his mayoral term, he was the director of a nonprofit that provided students from low-income families with scholarships to pursue their educational dreams.

I had the honor of working with Representative LOPEZ when he was the president and CEO of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and later as the Colorado director of the Small Business Administration.

Representative LOPEZ and his wife live in Elbert County, Colorado, where they continue to serve their community and give back to the State they call home.

I look forward to working with the Representative to support the people of Colorado with our delegation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), my friend and the senior member of our delegation.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Denver for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and honor to rise today to welcome Representative GREG LOPEZ to Congress.

I have every faith that Representative LOPEZ will serve the people of Colorado's Fourth District well, as he has a history of serving his country and his community.

Immediately upon graduating from high school, Representative LOPEZ enlisted in the Air Force, serving honorably from 1983 to 1987. In 1992, at the age of 27, Representative LOPEZ successfully ran for mayor of Parker, Colorado, where he managed one of the fastest growing cities in America.

As a matter of fact, in those years, I also represented part of Douglas County, Colorado, where Parker is located. It was the fastest growing county in America for 8 years in a row.

Following his time as mayor, Representative LOPEZ not only owned and operated a small business selling medical supplies, but he also served in the Small Business Administration as the State director for Colorado from 2008 to 2014.

Throughout his career, Representative LOPEZ has been blessed with his lovely wife, Lisa, as well as their two children, Michael and Christina.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome Representative GREG LOPEZ to the United States House of Representatives not only as a friend but now as a colleague.

□ 1900

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LOPEZ).

Mr. LOPEZ. “Mr. Speaker, le agradezco por este distinguido honor de dirigirme a los Miembros del Congreso esta noche.” “Mr. Speaker, thank you for this distinguished honor to address the Members of Congress this evening.”

Four days ago, Americans across our Nation celebrated the Fourth of July, our day of independence from the British Empire. It was on July 4, 1776, that the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. I am proud to carry the Constitution and Declaration of Independence in my pocket.

As I stand in this prestigious Chamber, I am filled with a sense of gratitude: Gratitude for being given an opportunity by my Lord and Savior and the good people of Colorado’s Fourth Congressional District to join you, my brothers and sisters, in the 118th Congress;

Gratitude for my parents, Gregorio Beltran Lopez and Victoria Barron Lopez, who grew up working in the fields, believing in the American Dream. They always spoke of how America always allows everyone to live the American Dream regardless of wealth or educational achievements;

Gratitude for my wife, Lisa, of 36 years and our children, Michael and Christina, for always believing in me and standing by my side. My son was not able to join us here tonight, but my wife and daughter are.

My time with you is short, as I will not be serving in the 119th Congress. However, in that short time, I vow to stay true to the virtues of respect, collaboration, friendship, unity, and most importantly, statesmanship.

My brothers and sisters, these are the virtues the American people thirst to see once again in our national, State, and local representatives.

Together, let us be that beacon that people seek. Together, let us restore hope back into the American Dream for the younger generation. Together, let us put people over politics.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath of office to the gentleman from Colorado, the whole number of the House is 433.

LONG ISLAND SOUND RESTORATION AND STEWARDSHIP REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5441) to reauthorize Long Island Sound programs, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 333, nays 51, not voting 49, as follows:

[Roll No. 337]

YEAS—333

Adams	Cline	Gomez
Aderholt	Clyburn	Gonzales, Tony
Aguilar	Cohen	Gonzalez,
Alford	Cole	Vicente
Allred	Connolly	Gooden (TX)
Amodei	Correa	Gottheimer
Armstrong	Costa	Graves (LA)
Auchincloss	Courtney	Guthrie
Bacon	Craig	Harder (CA)
Baird	Crawford	Harris
Balderson	Crockett	Hayes
Balint	Crow	Higgins (LA)
Barr	Cuellar	Hill
Barragan	Curtis	Hinson
Bean (FL)	D’Esposito	Horsford
Beatty	Daids (KS)	Houchin
Bentz	Davis (NC)	Houlahan
Bera	Dean (PA)	Hoyer
Bergman	DeGette	Hoyle (OR)
Beyer	DeLauro	Hudson
Bice	DelBene	Huffman
Bilirakis	Deluzio	Huizenga
Bishop (GA)	DesJarlais	Ivey
Blumenauer	Dingell	Jackson (IL)
Bonamici	Doggett	Jackson (NC)
Bost	Duarte	Jacobs
Boyle (PA)	Edwards	James
Brown	Ellzey	Jayapal
Brownley	Emmer	Jeffries
Bucshon	Escobar	Johnson (GA)
Budzinski	Eshoo	Johnson (LA)
Burgess	Espallat	Johnson (SD)
Burlison	Estes	Joyce (OH)
Bush	Ezell	Kamlager-Dove
Calvert	Fallon	Kaptur
Caraveo	Feenstra	Kean (NJ)
Carbajal	Ferguson	Keating
Cárdenas	Finstad	Kelly (IL)
Carey	Fischbach	Kelly (MS)
Carl	Fitzgerald	Kelly (PA)
Carson	Fitzpatrick	Kennedy
Carter (GA)	Fleischmann	Khanna
Carter (LA)	Fletcher	Kiggans (VA)
Cartwright	Flood	Kildee
Casar	Fong	Kiley
Case	Foster	Kilmer
Casten	Foushee	Kim (CA)
Castor (FL)	Frankel, Lois	Kim (NJ)
Castro (TX)	Franklin, Scott	Krishnamoorthi
Chavez-DeRemer	Frost	Kuster
Cherfilus-	Fry	LaHood
McCormick	Garbarino	LaLota
Chu	Garcia (IL)	Lamborn
Ciscomani	Garcia, Mike	Landsman
Clark (MA)	Garcia, Robert	Langworthy
Clarke (NY)	Gimenez	Larsen (WA)
Cleaver	Golden (ME)	Larson (CT)
	Goldman (NY)	Latta

LaTurner	Obernolte	Spartz
Lawler	Ocasio-Cortez	Stansbury
Lee (CA)	Omar	Stanton
Lee (FL)	Owens	Stauber
Lee (NV)	Pallone	Steel
Lee (PA)	Palmer	Stefanik
Leger Fernandez	Panetta	Steil
Letlow	Pappas	Stevens
Levin	Pascrell	Strickland
Lieu	Pelosi	Strong
Lofgren	Perez	Suozzi
Lopez	Peters	Sykes
Lucas	Pettersen	Takano
Luetkemeyer	Pfluger	Tenney
Luna	Pingree	Thanedar
Lynch	Pocan	Thompson (CA)
Mace	Porter	Thompson (MS)
Magaziner	Pressley	Thompson (PA)
Malliotakis	Quigley	Timmons
Maloy	Ramirez	Titus
Manning	Raskin	Tlaib
Matsui	Reschenthaler	Tonko
McBath	Rodgers (WA)	Torres (CA)
McCaul	Rogers (AL)	Torres (NY)
McClain	Ross	Trahan
McClellan	Rouzer	Trone
McCollum	Ruiz	Turner
McGarvey	Rulli	Underwood
McGovern	Ruppersberger	Valadao
McHenry	Ryan	Van Drey
Meeks	Salinas	Van Dyne
Menendez	Sánchez	Van Orden
Meng	Scalise	Vargas
Meuser	Scanlon	Vasquez
Mfume	Schakowsky	Veasey
Miller (OH)	Schiff	Velázquez
Miller-Meeks	Schneider	Wagner
Molinaro	Scholten	Walberg
Moolenaar	Schrier	Wasserman
Moore (UT)	Scott (VA)	Schultz
Moran	Scott, Austin	Waters
Morelle	Scott, David	Watson Coleman
Moulton	Sewell	Webster (FL)
Mrvan	Sherman	Wenstrup
Mullin	Sherrill	Westerman
Murphy	Simpson	Wild
Nadler	Slotkin	Williams (GA)
Napolitano	Smith (MO)	Williams (NY)
Neal	Smith (NE)	Williams (TX)
Neguse	Smith (WA)	Wilson (FL)
Newhouse	Smucker	Wilson (SC)
Nickel	Sorensen	Wittman
Norcross	Soto	Womack
Nunn (IA)	Spanberger	Yakym

NAYS—51

Allen	Gaetz	Miller (WV)
Arrington	Good (VA)	Mills
Banks	Gosar	Mooney
Biggs	Green (TN)	Nehls
Bishop (NC)	Greene (GA)	Norman
Boebert	Grothman	Ogles
Brecheen	Hageman	Posey
Burchett	Harshbarger	Rose
Clyde	Hern	Rosendale
Collins	Jordan	Roy
Comer	Joyce (PA)	Rutherford
Crane	Kustoff	Schweikert
Davidson	Lesko	Self
Donalds	Loudermilk	Sessions
Duncan	McClintock	Steube
Foxx	McCormick	Tiffany
Fulcher	Miller (IL)	Waltz

NOT VOTING—49

Babin	Granger	Moore (WI)
Blunt Rochester	Graves (MO)	Moskowitz
Bowman	Green, Al (TX)	Peltola
Buchanan	Griffith	Pence
Cammack	Grijalva	Perry
Carter (TX)	Guest	Phillips
Cloud	Himes	Rogers (KY)
Crenshaw	Hunt	Salazar
Davis (IL)	Issa	Sarbanes
De La Cruz	Jackson (TX)	Smith (NJ)
DeSaulnier	Jackson Lee	Swalwell
Diaz-Balart	LaMalfa	Tokuda
Dunn (FL)	Luttrell	Weber (TX)
Evans	Mann	Webster
Galleo	Massie	Wexton
Garamendi	Mast	Zinke
Garcia (TX)	Moore (AL)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATURNER) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1906

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted: Yea on Roll Call No. 337, the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act (H.R. 5441).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend the vote series today, due to an unexpected absence. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 336 and YEA on Roll Call No. 337.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I missed all votes today due to a doctor's appointment. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 336 and YEA on Roll Call No. 337.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to travel cancellations relating to Hurricane Beryl today, I was unable to vote during today's vote series. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted YEA on H.R. 897, the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act, and YEA on H.R. 5441, the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act of 2023.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I missed two Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 336 and YEA on Roll Call No. 337.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.J. RES. 148

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. KELLY) as cosponsor of H.J. Res. 148.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN ORDEN). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR
OF OFFICER JAMIESON RITTER

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

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues from the Ohio delegation to pay tribute to Cleveland Officer Jamieson Ritter, who made the ultimate sacrifice for our community last week.

Officer Ritter honorably served his country in the National Guard and Army Reserve and served his community for 4 years as a police officer. Facing the terrible risk law enforcement officers deal with every day, officer Ritter lived the motto, "Protect and Serve." For example, he provided he-

roic emergency assistance multiple times this year, including saving the life of a gunshot victim wounded just weeks ago.

For his consistently selfless service, he was named Officer of the Month in May. Officer Ritter exemplified the best of law enforcement, and for that we are profoundly grateful.

May God hold Officer Ritter in the palm of His hand and give strength to his family and loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all in the Chamber to rise for a moment of silence in remembrance of Cleveland Police Officer Jamieson Ritter.

RECOGNIZING CLINTON COUNTY'S
CAMP CADET

(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 Clinton County's Camp Cadet program.

Emergency first responder positions are in-demand jobs, and this camp mimics the disciplined atmosphere at a police academy. Participants are exposed to various detectives, police officers, rescuers, emergency medical technicians, and other emergency first responders. They will engage with the participants and teach them valuable skills such as CPR. The kids learn how to march in step under command and do so to and from the various venues during the week.

The Clinton County District Attorney's Office creates a mock crime scene, which is explained by detectives who also go over investigative techniques. This year, approximately 58 kids between the ages of 11 and 15 are participating in the Camp Cadet program at Commonwealth University—Lock Haven.

There will also be a 1-day program called the Lacy Day Camp, which is free to special needs kids who want to participate.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all the volunteers and departments who made this camp possible. They provide an opportunity to teach our young community members that law enforcement are their friends.

NORTH CAROLINA DROUGHT

(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, the current drought situation has reached a critical point. It is hitting hard, and many farmers have told me they have never seen anything like this in a lifetime.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 16 counties in North Carolina's First Congressional District are currently at a D1 drought level, and three are at a D2.

I have witnessed firsthand the devastating effects of this drought on

crops such as withered cornfields and parched tobacco plants.

Every State from Georgia to Maryland faces similar damaging drought levels. Our farmers have had enough to deal with, and a drought makes everything more challenging.

It also affects local businesses that rely on the agriculture industry, creating a ripple effect across many rural communities.

Today I sent a letter to Secretary Vilsack calling for an immediate disaster designation. I strongly urge the USDA to get Federal assistance out the door.

HONORING DEPUTY WILLIAM
HENRY BUTLER, JR.

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Hillsdale County Sheriff's Deputy William Henry Butler, Jr., who was shot and killed in the line of duty while assisting a fellow officer during a traffic stop.

Deputy Butler served our country in the National Guard for 26 years, including deployments overseas during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He then served our community in the sheriff's office for the past 12 years.

Deputy Butler enjoyed spending time with his family, boating, and fishing. He will be remembered as a model deputy, a protector, a giver, a helper, and a family man.

In a clear display of the impact he left, over 2,500 law enforcement officers and hundreds of community members attended his funeral this past week to remember Deputy Butler and honor his service.

Our hearts are broken for his wife, Sarah, their five children, and two grandchildren. He will be sorely missed but never forgotten.

CELEBRATING THE NATO
ALLIANCE FOR LIBERTY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the historic 2024 North Atlantic Treaty Organization Summit being held here in Washington, D.C.

We recognize 75 years of this indispensable NATO alliance for liberty, founded in the wake of the free world's great victory over tyranny in World War II.

This week, 32 world leaders gather in Washington to demonstrate NATO's unity and strength, facing greater threats to our shared security from the likes of Russia, Iran, China, and North Korea.

The Biden administration, along with bipartisan support in Congress, have strengthened NATO, including the important addition of Finland and Sweden.

NATO, led by the United States and our allies, has stood resolute with our partner in liberty, Ukraine, against Vladimir Putin's tyranny and Russia's unprovoked illegal invasion of Ukraine that could trigger the largest war on the European continent since World War II. That, we must avoid.

Let people free stand with our NATO allies working together in alliance protecting America and the rest of our free world.

RECOGNIZING ELLA SHAFFER

(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 celebrate Ella Shaffer's incredible accomplishments. She recently earned the Congressional Gold Medal, which has been her goal since her first year of high school.

One of the requirements is to complete 400 hours of community service. For Ella's dedication to our community, she received her award here in Washington in a ceremony for all the award winners from across the country.

In addition to her congressional award, Ella has earned the Girl Scout Bronze and Silver Awards and is working on her Gold.

The Bronze Award was earned by collaborating with her troop to build three buddy benches for a local elementary school playground. She earned the Silver Award by creating an observational bee box to help protect local bee populations. Her plan for her Gold Award is to establish a youth triathlon in Savannah.

She was recognized by the Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia during their annual Legacy of Leadership breakfast.

Ella Shaffer is the true definition of a servant leader, and we thank her for all the hard work she has done for the community.

PROTECTIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

(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, our healthcare system and social service programs were not designed with all people in mind.

For decades, people with disabilities have been overlooked and ignored. They have faced barriers to receiving healthcare such as discrimination and inaccessible medical equipment that have led to poorer health outcomes. Negative bias and discrimination against people with disabilities has no place in our healthcare system.

After 50 years of tireless advocacy by the disability community, the Department of Health and Human Services has finally strengthened civil rights protections for people with disabilities.

The Biden administration's new rule brings us closer to fully realizing protections under current law by prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability and getting all Americans healthcare that meets their individual needs. I am proud to celebrate this achievement and the remarkable advocacy of the disability community that made it possible.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL LEE HOPKINS

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

Ms. LETLOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly remarkable Louisianian, Major General Lee Hopkins, for his 40 years of service in the Louisiana National Guard upon his retirement.

Major General Hopkins was commissioned in 1986 through the State Officer Candidate School of the Louisiana Army National Guard. He then enlisted into the 205th Engineer Battalion and concluded his 40-year career as the Assistant Adjutant General for the Louisiana National Guard.

He also shares my passion for education. General Hopkins oversaw the State's highly successful education programs consisting of three Youth Challenge Programs, three STARBASE programs, and one Job Challenge Program to provide targeted education and STEM opportunities. His leadership positively affected the lives of more than 10,000 at-risk youth during this period.

This only scratches the surface of all the incredible ways General Hopkins contributed to our State and country throughout his career. Please join me in thanking him for his service and sacrifice.

SUPPORTING INDIANA'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT POLICE DEPARTMENTS

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep appreciation for the inclusion of community project funding requests in the fiscal year 2025 appropriations measure that will support police departments throughout Indiana's First Congressional District.

I am proud that these funds will directly assist with the purchase of equipment and technology that will enhance the abilities of police officers to protect themselves and our communities.

This positive action would not occur without the thoughtful engagement of the House appropriations leaders and the dedicated law enforcement personnel from eight municipalities in northwest Indiana, including Crown Point, Dyer, East Chicago, Griffith, Hobart, La Porte, Schererville, and Valparaiso.

I look forward to continuing to work with all of my congressional colleagues to finalize these critical requests as soon as possible.

BEAUTIFUL LAKES IN KENTUCKY

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I am very honored to represent more miles of recreational lakes and marinas than any Member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

My wife and I and our family just came back from a great weekend vacation, a weekend getaway at Dale Hollow Lake near my home in Monroe County. Dale Hollow is located in Cumberland and Clinton Counties in my congressional district.

I was thinking about all the great lakes that we have in the First Congressional District of Kentucky: Dale Hollow, Lake Cumberland, Barren River Lake, Green River Lake, Kentucky Lake, and Lake Barkley.

There are no finer places in America, no more beautiful places in America to travel, and I appreciate the economic impact that these lakes have in Kentucky and in my congressional district.

I encourage people to support these lakes, and I thank all the great employees, all the great staff, and all the great people that make our lakes in Kentucky what they are.

THE DEMISE OF THE NUCLEAR FAMILY

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, another week has gone by and another week of the press corps leaving aside writing about the greatest long-term issue facing our country, and that is the breakdown of the family, beginning in the 1960s with the most recent Marxist and feminists like Kate Millett, later on a communist by the name of Angela Davis, and later on, Black Lives Matter.

Our country keeps marching toward the end of the nuclear family, and programs ever since that time are clearly designed with this in mind, such as section 42 housing tax credits giving better housing to people who are not married than people who are, healthcare, earned income tax credit of \$6,000 to \$7,000 a year, TANF cash, and special programs for disabled kids for which only single parents are eligible.

It is time for the press to look at these programs. Frequently, it is costing over \$25,000 for young couples to get married rather than to not keep both parents in the house. I ask the press corps to wake up and make this an issue in this year's presidential campaign.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE
PRESIDENT

Kevin F. McCumber, Acting Clerk of the House, reported that on June 28, 2024, the following bill was presented to the President of the United States for approval:

H.R. 2365. To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national project to prevent and cure Parkinson's, to be known as the National Parkinson's Project, and for other purposes.

Kevin F. McCumber, Acting Clerk of the House, further reported that on July 8, 2024, the following bills were presented to the President of the United States for approval:

H.R. 1240. To transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4581. To amend title V of the Social Security Act to support stillbirth prevention and research, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 118th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

GREG LOPEZ, Fourth District of Colorado.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-4711. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Afidopyropen; Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2024-0223; FRL-12024-01-OCSP] received June 17, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-4712. A letter from the Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Imposition of Special Measure Regarding Al-Huda Bank as a Financial Institution of Primary Money Laundering Concern (RIN: 1506-AB65) received July 2, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-4713. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's funding opportunity announcement — Apprenticeship Building America (ABA), Round 2 [FOA-ETA-24-04] received June 21, 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-4714. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's funding opportunity announcement — Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) National Grants Competition for Program Year (PY) 2024 [FOA-ETA-24-11] received June 21, 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-4715. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Bacillus Velezensis* strain 11604; Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0083; FRL-11889-01-OCSP] received July 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4716. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; State of Utah; Utah State Implementation Plan Revisions [EPA-R08-OAR-2020-0098; FRL-12019-01-R8] received July 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4717. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturing Industry (SOCMI) and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for the SOCMI and Group I & II Polymers and Resins Industry and NESHAP: Gasoline Distribution Technology Reviews and NSPS Review for Bulk Gasoline Terminals; Correction [EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-0371; EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0730; FRL-12066-01-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AU97; 2060-AV71) received July 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4718. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Connecticut; Source Monitoring, Record Keeping and Reporting [EPA-R01-OAR-2023-0377; FRL-11783-02-RI] received July 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law

104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4719. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Massachusetts; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for the Second Implementation Period [EPA-R01-OAR-2023-0185; FRL-11616-02-RI] received July 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4720. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Revisions; California; Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Contingency Measure [EPA-R09-OAR-2023-0524; FRL-11525-02-R9] received July 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4721. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Integrating e-Manifest With Hazardous Waste Exports and Other Manifest-Related Reports, PCB Manifest Amendments, and Technical Corrections [EPA-HQ-OLEM-2021-0609; FRL-7308-02-OLEM] (RIN: 2050-AH12) received July 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4722. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Lime Manufacturing Plants Technology Review [EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0015; FRL-5948.1-01-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AV59) received July 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4723. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Poly(oxy-1,2-ethanediyl), Polymer With 1,2-ethanediol, 2-methyl-1,3-propanediol, hexanedioic acid, 1,4-benzenedicarboxylic acid, 1,3-benzenedicarboxylic acid, 1,1'-methylenebis[4-isocyanatobenzene] and 2-ethyl-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1,3-propanediol in Pesticide Formulations; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0608; FRL-12022-01-OCSP] received June 17, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4724. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's interim final rule — Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review Final rule; Corrections [EPA-HQ-OAR-2021-0317; FRL-11890-01-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AW18) received June 17, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4725. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Clean Air Act Re-classification of the San Antonio, Dallas-Fort Worth, and Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Ozone Nonattainment Areas; TX [EPA-R06-OAR-2023-0536; FRL-11640-02-R6] received June 17, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4726. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Heavy-Duty Vehicles-Phase 3; Correction [EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0985; FRL-8952-03-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AV50) received June 17, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4727. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Grants, Contracts, and Other Agreements: Fraud and Abuse; Information Blocking; Office of Inspector General's Civil Money Penalty Rules (RIN: 0936-AA09) received June 26, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4728. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation; Correction [EPA-HQ-OW-2022-0114; FRL 8543-04-OW] (RIN: 2040-AG18) 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-4729. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles; Correction [EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0829; FRL-8953-05-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AV49) 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-4730. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — 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 [EPA-R03-OAR-2023-0381; EPA-R03-OAR-2023-0380; FRL-9822-02-R3] 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-4731. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Revision to Approved Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets [EPA-R04-OAR-2023-0057; FRL-11847-02-R4] 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-4732. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of California; Coachella Valley; Extreme Attainment Plan for 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standards [EPA-R09-OAR-2023-0448; FRL-11677-02-R9] 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-4733. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Definitions [EPA-R05-OAR-2024-0120; FRL-11915-01-R5] 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-4734. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the

Commission's final rule — Health Breach Notification Rule (RIN: 3084-AB56) received June 20, 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-4735. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Revision to U.S. Munitions List Category XI-High-Energy Storage Capacitors [Public Notice: 12223] (RIN: 1400-AF27) received June 25, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4736. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedule of Fees for Consular Services-Elimination of the "Return Check Processing Fee" [Public Notice: 11649] (RIN: 1400-AF48) received June 25, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4737. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Exchange Visitor Program-General Provisions [Public Notice: 12342] (RIN: 1400-AC36) received June 25, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4738. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Section, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's Major final rule — Gross Proceeds and Basis Reporting by Brokers and Determination of Amount Realized and Basis for Digital Asset Transactions [TD 10000] (RIN: 1545-BP71) received July 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BOST: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 7816. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center for an assessment of notice letters that the Secretary sends to claimants for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-576). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. STEIL: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 6493. A bill to limit the involvement of Federal agencies in voter registration activities, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-577, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, Committees on the Judiciary, Oversight and Accountability, Science, Space, and Technology, and Education and the Workforce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 6493 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following

titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 8937. A bill to establish subaccounts in the Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund to satisfy the obligations of the United States with respect to certain Indian water rights settlements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FULCHER:

H.R. 8938. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude overtime compensation from gross income for purposes of the income tax; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 8939. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to establish technical and procedural standards for artificial or prerecorded voice systems created through generative artificial intelligence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CISCOMANI (for himself, Mr. STANTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.R. 8940. A bill to provide for the settlement of the water rights claims of the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DONALDS (for himself and Mr. VAN ORDEN):

H.R. 8941. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the application of the income tax on cash tips through a deduction allowed to all individual taxpayers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 8942. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to ensure that certain employees, providers, and volunteers associated with the Indian Health Service receive educational training in the history and culture of the Tribes served by such persons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, and Ms. BONAMICI):

H.R. 8943. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program to support arts education at minority-serving institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 8944. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to establish a personal finance education portal on a centralized website of the Department of Education pertaining to Federal financial aid; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 8945. A bill to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Navajo Nation in the Rio San José Stream System in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 8946. A bill to convey the reversionary interest of the United States in certain land in Sacramento, California; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MCBATH:

H.R. 8947. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to direct the Secretary of Labor to award grants to community colleges for high-quality workforce development programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 8948. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to limit the ability to assess a fee for health care services for prisoners, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT (for himself, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. CISCOMANI, and Mr. STANTON):

H.R. 8949. A bill to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Yavapai-Apache Nation in the State of Arizona, to authorize construction of a water project relating to those water rights claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE (for herself, Ms. HAGEMAN, and Mr. VAN ORDEN):

H.R. 8950. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to require penalties for small business concerns falsely claiming goods or services are Made in America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. VASQUEZ (for himself, Ms. STANSBURY, and Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ):

H.R. 8951. A bill to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Zuni Indian Tribe in the Zuni River Stream System in the State of New Mexico, to protect the Zuni Salt Lake, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ZINKE (for himself and Mr. ROSENDALE):

H.R. 8952. A bill to take certain mineral interests into trust for the benefit of the Crow Tribe of Montana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ZINKE:

H.R. 8953. A bill to amend the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 to make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BURCHETT (for himself, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. OGLES, Mr. ROSE, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. KUSTOFF, and Mr. COHEN):

H. Res. 1340. A resolution congratulating the University of Tennessee, Knoxville as the College World Series winner; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

ML-136. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11, memorializing the United States Congress to amend federal law to allow states to provide for the consolidation of federally funded workforce development services with federally funded social safety net programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

ML-137. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 18, urging and requesting the administration of President Biden to end its pause on pending approval of liquefied natural gas exports; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 8937.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, sec. 8, cl. 3

U.S. Const. art. IV, sec. 3, cl. 2, sen. a

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish subaccounts in the Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund to satisfy the obligations of the United States with respect to certain Indian water rights settlements.

By Mr. FULCHER:

H.R. 8938.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 provides Congress with the power to 'lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises' in order to 'provide for the general Welfare of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude overtime compensation from gross income for purposes of income tax.

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 8939.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would amend the Communications Act of 1934 to establish technical and procedural standards for artificial or prerecorded voice systems created through generative artificial intelligence (genAI).

By Mr. CISCOMANI:

H.R. 8940.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights

By Mr. DONALDS:

H.R. 8941.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art 1, Sec 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the application of the income tax on cash tips through a deduction allowed to all individual taxpayers.

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 8942.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Improving tribal cultural training for healthcare providers.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE:

H.R. 8943.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18). Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill seeks to create art education grants specifically for Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) to increase arts education and access.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 8944.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Education

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 8945.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Tribes

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 8946.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

Article IV, Section 3, clause 2

The single subject of this legislation is:

To convey the reversionary interest of the United States in certain land in Sacramento, California.

By Mrs. McBATH:

H.R. 8947.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Interstate Commerce Clause - Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

to direct the Secretary of Labor to award grants to community colleges for high-quality workforce development programs.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 8948.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would eliminate the copay the Federal Bureau of Prisons imposes on individuals in its custody when they visit a health care provider.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 8949.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Yavapai-Apache Nation, to authorize construction of a water project relating to those water rights claims, and for other purposes.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE:

H.R. 8950.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Small Business

By Mr. VASQUEZ:

H.R. 8951.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of the Congress.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Water Rights

By Mr. ZINKE:

H.R. 8952.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

The Crow Nation

By Mr. ZINKE:

H.R. 8953.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

The Crow Nation

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

- H.R. 234: Ms. PETERSEN.
H.R. 251: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 396: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 468: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 491: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 621: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 694: Mr. DELUZIO.
H.R. 856: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 949: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 1015: Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. PALONE, Mr. MILLS, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KUSTOFF, and Ms. ESCOBAR.
H.R. 1045: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, and Mr. CAREY.
H.R. 1118: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 1179: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 1209: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 1321: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 1359: Mrs. PELTOLA.
H.R. 1387: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 1425: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 1478: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. FLETCHER, and Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 1507: Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 1572: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MOYLAN, and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 1610: Ms. ESCOBAR.
H.R. 1692: Mrs. DINGELL and Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 1705: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 1763: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 1764: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 1787: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Ms. SCHOLTEN.
H.R. 1788: Ms. STEVENS.
H.R. 1806: Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 1810: Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 1822: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 1831: Mr. SABLAN, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. BUSH, and Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 2444: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H.R. 2463: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 2480: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 2604: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 2630: Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H.R. 2700: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
H.R. 2713: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 2718: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H.R. 2730: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H.R. 2849: Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 2892: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 2921: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 2961: Mr. NADLER and Ms. BUSH.
H.R. 3018: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 3038: Mr. CASAR.
H.R. 3096: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mrs. RAMIREZ, and Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 3151: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 3159: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 3337: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 3376: Mr. IVEY.
H.R. 3381: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 3413: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 3474: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 3481: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3489: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 3654: Mr. SMUCKER.
H.R. 3758: Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 3982: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3989: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.
H.R. 4034: Mrs. FOUSHEE and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 4189: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 4263: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 4277: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4333: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 4335: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 4340: Ms. OMAR, Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. BROWN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. MCGARVEY, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. CARSON, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. DINGELL, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 4363: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 4378: Mr. BUSHON.
H.R. 4438: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 4456: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 4550: Mrs. MCBATH.
H.R. 4569: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 4583: Ms. JACOBS.
H.R. 4599: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 4663: Mr. MRVAN.
H.R. 4745: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 4758: Mr. PANETTA, Mr. MANN, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 4769: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 4812: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 4831: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 4937: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 4987: Mrs. MCBATH.
H.R. 5003: Ms. CARAVEO and Ms. SCHOLTEN.
H.R. 5008: Mr. RUIZ and Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 5010: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.
H.R. 5036: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 5048: Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 5049: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 5254: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 5399: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 5440: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 5492: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 5601: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 5699: Mr. CORREA.
H.R. 5819: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 5825: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 5909: Mr. VEASEY and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 6044: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 6159: Ms. MCCLELLAN.
H.R. 6195: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 6199: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 6348: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 6394: Mr. COSTA and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 6415: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 6433: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 6468: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 6600: Mr. BAIRD and Mr. DUNN of Florida.
H.R. 6663: Mrs. KIM of California and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 6727: Mr. WENSTRUP and Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 6744: Mrs. STEEL.
H.R. 6860: Mr. KEATING and Mr. LATURNER.
H.R. 6951: Mr. SCHWEIKERT and Mr. OBERNOLTE.
H.R. 6957: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 7012: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 7042: Mr. LOUDERMILK.
H.R. 7087: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 7131: Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 7137: Mr. LANDSMAN and Mr. COLLINS.
H.R. 7149: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 7198: Mrs. FISCHBACH.
H.R. 7212: Ms. PORTER and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 7222: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 7227: Mr. ARMSTRONG and Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 7228: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 7266: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 7346: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 7378: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 7384: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 7438: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. ESTES, and Ms. VAN DUYN.
H.R. 7573: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 7588: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 7609: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 7629: Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 7634: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 7635: Ms. NORTON, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 7770: Mr. TONKO, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mrs. RAMIREZ, and Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 7772: Mr. POSEY, Mr. ROSENDALE, and Mr. BIGGS.
H.R. 7779: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 7906: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 7914: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
H.R. 7954: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 8000: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 8005: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 8018: Mr. CASE, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 8030: Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Ms. JACOBS.
H.R. 8040: Mr. CASAR and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 8061: Ms. GRANGER.
H.R. 8114: Mr. FLOOD.
H.R. 8127: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of TEXAS, Mr. GREEN of TEXAS, Mrs. CARTER of LOUISIANA, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 8141: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 8164: Mr. TRONE and Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 8218: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 8231: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mrs. McCLAIN.
H.R. 8297: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 8298: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Mr. CASAR.
H.R. 8318: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 8331: Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 8333: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 8340: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 8345: Mr. YAKYM.
H.R. 8350: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 8368: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 8371: Mr. YAKYM.
H.R. 8411: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama and Mr. OBERNOLTE.
H.R. 8461: Mr. OGLES.
H.R. 8466: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 8493: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 8543: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 8600: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Ms. SCHOLTEN.
H.R. 8612: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 8622: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. CASAR.
H.R. 8641: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 8656: Mr. MOLINARO and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 8659: Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California.
H.R. 8697: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 8698: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 8702: Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. PORTER, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. TRONE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
H.R. 8706: Mr. GOOD of Virginia and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 8733: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 8734: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 8757: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 8758: Mr. FROST and Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
H.R. 8764: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 8765: Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 8768: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 8776: Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 8777: Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 8784: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 8785: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
H.R. 8800: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 8801: Mr. EZELL.
H.R. 8827: Mr. BOWMAN and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 8830: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 8839: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
H.R. 8842: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
H.R. 8847: Mr. JACKSON of Texas.
H.R. 8857: Mr. BAIRD and Mr. LATURNER.
H.R. 8867: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 8877: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 8887: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 8889: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. OWENS.
 H.R. 8911: Ms. LEE of California.
 H.R. 8914: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska and Mrs. HOUCHIN.
 H.R. 8926: Mr. BARR and Mr. JAMES.
 H.R. 8928: Mr. STAUBER.
 H.R. 8932: Ms. FOXX and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
 H.R. 8936: Mr. McCAUL and Mr. BERA.
 H.J. Res. 117: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
 H.J. Res. 133: Mr. BIGGS, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, and Mr. STEIL.
 H.J. RES. 140: MR. BISHOP OF NORTH CAROLINA, MR. RESCHENTHALER, MR. KELLY OF MISSISSIPPI, MR. PALMER, AND MR. BEAN OF FLORIDA.
 H.J. RES. 141: MR. BISHOP OF NORTH CAROLINA, MR. RESCHENTHALER, MR. KELLY OF MISSISSIPPI, MR. PALMER, AND MR. BEAN OF FLORIDA.
 H.J. RES. 142: MR. BISHOP OF NORTH CAROLINA, MR. RESCHENTHALER, MR. KELLY OF MISSISSIPPI, MR. PALMER, AND MR. BEAN OF FLORIDA.
 H.J. RES. 143: MR. BISHOP OF NORTH CAROLINA, MR. RESCHENTHALER, MR. KELLY OF MISSISSIPPI, MR. PALMER, AND MR. BEAN OF FLORIDA.
 H.J. Res. 148: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Mr. ESTES.

H.J. Res. 159: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
 H.J. Res. 181: Mr. SMUCKER.
 H. Con. Res. 114: Mr. BAIRD.
 H. Res. 108: Ms. SLOTKIN.
 H. Res. 269: Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. CARAVEO.
 H. Res. 439: Mr. EVANS.
 H. Res. 561: Mrs. PELTOLA.
 H. Res. 674: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H. Res. 837: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY and Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
 H. Res. 1037: Mr. KILEY.
 H. Res. 1063: Ms. MCCLELLAN.
 H. Res. 1180: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
 H. Res. 1202: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H. Res. 1290: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H. Res. 1303: Mr. EZELL.
 H. Res. 1323: Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. OGLES, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. KUSTOFF, and Mr. BIGGS.
 H. Res. 1332: Ms. SCANLON, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. STANTON, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. CHU, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H. Res. 1335: Mr. FRY.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.J. Res. 148: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

PT-15. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the County of Maui, State of Hawaii, relative to Resolution No. 24-103, opposing construction of the proposed Air Force Maui Optical and Supercomputing Site Small Telescope Advanced Research Facility atop Haleakala; Transportation and Infrastructure; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Natural Resources, and

PT-16. Also, a petition of State Representative Chantelle Nickson-Clark, relative to expressing strong support for the ongoing efforts to strengthen the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA); Education and the Workforce; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, and



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JULY 8, 2024

No. 112

Senate

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Our Father in Heaven, because of the abundance of Your mercies, we thank You for the gift of another day. We don't pray for tomorrow and its needs, but we do intercede for this day, which now bathes us in its returning light.

Lord, give wisdom and courage to our Senators, as You set Your seal upon their lips. Restrain them from speaking words that needlessly hurt or discourage. As lovers and servants of this land of freedom, make our lawmakers worthy of the past and equal to the present. Mold them to Your purposes. Fashion them with Your powerful hands. Shape them on the anvil of these days of destiny into instruments fit for Your use.

We pray in Your majestic 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Nancy L. Maldonado, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, American democracy stands today at a perilous crossroads. One week ago, the six conservative Justices on the Supreme Court undermined the most

basic premise in our constitutional order, that no one—no one—is above the law.

They incorrectly declared that former President Donald Trump enjoys broad immunity from criminal prosecution for actions he took while in office. They incorrectly declared that all future Presidents are entitled to a breathtaking level of immunity so long as their conduct is ostensibly carried out in their official capacity as President.

They incorrectly declared, in effect, the same thing Richard Nixon told David Frost in 1977. Nixon said:

When the President does it, that means that it is not illegal.

That is what the Court, in effect, was saying.

We were all taught in grade school that there are no kings here in America, but what the conservative Justices have done is effectively placed a crown on Donald Trump's head. In their judgment, the President is now free to behave however he likes, even to behave criminally, and as long as he argues that he was acting as President, he is, in many ways, untouchable.

The conservative majority's decision on immunity is the most un-American proposition, the very antithesis of what the Framers envisioned. Presidential immunity is nowhere to be found in the constitution, and this lawless ruling underscores just how hollow the conservative Justices' commitment to originalism truly is.

We Democrats will not let the Supreme Court's decision stand unaddressed. The Constitution makes plain that Congress has the authority to check the judiciary through appropriate legislation. I will work with my colleagues on legislation classifying Trump's election subversion acts as "unofficial acts" not subject to immunity. We are doing this because we believe that in America, no President should be free to overturn an election

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



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against the will of the people, no matter what the conservative Justices may believe.

As we work on this important matter, we will also keep working on other proposals to reassert Congress's article I authority to rein in the abuse of our Federal judiciary. The American people are tired—just tired—of Justices who think they are beyond accountability.

The Supreme Court's ruling in *Trump v. United States* is just the finishing touch on one of the most destructive Supreme Court terms in modern history. A few days before the ruling on Presidential immunity, the MAGA Court also upended 40 years of precedent by overturning the Chevron doctrine. In doing so, they have potentially turned the Federal Government upside down in a very dangerous way, declaring that judges now know better than Agency experts on matters ranging from student loans to Medicare, to AI, to climate change, to net neutrality, and so much more.

From now on, anytime there is a shred of legislative ambiguity, anytime Congress didn't explicitly anticipate every conceivable scenario for how Agencies should apply complex policy, judges are now free to impose their own views even if they don't know a lick about the policy in question, even though they are the unelected branch of government. It is impossible for the Congress to think of every possible scenario, so either you have subject-matter experts in the administration making a judgment call or unelected judges making a judgment call. That was the whole point of the Chevron doctrine—to give administrative subject-matter experts some deference.

The MAGA Court's annihilation of the Chevron doctrine is their latest and most dangerous attempt to side with powerful special interests against the wishes of the middle class, to come up with new legal theory to suit their ideological needs and overturn decades of well-accepted precedent.

These cases are just the start. In the last few months, the conservative majority on the Supreme Court also has upheld racial gerrymandering in South Carolina—can you imagine?—allowed the criminalization of homelessness, struck down the commonsense ban on bumps stocks, defanged the EPA's ability to regulate against air pollution, and so much more.

It all points to a clear, growing, disturbing trend emerging out of the Supreme Court. It is plain as day—plain as day—that this MAGA majority is hell-bent on siphoning power away from the electorate and from the other branches in order to reshape America in their ultraconservative and extreme vision.

So I will repeat what I said at the top of my remarks. American democracy now stands at a crossroads. The MAGA Court's disastrous rulings are the clearest illustration of why elections have consequences. And this year, the

American people will choose between two vastly different visions for our country.

If Donald Trump returns to the Oval Office, if Republicans retake control of Congress, the disastrous rulings coming out of the Supreme Court will just be the start. The chaos we saw on January 6 will just be the start. If they get the chance, Donald Trump and the MAGA right will plunge our country into an abyss of extremism that the vast majority of Americans oppose and America has really never seen.

Nowhere else is this contrast between Democrats and Republicans as clear as on the issue of reproductive freedom. This week, Senate Democrats intend to pick up where we left off in June by bringing every single Member of this Chamber to task on a woman's fundamental right to choose. It is our goal to take up a very simple resolution, co-sponsored by every female Senator in our caucus and myself, that asks a very, very simple question: Where do Senators stand on freedom of choice? Do we believe that a woman should have a basic right to reproductive care? Do we agree that the rights protected under Roe should be Federal law? Freedom of choice is perhaps the defining issue for Americans this year, and this week, every Senator must show where they stand. Of course, Democrats have already made it abundantly clear where we stand: Yes, we emphatically believe women should be free to make their own healthcare choices.

Democrats also believe in building on the incredible progress of the last 3½ years. Under Democratic leadership, we made great strides in America to lower the cost of living. We made prescription drugs, like insulin, more affordable. We have brought manufacturing jobs back to our shores. We have invested in clean energy economy. On the world stage, we have stood up to defend democracy against autocrats and restored America's good name among the free nations of the world.

Donald Trump and the MAGA right cannot say any of this. Instead, what Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans have made clear is that if they get into power, they will dismantle American democracy as we know it. MAGA radicals are long done with talking and euphemisms. The leader of one of America's most powerful conservative think tanks recently made the hard right's goals very clear:

We are in the process of the second American Revolution, which will remain bloodless if the left allows it to be.

That, Madam President, is the kind of talk that leads to political violence.

To go down the road that MAGA radicals want to take is to take America into the twilight zone—something more akin to the autocratic fervor we saw in Europe in the early 20th century than the America we all know and love.

So the stakes for our country this year are immense. Here in the Senate, Democrats will continue bringing to

the floor the issues that matter to Americans most and will work ferociously to defend them.

While it is tempting to reduce elections nowadays to a form of reality TV, the truth is, the stakes are much higher. It is a battle for two radically different visions of our country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on another matter, the Senate this week will continue its work confirming more of President Biden's outstanding nominees to the Federal judiciary.

The nominees that have passed through this Chamber have in many cases been historic, and today is no exception. The Senate will vote on the nomination of Nancy Maldonado, who will be the very first Hispanic judge on the Seventh Circuit if confirmed.

Under President Biden and Democratic leadership, the Senate has confirmed 35 Hispanic judges to date, and nearly two-thirds of all our nominees have been people of color. When our courts more faithfully reflect our country, it is a good thing for faith in our judiciary, which we greatly need right now.

I am confident that Judge Maldonado will make an excellent judge. I am proud to vote in favor of her confirmation and thank my colleagues who will do the same.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this week, the Senate convenes with important business to address. America's closest allies are in town. The eyes of the world are on the most successful military alliance in human history. Friends and foes are watching to see whether the superpower that forged the NATO alliance and guided its success across seven decades has the will to continue to lead.

This week, with the leaders of dozens of allied nations here in Washington, the Senate could do its part to answer that question. We could show America's most trusted friends and partners

that we are still willing to stand with them.

We could pass the National Defense Authorization Act, which our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee reported overwhelmingly nearly a month ago. We could, but we won't because the Democratic leader has other plans. As important allies visit the Halls of the Senate, the clearest sign of our resolve to lead will instead continue to collect dust.

Rather than taking up the NDAA, the Senate Democrats have decided to spend precious floor time on performative stunt votes and more of President Biden's unfit judicial nominees, beginning with Judge Nancy Maldonado. There is a particular irony in our colleague's decision to put off urgent work like the annual Defense authorization in favor of giving lifetime tenure to a judge with a staggering backlog of her own.

With the eyes of the world on Washington, this week offers the Senate an opportunity to demonstrate the credibility of America's commitments. It is an opportunity we can ill afford to miss.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Now, on another matter, last week, the Supreme Court concluded its term with a number of consequential decisions. Three of these rulings and the reactions they triggered on the left illustrate just how differently Republicans and Democrats view the Court's role.

As I have explained before, Republicans want a government that is accountable to the people, as the Constitution prescribes. Democrats, on the other hand, want government that is insulated from the democratic process.

Here is the Democratic ideal of how to govern: If Congress has not spoken on an issue, let unelected bureaucrats manipulate statutes, fill in the blanks, and make new law. Then, if anyone violates these new bureaucratic-made laws, let the bureaucrats take them to a bureaucratic court—not to a jury or a real judge, but to a kangaroo court of other bureaucrats who answer to still more bureaucrats.

And, finally, if the President—the one actor in the executive branch who answers to the people—dares to interfere in this process in ways that bureaucrats don't like, let him face criminal charges from yet another group of bureaucrats.

It is dystopian. It is something you find in the law books of the old Soviet Union.

And the Supreme Court said they would have none of it. In what might be the most consequential decision in my time here, the Supreme Court held that bureaucrats do not get the benefit of the doubt when they write new laws.

Congress writes laws, and the way the bureaucrats apply those laws is subject to a full judicial review. There is no "get out of legislation free" card, no Chevron deference—period.

The Court also held that, when the Constitution says you have the right to

a jury trial, it means just that. Just because bureaucrats decide to pursue someone for ruinous fines, they don't get to try the case themselves. When bureaucrats go after someone—potentially, for violating rules that Congress never even contemplated—the case has to go to a real, Senate-confirmed judge and a jury of one's peers.

Lastly, the Court clarified something that careful readers of the Constitution have known forever: Bureaucrats can't criminally charge a President for his official actions. The Constitution vests in the President executive powers that cannot be circumscribed—not by Congress and not by inventive prosecutors.

Democrats seem to want to turn Washington into The Hague. Their problem with the Supreme Court isn't that they won't be able to prosecute a President for unofficial criminal activities—because they still can. Their problem is that they won't be able to prosecute official actions that they don't like.

Prominent Democrats seem to look at the successful criminalization of political disagreement in places like Europe and South America and think: They might just be onto something.

It is not hard to imagine what is coming. We have already seen hints in the reports of the inspector general investigating entirely appropriate conduct by Attorney General Barr that Democrats simply disagree with.

But why should Democrats stop there? As the Chief Justice explained, "without immunity . . . prosecutions of ex-Presidents could quickly become routine. The enfeebling of the Presidency and our Government that would result from such a cycle of factional strife is exactly what the Framers intended to avoid."

I certainly agree. The people elect the President. He is responsible to them for his official conduct, not to bureaucrats with law licenses.

So we are not just talking about two sorts of reactions to the Supreme Court's latest rulings. We are talking about two very different visions of America: a Democratic vision in which bureaucrats decide our policy disputes and have the power to punish those elected officials who dare—dare—to disagree, and a constitutional vision in which policy is entrusted broadly to the people through representative democracy.

Suffice it to say that Republicans prefer the latter.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Iowa.

NATO

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, this week officials from all 31 of our

NATO allies are going to be here in Washington for what is referred to as the NATO summit. At that summit, we will be celebrating 75 years of the most successful military alliance in modern history. And why do I call it the most successful military alliance? I mean that after two devastating world wars about 20 years apart—and those wars brought incredible bloodshed and destruction to Europe—now, we have had almost 80 years of relative peace in Europe. No European NATO member has been invaded.

Now, we take it for granted that most of Europe is peaceful, but that was not the case before NATO arrived. Remember that the Soviet Union, after World War II, quickly exerted domination over the countries that it occupied at that time. But the U.S.S.R. wasn't satisfied with that situation.

So many people expected war to break out in Europe at some point during the Cold War, but it did not. Thank God, no war happened.

The Soviet Union helped launch wars in Asia and violent revolutions in Africa and Latin America. The Soviets invaded Afghanistan, but the U.S.S.R. did not dare touch those countries that were under the NATO umbrella. The strongest defense resulted in peace.

NATO was not the result of some idealistic dream. Rather, NATO was a very practical response to the hard lessons learned of two World Wars that the United States tried its best to stay out of those wars as long as it could.

Now, we all remember from history that World War I was supposed to be the "war to end all wars."

Woodrow Wilson, you will remember, proposed the League of Nations in a very naive belief that an international forum could prevent war through diplomacy and international condemnation. Obviously, the League failed.

By contrast, NATO is a working military alliance of Nation States, not some debating society, as the League turned out to be.

After World War II, the United States realized that minding our own business and letting Europe sort out its messes wasn't working. We, eventually, got dragged into World War II anyway, by which time it took an incredible amount of resources and over 400,000 American lives to bring that war to an end.

NATO grew out of the realization that U.S. leadership was essential to preventing World War III. NATO prevented a war by being prepared for war. Strength equaled peace. We know that deterrence works, but deterrence must be credible.

Our defense must be strong enough that would-be aggressors would think twice before attacking. As Ronald Reagan said:

NATO's strategy for peace has always been simple: Prevent aggression before it starts. Be strong enough, be determined enough so that no adversary should think, even for a moment, that war might pay.

At the 2008 NATO summit in Bucharest, Romania, NATO members said

that Ukraine and Georgia could join sometime in the future, but made clear that that membership would not be offered anytime soon.

Now, just 4 months later, Russia invaded and occupied parts of the Republic of Georgia. Now that happens to remind me of when Secretary of State Dean Acheson gave a major speech in 1950 outlining the U.S. defense perimeter in the Pacific. It very clearly did not include the Korean Peninsula. Less than 6 months later, North Korea invaded the south.

So signals you send as a nation or as leaders of a nation make a difference sometimes. And that statement by Acheson led to the Korean war.

So just like Acheson's speech in 1950 did to Korea, the weak statement at the 2008 Bucharest summit made it clear that Georgia and Ukraine were on their own. That was seen as a green light by Putin. The perception of weakness led to war.

How did the United States react to this aggression against the sovereign, pro-American Republic of Georgia? There happened to be some stern words that didn't accomplish much.

Then, 6 months later, the Obama-Biden administration announced the infamous reset to patch up relations with Russia. That reset sent a very dangerous message. The Obama policy was almost the opposite of peace through strength. No wonder that Putin felt emboldened, 6 years later, to invade neutral Ukraine in both the Crimean Peninsula and in Ukraine's east.

President Obama responded by refusing defensive weapons to Ukraine and, at the same time, urging negotiations. Now, you can't have fair negotiations when someone has invaded your home and has a gun at your head.

Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas often cites former Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko's rules for negotiations. This Russian says:

No. 1, demand the maximum. Do not meekly ask but demand that which has never been yours.

No. 2, present ultimatums. Do not hold back on threats, since you will always find people in the West who are willing to negotiate.

No. 3, do not give one inch of ground in negotiations. They themselves will offer you at least part of what you are asking for, but do not take it. Demand more because they will go along with it, and in the end, you will get a third or even half of that of which you had nothing previously.

Those are the rules of a Soviet Foreign Minister.

Now, we should remember all of that when we hear Putin's demands today. The full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, starting in February of 2022, was the result of a failure of deterrence. We could have avoided additional aggression had the West shown more strength.

What about the argument that it was provocative to let countries that Russia used to dominate join NATO?

Well, here are some key facts about NATO that ought to put those arguments to an end:

No. 1, NATO is a defensive alliance.

No. 2, NATO membership is open to sovereign democracies that want to join, but it does not seek expansion for its own sake.

No. 3, it is the right of all sovereign countries to choose their alliances. There is no neighbor veto to joining a defensive alliance.

Now, let's look at the Baltics. You remember that they were, at one time, called Soviet Republics. Actually, the United States never recognized the illegal Soviet occupation of the Baltic States that started in 1940. We maintained, during that next 50 years, uninterrupted diplomatic relations with all three countries throughout the Cold War.

Here is a little-known historical fact. Upon the founding of NATO, the U.S. Secretary of State received a letter from the acting consul general of Estonia welcoming the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty on behalf of his country.

Here is what the Estonian diplomat wrote:

Estonia is still under the illegal occupation and domination of the Soviet Union and is, therefore, prevented from manifesting openly its keen interest in this pact.

But I want to further quote this Ambassador.

I have the honor to offer my best wishes to the signatories of the North Atlantic Pact, and to express my confidence that they, inspired by the ideals of democracy, of individual liberty, and of the rule of law, will strive relentlessly for peace with justice, which excludes peace at any price.

Therefore, I express the belief that countries, which were forcibly deprived of self-government and independence will benefit by this noble endeavor.

That "noble endeavor" is the establishment of NATO.

The Estonian diplomat was right all those 75 years ago. His country, which is now free and a great NATO ally, has, in fact, benefited from the North Atlantic Treaty.

While the Baltic States have been officially NATO members for 20 years now, they would have signed the Washington Treaty in a second had they not been illegally occupied by the Soviet Union. So I consider the three Baltic countries honorary founding members of NATO.

I have explained that the United States learned after two World Wars that it is better to prevent World War III than to get dragged in once that future war could be raging.

But we ought to ask again: Why the NATO alliance?

The United States, with its powerful military and nuclear arsenal, would respond to defend an ally if article 3 were invoked. That has certainly played a big role in deterring the Soviets and now the Russians.

But that could be accomplished simply by giving a one-way security guarantee to Europe. While that might still

serve our national interest in preventing World War III, it would put a burden on all of our shoulders.

So the real benefit of the NATO alliance is that it leverages American leadership to bolster the ability of our European allies to defend themselves. If every country had different defense plans and weapons that used different ammunition, an aggressor would be able to pick them off one by one, even if they tried to join forces.

In theory, the Europeans could do some of this on their own. In fact, some European leaders have suggested that the European Union ought to develop an independent military capacity.

Now, I would say: If they want to do that, more power to them. However, most Europeans accept that American leadership has been indispensable to date. It has been to our benefit that NATO militaries are interoperable with the U.S. military.

The only time article 3 of the NATO treaty has been invoked was after the United States was attacked on 9/11. Many of our NATO allies sent men and equipment to fight and die alongside the U.S. military in Afghanistan.

It is true that there is a minority of countries in NATO that are further from potential threats and do not spend enough on their own national defense or their contribution to NATO. Then there are countries like Poland and Estonia that take national defense seriously and spend more as a percentage of GDP than even we do in the United States.

Keep this in mind: It is the existence of NATO that sets the 2-percent spending expectation, makes common defense plans, and helps to determine what capabilities are needed for a credible defense.

Without NATO, Europe would be weaker, and the chances of the United States getting dragged into another war would be even greater. A strong national defense is an instrument of peace more than an instrument of war.

In fact, we could call our Defense Department the "Department of Peace." That is really what its main function is—being strong to prevent war.

We must make sure our military and our allies' militaries are strong enough to fight a war, precisely so we don't have to go to war.

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

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

NOMINATION OF NANCY L. MALDONADO

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, in a few minutes, the Senate is going to vote on the confirmation of Judge Nancy Maldonado to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, which the Acting President pro tempore and I know very well.

Since the beginning of the Biden administration, the Senate has confirmed 201 highly qualified, independent, even-handed judges to the Federal bench. They represent the best of our legal system—demographically and professionally diverse; they respect the rule of law; they adhere to precedent; and they answer only to the Constitution. We should add another to that list today—Judge Maldonado, an accomplished litigator and distinguished jurist, who will be a great asset to the Seventh Circuit.

She graduated from Harvard College and Columbia Law School. She clerked for U.S. District Judge Ruben Castillo—a retired judge, my friend, and an esteemed jurist in the Northern District.

Following her clerkship, Judge Maldonado spent nearly 20 years at a firm specializing in employment, civil rights, and fraud matters. Throughout her career, she tried several cases to verdict, judgment, or final decision.

In addition, she was appointed by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office to serve as a special assistant, tasked with investigating fraud. From 2019 to 2022, she was appointed by the Illinois attorney general to serve as a consent decree monitor in two matters and as a special assistant AG to investigate consumer fraud. You can draw the conclusion from these appointments that she is trusted by her colleagues to be professional.

In 2022, the Senate confirmed Judge Maldonado on a bipartisan vote—supported by the Acting President pro tempore and myself—to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Since her confirmation, she has presided over almost 1,000 cases—that is in a matter of just 2 years—plus has ruled on thousands of motions and has issued approximately 300 substantive decisions.

Notably, Judge Maldonado has never been reversed by a reviewing court in that period of time—nearly 1,000 cases. Despite what her critics have to say, her record is one of the best. It shows she carefully resolves cases in a way that ensures that litigants feel they have been treated fairly.

Once confirmed, Judge Maldonado will be the first Hispanic judge to ever serve on the Seventh Circuit. History will be made.

Judge Maldonado has my strong support and the support of my other home State Senator and good friend, the Acting President pro tempore, Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH.

Judge Maldonado, incidentally, received a unanimous—unanimous—“well qualified” rating from the American Bar Association based on her integrity, professional competence, and judicial temperament. She has broad support across the legal community, from law enforcement to labor unions representing millions of members.

I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in confirming this highly qualified nominee.

TRIBUTE TO MUHAMMAD YUNUS

Madam President, on a separate, unrelated subject, 14 years ago, the late Senator Mike Enzi, a Republican from the State of Wyoming, joined me in honoring the Congressional Gold Medal to an amazing man, a pioneer in alleviating global poverty. The recipient was Bangladeshi Professor Muhammad Yunus—shown here in this photo—the founder of Grameen Bank.

I have been fortunate to visit Bangladesh several times and many times with Professor Yunus.

What he came up with as an idea of making small loans to the poorest people on Earth literally changed the world. He changed Bangladesh and the families there who were struggling to feed their children to the point where they could buy a sewing machine and finally make a living with a few dollars and with the promise that they would pay it back.

This idea of Grameen Bank—the people's bank—was Professor Yunus's idea. It revolutionized something called microlending, which hadn't been heard of before this time. It provided easy access to small loans to more than 7 million borrowers—95 percent of them were women or groups of women—and changed poverty reduction in the process. Such efforts eventually earned Professor Yunus the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006.

Tragically, despite the achievements of this great professor, despite the recognition which he has had on an international basis, he has been harassed by the Bangladeshi Government almost nonstop. They pursued an inexplicable, petty vendetta against Professor Yunus, levying over 100—over 100—unsubstantiated criminal and civil charges. In fact, he will soon go on trial again—another trial—this time facing possible life in prison on a non-sense charge.

Last year, because of the frustration of his friends around the world over the way he has been treated by the local government in Bangladesh, 170 global leaders, including more than 100 Nobel laureates, wrote to Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urging an end to these judicial proceedings and harassment. I have made similar calls and will do so again here on the floor today.

Quite simply, what is happening to Professor Muhammad Yunus is a travesty that will seriously harm our relationship with Bangladesh. It must stop immediately. Enough.

NATO

Madam President, on a separate topic, this will be a week of great global importance. World leaders from some of our closest and aspiring allies will gather this week in Washington for a momentous anniversary.

Seventy-five years ago, out of the ashes of World War II, 12 nations signed an agreement to establish the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, known as NATO. This historic alliance was bound together by a commitment to

collective defense enshrined under article 5. Quite simply, an attack on one of the allies is an attack on all.

This simple but powerful commitment after World War II to share defense has helped to keep peace in Europe for generations. It has deterred and protected member nations from Soviet threats in the past and now Russian threats in the present.

It has been so successful in its mission that additional members have regularly sought to join the alliance. It now includes 32 nations, the most recent being Sweden and Finland, two formidable allies that bring considerable capacity to the organization. We in the Senate voted 95 to 1, on a bipartisan basis, to ratify their entry.

Many nations previously under Soviet domination have joined, vowing that they will never live under Russian tyranny again.

I know one in particular. My mother's homeland of Lithuania is a country that I have been lucky enough to visit before I was elected to Congress and since. I saw Soviet repression at its worst in 1978 and now see democracy at its best in this current situation.

Under the leadership of my friend and former President, Valdas Adamkus, Lithuania joined NATO, along with its Baltic neighbors, Latvia and Estonia, in 2004. Two years ago, President Adamkus was honored by the Lithuanian Parliament for his contribution to the nation's integration into NATO and the European Union.

Today, Lithuania is one of the alliance's most outspoken voices. I am so proud of Lithuania, a nation small in population and size but large in terms of its impact on the world with the courage they have shown over and over again.

They have vocally supported Ukraine. They have welcomed Belarusian and Russian democratic voices. And they hosted last year's NATO summit, which I was honored to attend.

My mother would be proud of her birth country.

This week, the Senate Baltic Caucus cochairs, Senator GRASSLEY and I, will introduce a resolution recognizing the strong U.S.-Baltic relationship and the important contributions these nations have made to NATO.

In recent years, I have had the honor of joining several of my colleagues, led by Senators SHAHEEN and TILLIS, to attend the annual NATO summit. What struck me at these summit meetings was the sustained resolve and common purpose in defeating Russia in the war against Ukraine. Our NATO allies, many former captives of the Soviet Union, have enduring memories of that experience. They are determined to not allow Russia's imperial actions in Ukraine prevail.

I want to recognize President Joe Biden's clear-eyed leadership in galvanizing and reinvigorating the critical NATO alliance and its support for Ukraine.

Let's put the cards on the table. Under former President Trump, the future of NATO was in doubt, and NATO members did not know if the alliance would continue to exist, let alone rise to any challenge. When President Biden took office, that changed immediately. He made this alliance alive again at a time when it was needed, now more than ever with the situation in Ukraine.

To expand to include Finland and Sweden was a dramatic move forward. Hundreds of miles of Finnish border, for example, with Russia are now part of the NATO alliance on the Finnish side.

I spoke to a man, Niinisto, who was the President of Finland, about the decision of his nation, after so many decades in the Cold War, to finally step out and join NATO against Russia. He said: Senator, it came down to a telephone conversation I had with Vladimir Putin. I called him to tell him that Finland was going to join NATO. Putin said to me: You don't have to worry about us. Don't join NATO. You don't need to.

And President Niinisto said: I told him I could no longer trust him after what he did in Poland and Georgia and other places.

That just shows how important the NATO alliance is—that a country as substantial and with a storied history like Finland would decide to step forward and finally enlist their support for the NATO alliance. It speaks well of the alliance, what it has achieved and what it can in the future. And it speaks well of President Biden's leadership in expanding NATO at a critical moment in history.

Despite Putin's warped paranoia to the contrary, NATO is not a threat to Russia. It will defend every inch of its members' territory from Russia or any other attacker.

Putin's colossal strategic blunder in Ukraine cost the lives of more than 100,000 Russians so far, and it has devastated Russia's standing around the world, leaving Russia no other choice than to beg for weapons from, of all places, North Korea and Iran.

Much to his chagrin, Putin's senseless invasion strengthened and expanded NATO, and recent summits have included historic participation of several countries from the Asia-Pacific region, strengthening the alliance even more.

I believe Ukraine's future rests ultimately within NATO, and, until then, the United States and our allies must continue to support the defense against Russia.

I think Lithuanian President Nausėda argued this well: Europeans understand that Ukraine's fight is their fight, and it is our fight too.

I share that sentiment.

So on this 75th anniversary, let's recommit to this historic alliance that has served the world so well in maintaining stability and freedom. Let us continue to work toward peace.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

HURRICANE BERYL

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, early this morning, Hurricane Beryl made landfall in Texas as a category 1 hurricane.

Texas, and particularly Southeast Texas and the Houston area, and all up and down the gulf coast, are no stranger to hurricanes.

This one struck the Texas coast near Matagorda, with torrential rain and intense storm surge, which is very dangerous, as you know, and sustained winds of 80 miles per hour. Throughout the day, Beryl has taken its sweet time traveling the expanse of our State, bearing down on our communities in the southeast and eastern parts of the State with strong winds, a lot of rain, a lot of flooding, and even tornadoes.

More than 2.7 million Texans have lost power, and that number is expected to rise as the storm continues to move its way across the State. Sadly, at least two people have died so far, mainly due to trees falling on their homes.

I have reached out to the county judges and mayors in some of the hardest hit areas and assured them that we are monitoring the situation, but, more importantly, we are standing by, ready to do anything we can to be of assistance. And, of course, we will be working with Governor Abbott and the State officials when it comes to seeking assistance at the Federal level for disaster relief.

By tomorrow morning, the worst effects of Hurricane Beryl should be behind us, and we will have a better sense of the full extent of the damage caused by the storm. Until then, I urge all of my fellow Texans to follow the guidance of local authorities and do everything possible to stay safe.

There is an expression—"turn around; don't drown"—which cautions people not to drive into standing water in the roadway. That certainly can't be said enough. Things, stuff, is replaceable. People are not.

As always, I am incredibly thankful to the first responders who are putting their own lives on the line to support their communities and the many folks who are working with the utilities trying to get power back on line as well. In many areas, search-and-rescue operations began before the Sun even rose this morning.

So thank you to those who are on the frontlines saving lives as Hurricane Beryl bears down on our State and to the linemen, again, repairing the downed lines as quickly as possible.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Madam President, on another matter, we have officially crossed the halfway mark of 2024. Election day is only about 4 months away, and the Senate still has a mountain of work piled up to complete during that period of time.

The first task on the list is to pass a strong National Defense Authorization

Act. Congress, has, of course, passed the NDAA for the past 63 consecutive years. It is a must-pass piece of legislation. It is time to build on that record, particularly at this time—the most dangerous time, I think, our country and the world have seen since World War II. The threats are everywhere, it seems.

I want to commend Chairman JACK REED and Ranking Member ROGER WICKER and our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee for doing their job in advancing the 64th annual NDAA last month.

This bill was carefully crafted over a period of months and ultimately passed the committee on a bipartisan vote of 22 to 3. That strong bipartisan vote includes provisions offered by Members, of course, on both sides of the aisle.

The NDAA, the Defense authorization bill, is absolutely essential to America's defense, our military readiness, and the safety and well-being of our troops and our military families. At a time when America's position on the world stage is being tested by all of our adversaries around the world, a strong Defense authorization bill could not be more important. It should be signed into law before Congress funds our national defense, which brings me to our next big task, which is appropriations—paying the bills, keeping the lights on.

Before September 30, which is not very far away, Congress needs to pass annual appropriations bills. There are 12 of them, as the Presiding Officer knows. These bills fund every aspect of the Federal Government, from our mighty military to disaster assistance programs. We know that passing these bills is no easy task. It requires a lot of time and consideration by our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee.

But the majority leader's part-time Senate schedule has not given them much room to maneuver. By that, I mean we come into session often on a Tuesday and leave on a Thursday. This week, because of the 2-week break we have just returned from, is maybe an exception.

Here we are on Monday, and we will have one vote—what is known colloquially in the Senate as a bed-check vote—at 5:30, on a nomination, but that is about it.

But when the Senate is not meeting, which seems like most of the time now, we can't meet to consider bills or advance critical legislation. It makes it difficult, if not impossible, to solve the biggest challenges facing our country.

This summer, the Senate's timeline is so truncated that the Appropriations Committee is skipping subcommittee markups entirely. They are moving bills straight to a vote by the full committee because there is simply not enough time, given the remaining time in the fiscal year, which ends September 30, to follow regular order, which is something both the majority leader and the chairman and ranking

member of the Appropriations Committee had said they wanted to do.

Regular order simply means transparency and accountability and letting everybody know what is happening when the Federal Government pays its bills.

Chairman MURRAY and Vice Chair COLLINS have both said repeatedly they want to return to a more transparent, more accountable, more inclusive process of funding the Federal Government, and last summer they proved that this is not just talk. They followed through on that commitment, and the committee passed all 12 appropriations bills for the first time in 5 years. That is an accomplishment, but it should be an embarrassment that the Senate has simply not done its job for the previous 5 years.

I appreciate the time and the effort that the Appropriations Committee has invested in the process. And this is not a partisan matter; this is a bipartisan project and requirement. But I am disappointed that they are now forced to sprint a marathon during the month of July because the majority leader, our colleague from New York, has barely allowed the Senate enough time to do its work.

Unfortunately, the Senate's to-do list does not end there. In addition to the Defense authorization bill and 12 funding bills, we also need to pass a farm bill by September 30. That is when the current bill expires. This legislation is critical to America's food security as well as to the hard-working men and women who grow and produce it.

Our colleague from Arkansas, Ranking Member BOOZMAN, has been a tireless champion for America's farmers and ranchers and producers, and I know he and our colleagues on the ag committee are committed to passing a strong farm bill as soon as possible. The House has already done its job, and now it is up to us in the Senate.

But the majority leader's schedule has made their job difficult, if not impossible, to do before September 30. We don't have much time to complete this mountain of work. Including today, the Senate is only scheduled to be in session for 11 days during the month of July. That is not even a full 3 weeks of work. After that, we are scheduled to take a 5-week recess—a 5-week recess—during the month of August and return for a short period of time in September. Before September, the Senate needs to pass all 12 appropriations bills and a farm bill in order to meet the deadlines. But we are only scheduled to be in session for 12 days in September as well.

Between now and election day, November 5, the Senate is only scheduled to be in session for 23 days. Election day is 120 days away, but we are only scheduled to be in session for 23 days. That should be a source of embarrassment to everyone. The schedule is not conducive to getting our work done. Given the important tasks before us, it is not just lazy; it is downright dangerous.

Funding the government, protecting America's food supply, investing in the safety and security of the American people—these are core to governing. There is no excuse for the majority leader to give us only 23 days to complete all of this incredibly important work. We have a lot to accomplish, and the majority leader, who sets the schedule, needs to let us get our work done.

Forget voting on President Biden's nominees or scheduling partisan show votes, which is what I read that he has scheduled. We need to start doing our job, which is to legislate.

Our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee have done their job. The Appropriations Committee, no doubt, will get their job done. Neither one of these are partisan bills, but we need to get them done and get them done before the deadline.

The Senate needs to especially prioritize America's national security. I urge Senator SCHUMER to file for cloture to start the process of voting on the national defense authorization bill so we can have a full debate on the Senate floor and pass this legislation before the recess begins at the end of July. With everything we need to accomplish in the next few months, we can't afford to waste time on stunt votes or radical judicial nominees. Senator SCHUMER needs to file for cloture on the NDAA and give Members of this Chamber, on a bipartisan basis, the opportunity to do what we were sent here to do, which is to legislate.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I happen to know you are from Mississippi, and so as I speak about flood insurance, I suspect there are people in Mississippi whom you know or, perhaps, are related to who can relate to that which I describe.

I am speaking specifically about the uncertainty felt by those who rely upon flood insurance as we enter hurricane season. Unfortunately and tragically, we actually have a real, live example of this as Hurricane Beryl has hit an area that was devastated by Harvey just a few years ago. And anyone along that gulf coast who is dependent upon flood insurance to rebuild—and their premiums just rose—have now been hit by Beryl, and they can anticipate their premiums rising once more.

A program that is supposed to give security, instead, is creating anxiety. It isn't just the people who flood because some people who don't flood and who have never flooded will see their premiums rise as well. Why? It is be-

cause of the way that this program is being implemented.

Let me say that Louisiana stands with Mississippi; Louisiana stands with Texas; and we stand with all parts of the Nation that will suffer under the way that this program is being implemented.

So let me put up my first floor chart. We have the National Flood Insurance Program—or NFIP, as we call it—as a safety net for homeowners after a storm. It protects them from being financially wiped out by a hurricane or any other act of flooding. But this year is different from past years for two reasons. First, the National Weather Service predicts that 2024 will see above-normal hurricane activity in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Second, there is much more uncertainty about—and this is the key thing—whether NFIP will remain affordable due to FEMA's new risk assessment system called Risk Rating 2.0. For most people, the short answer is no—no that it will remain affordable.

But this is not the issue just for Louisiana. It affects Mississippi. It affects Texas. It affects all coasts and anyplace where there is a river or a stream. Anyplace there is water, there is a risk of flooding.

The National Flood Insurance Program covers 4.7 million policies across the country. And so those 4.7 million Americans rely upon NFIP to insure their homes and businesses, to keep their family safe. And we have seen flooding in States that you typically don't think of when you say “flooding.” Virginia, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, New York, New Jersey, Texas, Pennsylvania, California, Mississippi, and Alabama are all States that have had more than \$1 billion in NFIP claims since 1978. Again, these States, over \$1 billion in claims since 1978.

And those are just the States hardest hit, those in the dark. These lighter colored States have all been affected as well. Now, maybe not a billion, but if you are the family whose home has been washed away, it has affected you in one of the most profound ways.

I will also point out that this is not a rich man's program. If you look in these communities, like in Pennsylvania, oftentimes that is called riverine flooding. And folks who are less well-off tend to have the older homes in the bottom of the valley. When the flooding goes through and rips up their home, they have fewer financial resources by which to rebuild. So the kind of charge that this only protects luxury homes on a beach—totally false. This is for middle-income families, working families, and poor families, allowing them to have the security that they can rebuild after a tragic event.

In the past 3 years, we have seen seven major flooding events across the country, each costing more than \$1 billion. In 2021, Louisiana saw flash flooding affecting thousands of homes. California, the State the Presiding Officer

now represents, has had two major floods—in January 2021 and the winter of 2023. Kentucky and Missouri both saw major flooding in July 2022 and Florida, in April 2023. Vermont, New York, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois were each hit in July 2023. In December 2023, we saw flooding along the east coast States from Florida to Maine. Remember, these are just the floods that caused over \$1 billion in damage.

When we consider, once again, who lives in these areas most affected, we see why we need to keep the NFIP affordable for working families. Sixty-two percent of all NFIP policies are in parishes and counties where the median household income is below the national average of about \$54,000 a year. Once more, these are not billionaires' beach homes.

Hard-working people are uncertain whether they will be able to stay in their homes because of a decision made by a bureaucracy with zero input from Congress. Now we are seeing the consequences of that decision, with an estimated 900,000 people—one-fifth of all policies—dropping coverage because it is unaffordable. When that happens, the pool of policyholders shrinks, and the program enters what is called an actuarial death spiral. That is where the risk is put on fewer people, which raises the premiums even more, which make those who are, relatively speaking, least at risk drop their policies, which concentrates it more—once more, a death spiral, setting up the program for collapse.

Congress needs to do something before it is too late. First, we need to step back and ask how we got into this situation. Why did FEMA implement Risk Rating 2.0? Why inject this much uncertainty into the system? Congress never passed a bill requiring that FEMA implement this.

President Biden could have stopped it with the stroke of a pen. We have done it in the past. In 2019, my office worked with the Trump administration to successfully delay implementation because of concerns over the methodology of how FEMA was calculating rates. This time, even though the concerns remain, the Biden administration would not work with us.

Since the Biden administration is allowing this to happen, Congress must step in. My team has worked on a bipartisan solution that will roll back Risk Rating 2.0 and make flood insurance affordable and accountable again.

Let me say to my colleagues: Let's talk about it. Let's have a conversation. Every single Member of this body has constituents who rely on the National Flood Insurance Program. We owe it to them to find a solution to a system that isn't working for Americans who were promised a safety net in case of a flood. Let's get to work.

TRIBUTE TO MARY MOODY JOHNSON

Madam President, as you know, as Members of Congress, we are fortunate to have highly motivated and produc-

tive younger people working for us. They are essential for our country to meet its goals.

I rise today to honor a member of my team. For 7 years, I have been fortunate to work with one of the best—my health policy director, Mary Moody Johnson.

On Capitol Hill, a lot of our staff come and go pretty quickly, so when you have someone who stays with you 7 years, who is loyal to the things you are loyal to, dedicated, working so hard for so long, you feel a special attachment.

After almost a decade on Capitol Hill—7 of which she spent in my office serving the people of Louisiana, first in my DC office and then on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee—Mary is moving on to a new professional challenge at the end of this week. It is bittersweet.

She has played an incredible role in the success of my office in lowering the costs of healthcare and serving the Americans we represent. Just as an example, if someone says, "My gosh, we made a lot of progress in terms of mental health reform," Mary Moody is one of those who are critical to that. If somebody has a surprise medical bill which they appeal and get reversed, that was Mary Moody—now Mary Moody Johnson—taking 3 years to work with other offices and with stakeholders to come up with a bill which passed both Houses of Congress and was signed into law. It should have been called the Mary Moody Johnson End Surprise Medical Billing, as far as I am concerned. She worked long hours with long spreadsheets, and she got a bill that has saved maybe as many as 1 million surprise medical bills a month.

On a personal note, it is a privilege to be her friend. She came into my office when she was 24. She had a grandmother from Louisiana and convinced me she had deep ties to our State, so I hired her. It turns out she was from Texas. I never let her forget that. I especially like that she married a man from Ponchatoula, LA. I was able to attend their wedding in the Marigny section of New Orleans a year and a half ago.

She is now ready to move on. I get that. At some point, it is not what you do for the rest of your life; it is what you do next. Both because of her marriage and other reasons—her commitment to her church—she is ready to try something else.

I am thankful for all she has done. I am sure our paths will cross again. I am excited to see what happens next. We all wish her the best as she moves on. She will be missed by all, but our loss is someone else's incredible gain.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

REMEMBERING JERRY WEST

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a world-class athlete, NBA executive, proud West Virginian, and my very, very dear friend, Jerry West.

Often referred to as one of the greatest American basketball players of all time, his career led him to success, joining the greats in stadiums across America, far from his hometown in the Mountain State of West Virginia.

Born in Chelyan in 1938, Jerry spent the beginning of his life in a small town in southern West Virginia. He faced many health and family challenges as a young boy, but he spent a lot of time shooting hoops in his backyard.

At East Bank High School, he began educating himself on the ins and outs of the sport he loved. Jerry quickly began to excel in the game as the star of his beloved high school team. His jump shot was always his trademark, and it allowed him to stand out even as a young player.

Jerry attended West Virginia University, where his already well-developed skills and unyielding consistency were notable characteristics of his playing ability. He consistently averaged double digits in points, rebounds, and assists in almost every major game.

One personal story I can tell you: As a 10-year-old boy in 1957, my mother took me—she loved basketball and loved to go to Mountaineer games. She took me to the games as a small boy. She said: Now you watch that little No. 44, that little skinny guy over there. He really can move the ball well. He has very good delivery. I think he might be something.

That was my mother. I remember that to this day.

In the 1960 Summer Olympics, he won a gold medal as cocaptain of the U.S. men's basketball team.

Following his second overall selection in the NBA draft of the same year by the Minneapolis Lakers, Jerry continued to be a powerhouse on the court as the team moved to Los Angeles. Mr. Clutch, as he was known, sank a staggering number of winning baskets from both the field and free throw line. With his signature jump shot extending 16 inches above the rim, his defense, as well as offense, was solid, but often it was his work ethic that was the envy of his teammates.

One of the reasons Jerry was so successful was he was never one to back down from a challenge. Like all of us, he experienced setbacks in life which weren't always met with victory. Those are the types of situations where a person's true character will show through. He always believed that hard work, dedication, and perseverance will get you where you need to be, win or lose.

With Jerry's leadership on the court, the Lakers continued to rise through the ranks in the subsequent seasons. He racked up a staggering number of notable accomplishments.

During his 14 years with the Los Angeles Lakers, he was voted 12 times to the All-NBA first and second teams, elected to the NBA All-Star team 14 times, and continues to hold the NBA record for highest average points in a

playoff series. At the time of his retirement as a player in 1974, he had scored more points than any other Los Angeles Laker in franchise history.

Jerry capped his momentous career with two enshrinements in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame as a player. He is scheduled to be added a third time this fall as a contributor for his work as an executive and consultant.

His innate talent shined through both on and off the court. He continued with the Lakers, coaching for a short time, leading them to three playoffs and a conference final. Shortly after his longstanding presence with the Lakers, he continued as an executive with them. Many looked to him for direction on how the game of basketball should evolve.

The franchise continued to bypass others, which quite literally defined the sport throughout the seventies, eighties, and nineties. He set the team up to sign and retain some of the most celebrated names in basketball history, helping him to earn his notoriety with the NBA community that still continues to this day.

With the skill to take whatever team he was with to new heights, Jerry worked with the Grizzlies, the Warriors, and the Clippers to improve their stagnant franchises. The teams would not be what they are today without his guidance.

When you think of basketball, you think of Jerry West. One of the sport's most notable icons, it is only fitting that his legacy has been forever commemorated in the NBA logo. From his skills on the court to his unrivaled knowledge of the game from all perspectives, he continues to have a lasting impact on the sports world.

His thoughts were models for how to manage success, failure, and change—those all happen in life—how to take the lessons you have learned, adapt them, and go on to improve the world around you, which is what Jerry did every day.

I am honored to have been present at the Oval Office of the White House when Jerry was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2019. I can only begin to imagine how many leaders Jerry forged throughout his time and how many of his former teammates and colleagues still look up to him to this day.

In that spirit, I am forever grateful to Jerry for his commitment to the sports community as well as our shared passion for representing the people of the State we both love so much, West Virginia. With God-given talent and unmatched character, Jerry's life has benefited the people of our home State in a profound way. The legacy he leaves behind is undoubtedly an integral part of our heritage. He was a very dear friend to me and a proud ambassador of the Mountain State.

From the coalfields of West Virginia to basketball's biggest stages, Jerry always demonstrated his mastery of the sport with grace and humility.

It is my hope that his family and friends can find peace, strength, and comfort in one another during the loss of this wonderful person.

Gayle and I offer our deepest condolences to his wife Karen; his sons, David, Michael, Mark, Ryan, and Jonnie; and all of his family and friends and all of the loved ones who loved him so dearly. We will forever keep Jerry and his remarkable legacy in our thoughts and prayers for the rest of our lives.

God bless you, Jerry.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I ask that the scheduled vote commence immediately.

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

VOTE ON MALDONADO NOMINATION

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

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

Ms. BUTLER. 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 203 Ex.]

YEAS—47

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Butler	King	Smith
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cardin	Lujan	Tester
Carper	Markey	Van Hollen
Casey	Merkley	Warner
Coons	Murphy	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murray	Warren
Duckworth	Ossoff	Welch
Durbin	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

NAYS—43

Barrasso	Cassidy	Ernst
Blackburn	Collins	Fischer
Boozman	Cornyn	Graham
Braun	Cotton	Grassley
Britt	Cramer	Hagerty
Budd	Crapo	Hawley
Capito	Daines	Hyde-Smith

Johnson	Moran	Thune
Kennedy	Murkowski	Tillis
Lankford	Ricketts	Tuberville
Lee	Rounds	Vance
Lummis	Schmitt	Wicker
Manchin	Scott (SC)	Young
Marshall	Sinema	
McConnell	Sullivan	

NOT VOTING—10

Cruz	Mullin	Rubio
Fetterman	Paul	Scott (FL)
Hoeben	Risch	
Menendez	Romney	

The nomination was confirmed. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HENRICH). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 623.

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 Anne Marie Wagner, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2029. (Reappointment).

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. 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. 623, Anne Marie Wagner, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2029. (Reappointment)

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Tammy Duckworth, John W. Hickenlooper, Christopher Murphy, Angus S. King, Jr., Tina Smith, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Thomas R. Carper, Laphonza R. Butler, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Chris Coons, Tim Kaine.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM FOR WOMEN ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 420, S. 4554.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 420, S. 4554, a bill to express support for protecting access to reproductive health care after the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision on June 24, 2022.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 420, S. 4554, a bill to express support for protecting access to reproductive health care after the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision on June 24, 2022.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Margaret Wood Hassan, Christopher Murphy, Chris Van Hollen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mazie Hirono, Thomas R. Carper, Tina Smith, Sheldon Whitehouse, Gary C. Peters, Tammy Duckworth, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Catherine Cortez Masto, Richard Blumenthal.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 621.

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 Colleen Duffy Kiko, of North Dakota, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 29, 2027. (Reappointment).

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. 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. 621, Colleen Duffy Kiko, of North Dakota, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 29, 2027. (Reappointment)

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Tammy Duckworth, John W. Hickenlooper, Christopher Murphy, Angus S. King, Jr., Tina Smith, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Thomas R. Carper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Chris Coons, Tim Kaine.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

UKRAINE

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the attached article entitled "Lessons from Ukraine" by Alan W. Dowd in the *American Legion Magazine* be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LESSONS FROM UKRAINE

(By Alan W. Dowd)

Russia's war on Ukraine serves as a preview of what a 21st-century great-power war might look like. The glimmer of hopeful news amid the grim cruelties of Putin's war is that we have a chance to prevent the next great-power war—but only if we learn lessons from this one.

Modern warfare between industrially developed countries devours personnel and resources. The Russian military has lost approximately 120,000 killed in action in two years of war. By way of comparison, the USSR lost 15,000 in Afghanistan in a decade. Russia has lost 2,742 tanks, 5,031 armored vehicles/APCs/IFVs, 135 helicopters, 103 fixed-wing aircraft, 20 surface ships and one submarine.

Ukraine's losses are more appalling: some 70,000 troops and 100,000 civilians killed. Ukraine has lost 742 tanks, 1,603 armored vehicles/APCs/IFVs, 80 fixed-wing aircraft and 28 warships. Europe hasn't seen this kind of war in 80 years. The United States hasn't endured such a war since Korea. To be sure, America engaged in costly operations during the postwar era. Afghanistan, Iraq and other fronts of the war on terrorism claimed more than 7,000 American lives—over a span of 20 years. Vietnam claimed more than 58,000 Americans—again, over a span of 20 years. Korea claimed 37,900 Americans in just 37 months.

Yet none of those conflicts and none of America's battlefield foes since World War II—not Kim Il-Sung or Ho Chi Minh, not Saddam Hussein or Slobodan Milosevic, not Taliban terrorists or Hezbollah's henchmen, not Osama bin Laden or Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi—represented the military-technological-industrial threat of a peer-adversary.

Put another way, the war in Ukraine offers a glimpse of what a PRC assault on Taiwan, Russian attack on NATO or Korean War II would unleash. Such a conflict would produce massive front line combat losses. But it wouldn't be neatly quarantined "over there." It would scar the U.S. homeland through cyber, missile, drone, nuclear, biological and/or satellite attacks. Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall describes it as the "kind of war we have no modern experience with"—which is why America must return to the time-tested principle of deterrence.

Deterring war is far less costly than waging war. "Freedom must be armed better than tyranny," President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine observes. When it's not, the result is Ukraine 2022, Korea 1950, Pearl Harbor 1941. With Russia on the march, China on the rise, North Korea setting the free world on edge, and Iran and its Hamas-Hezbollah-Houthi proxies setting the Middle East on fire, larger investments in defense are desperately needed. The good news is that 27 NATO members have increased defense spending. Poland is devoting 4% of GDP to the common defense. Germany is nearly doubling defense spending. Japan will soon boast the world's third-largest defense budget. South Korea's defense budget has jumped 37% in recent years, Australia's 47%.

The bad news is that, even as threats metastasize, U.S. defense spending hovers in the 3%-of GDP range. As a result, the Army is trying to deter war in Europe with one third the soldiers it deployed during the Cold War. Navy leaders say they need 500 ships; they have 296. Only 14% of the Air Force bomber fleet could survive peer-adversary air defenses.

These numbers call to mind Winston Churchill's warning that "we cannot afford . . . to work on narrow margins, offering temptations to a trial of strength." Churchill understood the benefits of deterrence and the dangers of shortchanging defense. So should Americans. In the eight years before entering World War I, the United States devoted an average of 0.7% of GDP to defense. Waging war swallowed up an average of 16.1% of GDP—and 116,516 Americans. In the decade before entering World War II, America devoted an average of 1.1% of GDP to defense. Waging war devoured an average of 27% of GDP—and 405,399 Americans. During the Cold War, America invested an average of 7% of GDP on defense. That didn't end all wars, but it did deter Moscow from starting World War III.

Political leadership matters. As the Russian army rumbled toward Kiev, Zelensky was offered a chance to evacuate. His defiant response—"I need ammunition, not a ride"—galvanized Ukraine and rallied the free world. It's no exaggeration to say that Ukraine remains free because Zelensky remained in Ukraine. He serves as a reminder of a truth too many in our postmodern age never learn: Individuals make a difference, especially in a time of war—from Judah Maccabee and Abraham Lincoln to Churchill and Zelensky.

America is highly effective at helping those willing to help themselves. U.S. anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons helped Ukraine thwart Russia's initial assault. U.S. anti-missile systems helped Kiev weather Putin's rocket attacks. U.S. artillery and intelligence helped Ukraine liberate occupied territory. This effort is very much in America's wheelhouse. From Britain (World War II) to Israel (1973 and today) to the mujahideen (1980s) to the Balkans (1990s) to Iraqi Kurdistan (2010s) to Ukraine, America excels at assisting people willing to fight for their freedom and territory. That phrase "willing to fight" is key. The difference between Ukraine's political leadership in 2022

and Afghanistan's in 2021 is captured in the images of Kabul and Kiev today. In Ukraine, Israel, Taiwan and South Korea, America must continue helping those willing to defend their freedom and territory. U.S. leaders have espoused this idea for generations: "Support for freedom-fighters is self-defense" and "tied to our own security," President Ronald Reagan explained.

"It must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures," President Harry Truman declared.

"A free man contending for liberty on his own ground is superior to any slavish mercenary on earth," President George Washington observed.

Resiliency is essential. Russia has targeted Ukraine's government, cities, food supply, transportation system, electric grid, internet and communications. Thanks in part to foreign assistance and in part to a national ethos of resiliency, Ukraine has withstood the onslaught.

During the Cold War, America grafted resiliency into national-security strategy. The highway system would serve a dual purpose in a time of war. Civil-defense programs were at the ready. Continuity-of-government protocols were rehearsed. Mountain hideaways, ships and planes were on call to serve as command-and-control nodes. Signaling to Moscow that the United States was prepared to soldier on—even amid nuclear attack—reinforced U.S. deterrent strategy. Twenty first-century equivalents to that sort of resiliency—mechanical-analog backups for digital systems, critical infrastructure hardened against EMP attack, vaccines and therapeutics prepositioned for emergency distribution, updated continuity-of-government procedures, systems to identify and counter deepfakes, backup power generation and water purification—are lacking.

One step in the right direction is the Space Force's Victus Nox Initiative, which allows the Pentagon to rapidly reconstitute the U.S. satellite fleet. Another is the Pentagon's investment in dispersed regional microchip-manufacturing hubs. Other government agencies—along with industry—should follow these examples and devote resources to resiliency.

Unmanned systems are integral to modern warfare. Ukraine purchased or produced 200,000 drones in 2023—some as big as planes, some as small as lunchboxes, some made of plastic or cardboard.

Ukraine's military includes the Achilles Company, which deploys drone swarms to overwhelm Russian targets. In addition, there's Aerorozvidka, an organization that builds killer drones. Ukraine has deployed drones as loitering airborne artillery, in long-range attacks on Moscow and longer-range attacks against Russian targets in Sudan, and in numerous seaborne operations. Indeed, Ukraine has made history with torpedo-like unmanned underwater vehicles (UUV) and uncrewed sea vehicles (USV). With a 600-mile range, Ukraine's UUVs bring most of the Black Sea within reach.

Ukraine's unmanned air force and remote-control missiles are changing the arithmetic of war. At \$250,000, Ukraine's USVs are a tiny fraction of the cost of the warships, cargo ships and bridges they have destroyed. By modifying off-the-shelf airborne drones into mortar-dropping systems—at an estimated cost of \$2,000 per unit—Ukraine's military has eliminated scores of multi-million-dollar Russian tanks and taken hundreds of Russian troops off the battlefield. According to Aerorozvidka, every dollar spent on one of its R18 octocopter drones delivers \$670 in Russian losses.

America's military is taking notes. The Pentagon has an office devoted to countering

uncrewed systems. The Pentagon is testing microdrones that can independently attack targets, swarm targets and lie in wait for targets. The Pentagon's new Replicator initiative will field "attribution autonomous systems at scale of multiple thousands," military officials report. The Navy just received its first Orca uncrewed mine-laying submarine.

Creativity is crucial. "History books will show," says Adm. Rob Bauer, Norway's defense chief, "Ukraine has transformed modern warfare." Ukraine's creative warriors have re-engineered Soviet-designed rockets into high-precision anti-ship missiles (which sank Russia's Black Sea flagship). They've utilized 3-D printing to produce RPG-like bombs light enough to air-drop from off-the-shelf drones but lethal enough to cripple tanks. They've reconfigured Western missiles to fire from Soviet-era warplanes, turned jet skis into kamikaze-drones, strapped rockets onto unmanned speedboats, retrofitted Russian anti-aircraft missiles into ground-attack rockets and masterfully leveraged digital technologies.

Ukraine's wireless warriors have hacked into Russian government agencies and television stations, weaponized video of Russian war crimes, shaped how the world views the war, crowdsourced weapons procurement, and used text-messaging and psyops to encourage Russian surrenders/desertions (bloodlessly sweeping 17,000 Russians from the battlefield). Ukraine's tech-savvy troops even developed a smartphone application that enables soldiers to order an artillery strike like a civilian would order an Uber.

America must be equally creative—but also capable of combining the stamina of a superpower with the agility of a startup: nimble industry-military collaborations to reshape the battlespace, Army artillery and Marine rockets affixed to Navy ships, manned-unmanned teaming in the skies and on the seas, cargo planes refashioned into airborne arsenal-ships, F-35Bs crammed onto amphibious, U.S. fighter-jets flying off allied carriers, hot-pit bomber deployments and lily pad bases, left-of-launch cyberstrikes against missile threats and allied islands sprinkled with antiship missiles, reminding Beijing two can play the anti-access/area-denial game.

Nuclear weapons cast a long shadow across today's battlefield. Putin's nuclear saberrattling has understandably given the West pause. Recall that Putin promulgated a doctrine declaring nuclear weapons can be used to—somehow—de-escalate conflict, and recently deployed nuclear weapons into Belarus.

Recall that Ukraine surrendered its nuclear arsenal in exchange for Russia's 1994 commitment to "refrain from the threat or use of force" and respect Ukraine's "sovereignty and . . . existing borders." The free world's failure to back up those words after Putin's 2014 lunge into eastern Ukraine not only set the stage for 2022; it crippled the cause of nonproliferation. Ukraine serves as an object lesson of the deterrent power of nuclear weapons—and the danger of not having them. Allies like South Korea and adversaries like Iran are pondering that lesson.

Putin's war reminds us state-to-state proliferation isn't our only nuclear nightmare. During its mutiny, Wagner's army of warlords came within a whisker of seizing a facility where Russia stores nuclear weapons.

NATO is the solution, not the problem. Putin and his apologists say Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022 because Ukraine wanted to join NATO, but they have it precisely backwards: Ukraine wanted to join NATO because Putin had invaded Ukraine in 2014. Blaming NATO for this war is akin to blaming me for offering my neighbor a garden hose to extin-

guish fires—rather than the serial-arsonist for starting fires.

Sovereign nations seek NATO membership because they distrust Moscow and recognize that NATO is the only source of security in Europe. That distrust has been validated repeatedly—from the Baltics and Poland during World War II, to Hungary and Czechoslovakia during the Cold War, to Georgia and Ukraine today. NATO grows not by conquest but by consent, not by the force of arms of its members but by the desire for security of its aspirants.

Russia's rampage through Ukraine reminds us that helping free nations harden their territory against invasion—as NATO has done since 1949—is wiser than scrambling to help them claw it back. As Reagan declared at Normandy, "It is better to be here ready to protect the peace, than to take blind shelter across the sea, rushing to respond only after freedom is lost."

Missile defense is essential. With Moscow launching 7,400 missiles and 3,700 kamikazedrones, Kiev has used Soviet-era S-300s, domestically produced electronic-warfare jammers, and Western-supplied Patriot, IRIS-T, NASAMS, Hawk and Stinger systems (the Pentagon calls Ukraine's patchwork air defense "FrankenSAM") to intercept thousands of inbound threats, including 78% of the kamikaze-drones. The lesson: A layered missile-defense system is not only feasible but essential.

U.S. intelligence still works. Rebounding from its 9/11-era woes, the intelligence community used a mix of signals intercepts, satellite imagery and assets inside Russia to forewarn policymakers about Putin's plans. The Biden administration released that intelligence to alert Ukraine, brace Europe and prevent Russian false-flag operations. This preemptive use of intelligence enabled allies to rush defensive systems into Ukraine, giving it a chance to thwart Russia's kill-shot thrust at Kiev.

In the months since, U.S. intelligence has helped Ukraine eliminate Russian generals, strike munitions depots, degrade Russian forces in occupied Crimea and develop counteroffensives. Plus, U.S. Cyber Command—whose commander serves as director of the NSA, a key piece of the intelligence community—"bolstered the resilience of Ukraine" by conducting "offensive, defensive, information operations, Gen. Paul Nakasone cryptically reports.

There's a democratic community committed to defending the free world. At \$46.6 billion in military assistance—and another \$30.3 billion in humanitarian financial assistance—the United States has sent more aid than any single country. But America isn't alone. Fifty nations are sending aid to Ukraine. The European Union (EU) has sent more total aid and (with Britain) more military aid than the United States. EU nations planned to deliver a million rounds of 155mm ammunition between last spring and this spring. South Korea is sending artillery rounds to Ukraine, howitzers to Estonia, tanks to Poland. Australia has sent anti-armor weapons and drones to Ukraine. Israel is sharing missile-warning systems with Ukraine and missile-defense systems with Germany. Japan recently approved reforms that will allow it to ship arms to freeworld allies and partners.

There's an axis of autocrats committed to rolling back the free world. Russia is trying to erase Ukraine, occupies parts of Georgia and Moldova, and props up tyrants in Belarus, Syria, Nicaragua, Cuba, Venezuela and Africa. It spews military threats against NATO's democracies, is arming Hezbollah, and has attacked U.S. and British aircraft in international airspace.

China has absorbed Hong Kong, threatens to seize Taiwan, is building militarized islands in the South China Sea, boasts the

world's largest navy, is tripling its nuclear arsenal and is conducting a cyber siege of the free world.

Nuclear-armed North Korea is sending ammunition to Moscow and constantly threatens to attack America, South Korea and Japan.

Iran supplies Moscow with kamikaze-drones, has unleashed Hamas and the Houthis, bankrolls Hezbollah, harbors al-Qaida's leader and is building a nuclear bomb.

The impact of war is never limited to the war zone. Putin's war has spawned energy-price spikes, refugee flows and food scarcity around the world. But it exposed his weakness, triggering a 40% devaluing of the ruble, military mutinies, fratricides, mass desertions, mass emigration and anti-regime guerrilla movements. He may not lose his grip on the Kremlin or Crimea, but by his own measure of the war's objectives he has lost.

Putin's war has cemented Moscow's position as Beijing's junior partner, galvanized Ukraine as an independent nation and reinvigorated NATO.

A planned three-day blitzkrieg that devolved into a disaster has given Xi pause as he gazes across the Taiwan Strait. Ukraine's tactics and tenacity have given Taiwan a roadmap for deterring and, if necessary, repelling an invasion.

Indeed, Putin's war reminds us that the world is connected. Just as the defense of West Berlin and South Korea were linked during the Cold War, the defense of Ukraine and Taiwan and Israel, the Baltics and the Philippines, the Red Sea and Black Sea and South China Sea are linked today.

TRIBUTE TO DON FLANNERY

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. President, in a 2012 interview with a national agriculture magazine, Don Flannery, executive director of the Maine Potato Board, was asked what he would like to be the legacy of his long and productive career. His answer was this: "that I was able to make a difference in the Maine potato industry and was able to lead the industry in a positive direction."

Today, as Don retires after 27 years with the board, I am delighted to join his many friends and colleagues in offering my fellow Aroostook County native our thanks for a job well done and our congratulations for a legacy well secured.

Don truly learned the potato industry from the ground up, beginning as a grower with a 250-acre farm. With a degree in agricultural resource economics from the University of Maine, he worked in rural economic development at the local and regional level for 13 years. Armed with that knowledge and experience, Don joined the Maine Potato Board in 1997 as assistant executive director and was promoted to the top position just 5 years later.

Strengthening a vital industry made up of hundreds of growers that employs more than 6,000 hard-working men and women while generating annual sales topping a half-billion dollars is no easy task, but Don has met every challenge. He has been a driving force for many agricultural projects, including the construction of a potato research facility, infrastructure development for two

processing plants, funding to support the State of Maine seed production facility, and expansion into new markets. Working with growers and University of Maine and U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers, Don championed the development of the Caribou Russet, a new disease- and drought-resistant variety designed to thrive in a warming climate.

In the decades that I have worked with Don, I have known no stronger supporter of Maine potato growers. When Washington bureaucrats tried to restrict the use of potatoes in the school breakfast and lunch programs, Don provided the data to prove how nutritious the potato is. When the agricultural research lab at the University of Maine in Orono was threatened with closure, Don helped lead the effort to keep it open. And this year, when Washington tried to reclassify the potato as a grain rather than a vegetable, Don worked with me to block that absurd change.

Don Flannery's leadership has earned the respect and admiration of growers and processors throughout Maine and across the country. His commitment to economic growth has made a positive and lasting difference for the industry and for rural communities. I thank him for his many accomplishments and wish him all the best in the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LISA JOHNSON

• Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Lisa Johnson, who has provided exceptional leadership for two decades as president of the Bossier Chamber of Commerce.

Since assuming her role in June 2004, Ms. Johnson's hard work has transformed the chamber, fostering remarkable growth in membership, community presence, advocacy efforts, and military relations. Under her leadership, the Chamber achieved its five-star accreditation from the U.S. Chamber in 2019, a distinction earned by only 3 percent of chambers nationwide. Additionally, it was twice named Louisiana's Chamber of the Year, recognized as a Military Friendly Chamber by *Ventpreneur Magazine*, and honored as the 2018 Louisiana Association of Chamber Executives Chamber of the Year.

Ms. Johnson's impact extends well beyond the chamber. She is widely acknowledged for her role in connecting people and opportunities throughout Louisiana. Serving on several boards, including the Military Affairs Council, STARBASE, Bossier Office of Community Services, NWLa Military Support Foundation, Step Forward Leadership Council and Workforce Committee, and as an ex-officio member of the Independence Bowl Foundation, Ms. Johnson exemplifies unwavering dedication to community service. Her appoint-

ment as honorary commander for the 96th Bomb Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base in 2018 underscores her profound commitment to supporting our military.

Ms. Johnson's leadership and contributions have made her an invaluable asset to Louisiana. On behalf of our State's residents, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Johnson for her tireless dedication and selfless service.

I ask that we unite in honoring and celebrating Ms. Lisa Johnson for her outstanding leadership and profound impact on both the Bossier community and the State of Louisiana.●

TRIBUTE TO JENIFER POWELL

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Jenifer Powell of Ravalli County for her dedication to sharing Montana's rich and vibrant history with her seventh grade students in the Bitterroot Valley.

Powell has taught at Corvallis Middle School for 5 years, and it is clear the impact she made in that time is profound. Her innovative teaching methods covering Montana's history brings the past to life in her classroom. At the end of the school year, Jenifer's students walk away from her class with a comprehensive and enthusiastic perspective on the culture and heritage that shaped the Treasure State into the Last Best Place.

Recently named the Centennial Bell Montana History Teacher of the Year, Jenifer and her class of seventh graders will ring the Centennial Bell in the State Capitol in Helena on November 8, 2024, at 10:29 a.m., paying homage to the exact date and time that Montana became a State in 1889. Having its statehood for 135 years, Montana has a wealth of history to uncover, and I am glad to see Jenifer's commitment to preserving each piece of our State's unique cultural tapestry in a way that is accessible and exciting to some of our youngest Montanans.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Jenifer Powell for her passion for education and her work to inspire Montana's youth to learn more about the formation of the State they call home. I am confident Jenifer has sparked a lifelong curiosity for Montana history among her students.

Keep up the great work, Jenifer; you make Montana proud.●

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN FLEMING

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary educator and champion for our democracy—Exeter, NH's Kevin Fleming, who is retiring from Winnacunnet High School after 45 years of teaching.

Kevin is the kind of teacher everyone wishes that they had when they were a student. Year after year, class after class, Kevin gave each student the care and attention that they needed and helped push them to reach their full

potential. He saw clearly the promise and talents in each student, recognizing gifts that they often did not fully realize they possessed. This was perhaps best exemplified through his years of coaching his school's Granite State Challenge, a televised academic competition between New Hampshire students. Not only did he prepare his students for success in the competition, he also helped build their confidence in their ability to take on hard challenges.

As a social studies teacher, he was committed to giving his students a hands-on education and encouraging them to take seriously their responsibilities as citizens. In New Hampshire, we prize our commitment to civic engagement, embodied in both our citizen legislature and our first in the Nation Presidential primary. A true Granite Stater, Kevin regularly invited elected leaders and political candidates to visit Winnacunnet High School and talk to his students as part of their civic education. I have had the privilege of meeting many of Kevin's students over the years and was honored to speak at their graduation in 2017.

Kevin even brought to his class leaders from across the country, including some of my own colleagues in the Senate, as well as candidates running in New Hampshire's Presidential primary, including President Clinton, President Bush, and Secretary Clinton. These visits from candidates running for offices up and down the ballot gave Kevin's students a remarkable view into public office, unlike any most students receive.

Kevin has also always practiced what he teaches, so his influence goes well beyond the classroom. Aspiring public officials across New Hampshire know that Kevin has deep and lasting experience as a volunteer and that he has valuable advice and counsel to provide, insights that often stem from the questions and concerns he hears from his students. His role as informal adviser is particularly appreciated because he counsels with a light touch, appreciation for the very human challenge represented by any grassroots effort, and a great sense of humor.

Kevin's experience and commitment has also made him a champion for public education in New Hampshire and for encouraging more people to become involved in the democratic process. Particularly in debates around education, Granite Staters respect Kevin's voice and his passion, whether or not they always agree with him. They know—as I know—that he cares deeply about our democracy and is willing to do the hard work of keeping it strong.

Our democracy depends, in part, on people like Kevin—citizens who are willing to work for something bigger than themselves. Kevin and others like him know that citizenship can't be a passive exercise; they understand that our democracy is not sustained on its own and depends on each of us getting

involved, speaking out, becoming better informed, and working to expand our country's promise to more Americans. Beyond that, our democracy depends not only on us, but on future generations assuming the mantle of leadership so that they can safeguard our freedoms for years to come. By educating 45 years' worth of students and instilling in them the importance of civic engagement, Kevin has helped raise future citizen leaders. In short, Kevin Fleming has made our democracy stronger.

For touching the lives of students for nearly half a century, for pushing young people to reach their full potential, and for doing the hard, essential work of keeping our democracy strong, I am honored to recognize Kevin Fleming for everything that he has done, and I congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement. Our State and our country are better places because he chose to teach, both in the classroom and by example.●

TRIBUTE TO MIKE FOLAN

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Mike Folan of Alton as June's Granite Stater of the Month. Mike is honoring the memory of New Hampshire servicemembers through his volunteer efforts at the Wright Museum of World War II in Wolfeboro and through his work as a high school teacher inspiring the next generation to learn about the remarkable sacrifices that Granite Staters who lost their lives on D-Day made. His dedication to these efforts is particularly important now, as we have just marked the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

During World War II, Mike's father and uncle served in the Navy and the Army, and he grew up hearing from veterans who lived in his neighborhood about what they experienced during the war. Learning about their heroism inspired Mike to study the war and work to honor the legacy of these servicemembers.

At the Wright Museum and at Prospect Mountain High School, Mike has helped Granite Staters of all ages learn more about World War II and its ongoing significance today. As a docent at the Wright Museum for more than 25 years, he helps welcome visitors and answer any questions they may have about World War II or the exhibits. Mike has brought what he has learned at the museum to his work at Prospect Mountain High School, where he has taught social studies for 18 years. Mike first learned at the museum that when servicemembers were killed overseas, they were often buried immediately without much, if any, knowledge of their background or personal history. During the postwar process, a series of documents—called an individual deceased personnel file—was created for each servicemember. Mike ordered the individual deceased personnel files of 10 Granite Staters, including four who

died on D-Day, and gathered 10 students at Prospect Mountain High School who were interested in independently researching the lives of the servicemembers. The students reconstructed the lives of the Granite Staters and honored their memories on the 80th anniversary of D-Day in a presentation at the Wright Museum.

As the daughter of a World War II veteran, I am particularly grateful for Mike's mission to honor the legacy of those who served and keep their memories alive. I had the pleasure of meeting Mike and some of his students earlier this month, after I returned from a bipartisan congressional delegation trip to Normandy to commemorate the anniversary of D-Day. It was inspiring to hear the students' enthusiasm for their projects and what they learned about the war during their studies. The students discussed the connection that they felt to the men whom they studied and were particularly interested to hear that, on our delegation trip, Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN and I were able to pay our respects at the grave of Private First Class Raymond Cole, one of the men whom the students studied. It was clear from my conversation with the students that Mike's leadership in creating this research project sparked even deeper appreciation for everything that servicemembers did to win World War II and save the world from Hitler.

Mike's commitment to honoring the lives of Granite Staters who fought for freedom in World War II exemplifies the Granite State spirit of recognizing the courage and sacrifice of those who serve. His dedication to keeping history alive and inspiring new generations to do the same is why I am honored to recognize him as Granite Stater of the Month.●

TRIBUTE TO PAUL LeBLANC

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize a Granite Stater whose leadership and innovations have helped make higher education more affordable and accessible to people around the world, Southern New Hampshire University president Paul LeBlanc.

After 20 years of leadership, Paul has now moved on from SNHU, but his legacy of modernizing higher education and making it more accessible will endure far beyond his tenure as president. Under his leadership, SNHU transformed from a small regional school to the largest nonprofit provider of online higher education in the country, growing from 2,500 students to more than 225,000.

As an immigrant and a first-generation college graduate himself, Paul knew as well as anyone that, too often, college is out of reach for many people. Many students have the talent, the drive, and the ambition that is required for college, but simply lack the means. As Paul often says, "Talent is distributed equally throughout the

world, but opportunity is not." From the very beginning of his career, Paul knew that in a country like ours, where we believe that our democracy's promise belongs to everyone, we have to do better to expand opportunity to more students.

With this challenge in mind, Paul helped revolutionize the modern classroom through innovative online and hybrid programs, giving more students the tools that they need to embark on exciting new careers. SNHU has not only opened doors of opportunity for Granite Staters and other Americans, but for students all across the world. Under his leadership, SNHU even began offering courses to students living in refugee camps or who have been displaced. During my time as Governor and now as Senator, I have had the privilege to work with Paul in his mission to make education more accessible. I have seen firsthand his vision and ability, traits that have made him one of the most respected voices in higher education. His creativity is boundless, and his care for his students is at the center of all that he does. Through his pioneering spirit, he is always trying to find ways to give more students the chance to gain an education, learn more about our world, and build better lives.

When taking measure of his achievements, it can be easy to get lost in a sea of statistics—the number of students who earned a degree under his tenure, the number of countries that have students enrolled at SNHU, the honors and recognitions won by SNHU, and more. But behind these statistics are people whose lives have been made better, in part, thanks to Paul and SNHU. Across the country—and indeed, the world—there are people who were able to follow their dream to start their own business, become a nurse, serve as a teacher, and build a better life for themselves and their family because of Paul LeBlanc and SNHU. By modernizing higher education and making it more accessible, Paul and SNHU have helped give hope to countless learners of all ages, helping them understand that higher education is a dream that can belong to them, too. In so doing, Paul has not only helped strengthen higher education in America; he has helped expand our democracy's promise to more Americans.

For his innovative work in revolutionizing higher education, for his commitment to tearing down barriers and expanding opportunity, and for the countless lives he has helped transform, I am honored to recognize Paul LeBlanc and to thank him for his incredible service to New Hampshire and our country. I have no doubt that, with the same pioneering spirit that defined his tenure as president, Paul will continue to find ways to give more people a chance to pursue higher education and follow their highest aspirations. Paul represents the Granite State's—and our Nation's—spirit at its very best.●

TRIBUTE TO SHERRY VESTAL

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Sergeant Sherry Vestal as she begins her retirement after over 20 years of service as a New Hampshire State Trooper.

A New Hampshire native, Sherry taught English at the New Hampton School before joining the New Hampshire State Police in November 2003, spending 10 years protecting and serving the North Country. In 2013, Sherry joined the small team tasked with protecting the Governor of New Hampshire, a role in which she remained until her retirement.

During my time as Governor, Sherry usually worked the evening shift, often dropping me off at home after my family—and a good portion of the rest of the State—was asleep. There is a special bond between leaders and members of their protection teams, and this is particularly true in New Hampshire, where the team for most of my time in office was only two people. I saw firsthand how Sherry could defuse tense situations with a little bit of humor and a whole lot of composure. And over the course of our many long hours together, I also saw how Sherry kept not only my safety in mind, but the safety of everyone around her.

While Sherry's primary duty as a member of the Governor's detail was the Governor's safety, Sherry was still a New Hampshire State Trooper; and if I wasn't in the car with her, she would routinely stop the car when there was an emergency to respond to. And because, in New Hampshire, State troopers can be spread pretty thin, sometimes she would need to stop for an emergency even if I was in the car with her. In fact, once while we were returning from a commencement ceremony at White Mountains Community College in Berlin, we passed a motorist who had struck a moose. Sherry asked my permission to turn around, and while waiting for additional help, she called for assistance for the motorist, helped provide first-aid to—thankfully—minor wounds, and searched for the injured moose while also managing a growing number of passersby and on-lookers. No matter the situation, Sherry was laser focused on protecting the safety not only of the Governor, but of every Granite Stater.

Sherry's dedication to public service is not surprising for anyone who knows her. It is what has come to define her entire career—taking on tough challenges to keep Granite Staters safe. Sherry first became a State trooper when it was less common to see women serving in law enforcement. After a decade of patrolling the North Country alone in a police cruiser, she traveled up and down the Granite State for 11 years on the executive protection detail. In each of these roles, she not only met every challenge head on, but she raised the standards while doing it.

New Hampshire is safer thanks to Sergeant Sherry Vestal's service to our State. On behalf of all Granite Staters,

I offer her our sincere gratitude and a congratulations on her retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO MITCH HOLTHUS

● Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. Mitch Holthus of Smith Center, KS.

Mitch is the play-by-play announcer and the voice of the Kansas City Chiefs. After three decades as a decorated announcer, Holthus is the longest tenured voice in franchise history. During every Chiefs game, "Touchdown, KAN-SAS-CITY!" can be heard thundering throughout the Chiefs kingdom. Today, because of his impact on football commentary and as a son of Kansas, Mitch Holthus is honored with the 2024 Kansan of the Year Award.

Mitch grew up on a farm in Smith Center, KS, and the valuable lessons he learned there gave him the work ethic needed to become who he is today. He graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelors in journalism and business administration. A devoted family man of Christian faith, Mitch is married to Tami Johnson of McPherson, KS, and together, they have two wonderful children.

The foundations of his incredible career began as a broadcaster calling games for the Pratt High School Greenbacks. In 1983, Mitch continued his career as the voice of the K-State Wildcats and worked for 13 years on the K-State Radio Network. Since 1994, he has been the Voice of the Kansas City Chiefs. His work includes multiple Super Bowls, hosting the Hy-Vee Chiefs Insider Television show, the Chiefs Field Pass Pregame show, the Chiefs Rewind show, and the "Minute with Mitch" radio and television series. Mitch delivers a comprehensive and precise analysis of the sport that we all love. It is no surprise that he has earned a litany of awards and accolades. He is a member of the Kansas Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame, the Kansas State University Athletics Hall of Fame, the Missouri Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame, and has received the Kansas City Sports Journalist of the Year, the Hod Humiston Award of Excellence by the Kansas Association of Broadcasters, and five Emmys.

Mitch's passion, loyalty, and hard work for the game is an inspirational template for future announcers and broadcasters. As the voice for the greatest football team in the world, Mitch is a strong ambassador for Kansas and embodies our values. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his amazing career, and I wish him nothing but the best in the following years and as he continues his work. We are proud to call him a Kansan, and the people of Kansas thank him for his dedication to the Chiefs and the State.

"You can doubt the Chiefs, you can dislike the Chiefs, you can disrespect the Chiefs. But you're going to have to deal with the Chiefs," Mitch Holthus at the 2022 AFC Championship victory over the Bengals.●

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE “DD” MACRAE

• Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the more than 45-year career of Bruce “DD” MacRae, vice president of U.S. Government affairs for the West Region of UPS, ahead of his September retirement.

Bruce grew up and attended school in Long Beach, CA, and is a second generation Long Beach native. In 1978, he began his UPS career unloading trucks in the Anaheim package facility. By 1983, he became a full-time driver and Teamster Union shop steward. And in 1987, Bruce entered management when he was promoted to preload supervisor.

Bruce has risen through the ranks, acquiring skills in operations, industrial engineering, customer relations, community and public relations, security investigations, and U.S. Government affairs.

In addition to his regional government affairs responsibilities, Bruce has played an active role in his community. He serves as the chairman of both the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Youth Foundation and the board of trustees of the Battleship USS *Iowa*. He also serves on the boards of California State University Long Beach Athletics, the Orange County Sheriff’s Advisory Council, the California Renewable Transportation Alliance, Truckers Against Trafficking, and numerous other civic and educational organizations. Bruce is a past president of the California Trucking Association and has held leadership roles in the Arizona, Nevada, and Hawaii trucking associations.

Bruce’s contributions have left an indelible mark on his community, on his State, and on the tens of thousands of employees who work for UPS in California.

As Bruce embarks on this new chapter in his life, his absence will undoubtedly be felt by all those fortunate enough to have collaborated—or enjoyed a cigar—with him. I extend my heartfelt wishes to Bruce and his family for a joyful retirement.●

REMEMBERING WILLIAM F. PICKARD

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of William F. Pickard, a distinguished entrepreneur, education advocate, business titan, philanthropist, and co-owner of the Michigan Chronicle, who passed away on June 12, 2024, at the age of 83.

William Pickard was born on January 28, 1941, in La Grange, GA. He earned degrees from Flint Mott College, Western Michigan University, the University of Michigan, and Ohio State University. His entrepreneurial journey began in 1971 with the purchase of his first McDonald’s franchise in Detroit, later expanding to own several franchises.

In 1982, President Ronald Reagan appointed him as the first Chairman of the African Development Foundation.

He continued to diversify his ventures, including purchasing Regal Plastics Company in 1984, founding Bearwood Management Company, Inc., in 1987, and serving on the National Advisory Committee on Trade Policy and the Federal Home Loan Bank Board under President George H.W. Bush.

In 1998, Pickard founded Grupo Antolin Primera Automotive Systems and ARD Logistics, followed by Vitec LLC in 1999. He also invested in the MGM Grand Casino in Detroit and founded the Global Automotive Alliance, a holding company for several automotive parts manufacturers. His influence extended to the media industry in 2003 when he helped fund Real Times Media, LLC, which acquired the Chicago Defender and other African-American-owned newspapers.

Throughout his career, Pickard received numerous accolades, including the Distinguished Alumni Award from Western Michigan University in 1980 and being named Michiganian of the Year by the Detroit News in 2001. In 2016, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder appointed him as a trustee on the Western Michigan Board of Trustees. He published “Millionaire Moves: Seven Proven Principles of Entrepreneurship” in 2017, the same year Western Michigan University named a residence hall in his honor.

In addition to his business accomplishments, Pickard was a co-managing partner of MGM Grand Detroit Casino and co-owner of five Black-owned newspapers, including the Michigan Chronicle. His extensive philanthropic efforts supported causes such as the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, the Motown Historical Museum, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Pickard’s dedication to education and community development was exemplified by his generous contributions to Western Michigan University, his alma mater, and Wayne County Community College District. In recognition of his lifetime of service and philanthropy, he was awarded the Michigan Lifetime Humanitarian Award in 2019.

I trust that my Senate colleagues will join me in recognizing the extraordinary contributions of William F. Pickard and extending our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. His legacy will continue to inspire and uplift future generations.●

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE DAVENPORT

• Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, when we think of coaches, we often think of athletic coaches. But our students also need dedicated academic coaches, like U.S. Army LTC Wayne Davenport of Trussville, AL. Wayne enlisted in the Army in 1985 after graduating from Huffman High School in Birmingham, AL. He served for 22 years, with tours in South America and Afghanistan as an officer in the 20th

Special Forces Group. Because of his gift for building successful teams, Wayne was chosen to help redesign the special forces group following 9/11. His blueprint is still used to this day.

After retiring from the military, Wayne’s desire to serve took him into education. And for 15 years, he has been using his talents to help students find confidence and reach new heights as the JROTC instructor at Gadsden High School. His supervisor describes him as a “Godsend.” This is evidenced by both his success and the success of his students. Recently, Gadsden High’s JROTC team became the first program in Alabama to place as one of the most elite 32 academic bowl teams out of more than 2,000 teams in the world. But, that is not all.

Wayne also serves as the coach for Gadsden High’s scholars bowl team, where he has led four teams to the national championship. He spends many early mornings and late nights preparing for these competitions without complaint. Additionally, Wayne is helping build a culture of academic excellence that begins long before students reach high school age. Now, he is training elementary teachers on how to begin preparing students at an early age so that Alabama’s students can compete at all levels with other States.

I join the city of Gadsden and the State of Alabama in expressing our deep gratitude for Wayne’s dedication to helping educate and influence the next generation. It is my honor to recognize him as the July Veteran of the Month.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2023, the Secretary of the Senate, on June 25, 2024, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 138. An act to amend the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 to modify certain provisions of that Act.

H.R. 2365. An act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a

national project to prevent, diagnose, treat, and cure Parkinson's, to be known as the National Parkinson's Project, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4581. An act to amend title V of the Social Security Act to support stillbirth prevention and research, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of June 20, 2024, the enrolled bills, except S. 138 and H.R. 4581, were subsequently signed on June 28, 2024, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. CARDIN).

The enrolled bills S. 138 and H.R. 4581 were subsequently signed on July 5, 2024, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mrs. SHAHEEN).

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2023, the Secretary of the Senate, on June 28, 2024, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 870. An act to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs, to advance the benefits of nuclear energy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1240. An act to transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2023, the enrolled bills were subsequently signed on July 5, 2024, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mrs. SHAHEEN).

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2789. An act to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy on efforts to strengthen subnational cooperation between the United States and Mexico, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4132. An act to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to forced organ harvesting within the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6586. An act to require a strategy to oppose financial or material support by foreign countries to the Taliban, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7152. An act to direct the Secretary of State to establish a national registry of Korean American divided families, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8070. An act 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.

H.R. 8771. An act making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 703 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 903), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker reappoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Social Security Advisory Board for a term of 6 years: Ms. Nancy Altman of Bethesda, Maryland.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 2(b) of the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys Act (Public Law 116-156), amended by section 201 of title II, division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, the Minority Leader appoints the following individual to the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys: The Honorable Yusef Idris Faadel Salaam of New York, New York.

At 3:12 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 8774. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2789. An act to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy on efforts to strengthen subnational cooperation between the United States and Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4132. An act to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to forced organ harvesting within the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 6586. An act to require a strategy to oppose financial or material support by foreign countries to the Taliban, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 7152. An act to direct the Secretary of State to establish a national registry of Korean American divided families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, July 8, 2024, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 138. An act to amend the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 to modify certain provisions of that Act.

S. 870. An act to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs, to advance the benefits of nuclear energy, and for other purposes.

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-5100. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Upper Cumberland Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AD02) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5101. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Key West July 4th Fireworks, Key West, FL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2024-0472)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5102. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Cuyahoga River, Cleveland, OH" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0188)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5103. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Trenton DTE Boiler Demolition, Trenton, MI" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2024-0519)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5104. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Annual Fireworks Displays within the Sector Columbia River Captain of the Port Zone" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2024-0253)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5105. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River, Prairie du Chien, WI" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2024-0366)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5106. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fixed and Moving Safety Zone; Vicinity of the M/V HAPPY DIAMOND; Houston Ship Channel and Seabrook, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2024-0425)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5107. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Elizabeth River, Norfolk Harbor, Norfolk, VA" ((RIN1625-AA08)

(Docket No. USCG–2024–0506)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5108. A communication from the Biologist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulations Governing the Taking of Marine Mammals” (RIN0648–B158) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5109. A communication from the Marine Resources Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Sunrise Wind Offshore Wind Farm Project Offshore New York” (RIN0648–BL67) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5110. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Bacillus Velezensis strain 11604; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 11889–01–OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5111. A communication from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation’s annual report for calendar year 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5112. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Poly(oxy-1,2-ethanediyl), polymer with 1,2-ethanediol, 2-methyl-1,3-propanediol, hexanedioic acid, 1,4-benzenedicarboxylic acid, 1,3-benzenedicarboxylic acid, 1,1'-methylenebis[4-isocyanatobenzene] and 2-ethyl-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1,3-propanediol in Pesticide Formulations; Tolerance Exemption” (FRL No. 12022–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5113. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Afidopyropen; Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemption” (FRL No. 12024–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5114. A communication from the Program Analyst, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fees for Official Inspection and Weighing Services Under the United States Grain Standard Act” (RIN0581–AE28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5115. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Spiromesifen; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 11977–01–OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of

the President of the Senate on June 25, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5116. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act that involved fiscal year 2017 through 2018 Operation and Maintenance, Defense (O&M); and Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, Defense (RDT&E) funds and was assigned case number 23–01; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–5117. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5118. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the second session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5119. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Data Requirements for Commercial Products for Major Weapon Systems (DFARS Case 2023–D010)” (RIN0750–AL83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 12, 2024; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5120. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “TRICARE; Removal of Certain Temporary Regulation Changes Made in Response to COVID–19” (RIN0720–AB89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 12, 2024; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5121. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Restriction on Certain Metal Products (DFARS Case 2021–D015)” (RIN0750–AL33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 12, 2024; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5122. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Limitation on the Acquisition of Certain Goods Other Than United States Goods (DFARS Case 2021–D022)” (RIN0750–AL40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 12, 2024; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5123. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation (All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office Report System)” (RIN0790–AL77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 12, 2024; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5124. A communication from the Executive Secretary, Board of Actuaries, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2024 Report of the Department of Defense Board of Actuaries; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5125. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled “Central Liquidity Facility” (RIN3133–AF15) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5126. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Consumer Information Requests to Large Banks and Credit Unions” (12 CFR Chapter X) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5127. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Updates to Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands Regulations to Implement the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard” (RIN1660–AB12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5128. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Quality Control Standards for Automated Valuation Models” (RIN3170–AA57) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5129. A communication from the Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “2023 Fair Lending Report of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau”; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5130. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Small Business Lending under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B); Extension of Compliance Dates” (RIN3170–AA09) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5131. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Temporary Regulatory Relief in Response to COVID–19 Extension” (RIN3133–AF15) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5132. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Mortgage Servicing Assets” (RIN3133–AF26) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5133. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Cyber Incident Notification Requirements for Federally Insured Credit Unions” (RIN3133–AF47) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5134. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled “Subordinated Debt” (RIN3133-AE98) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5135. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Derivatives” (RIN3133-AF29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5136. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Capital Rule: Paycheck Program Lending Facility and Paycheck Protection Program Loans” (RIN3133-AF16) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5137. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations that was declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5138. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Subordinated Debt” (RIN3133-AF43) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5139. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Mali that was declared in Executive Order 13882 of July 26, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5140. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to serious human rights abuse and corruption that was declared in Executive Order 13818 of December 20, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5141. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Cuban Assets Control Regulations” (31 CFR Part 515) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5142. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Syrian Sanctions Regulations” (31 CFR Part 542) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 20, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5143. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional and Public Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to expenditures pursuant to the national emergency declared by Executive Order 13873 as well as Executive Orders 14034 and 14117; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5144. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled “Temporary Regulatory Relief in Response to COVID-19” (RIN3133-AF15) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5145. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to global illicit drug trafficking that was declared in Executive Order 14059 of December 15, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5146. A communication from the Chair of the Appraisal Subcommittee, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Appraisal Subcommittee’s 2023 Annual Report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5147. 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 “Control of Deuterium That is Intended for Use Other Than in a Nuclear Reactor Under the Export Administration Regulations (EAR)” (RIN0694-A144) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 23, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5148. A communication from the Principal Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment” ((RIN1029-AC86) (Docket ID OSM-2024-0001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5149. A communication from the Principal Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Wyoming Regulatory Program [WY-050-FOR]” (Docket ID OSM-2021-0004) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5150. A communication from the Principal Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “West Virginia Regulatory Program [WV-118/126-FOR]” (Docket ID OSM-2011-0009) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5151. A communication from the Principal Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Acceptable Payment Methods” ((RIN1029-AC25) (Docket ID OSM-2023-0010)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5152. A communication from the Principal Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “West Virginia Regulatory Program [WV-125-FOR]” (Docket ID OSMRE-2017-0003) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5153. A communication from the Chief of Delisting and Foreign Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of

a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Status for the Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle with a Section 4(d) Rule” (RIN1018-BE80) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5154. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2024-02 Required Assessment of U.S. Department of Energy Laboratories by Licenses, Applicants, and Suppliers to Verify the Effective Implementation of their Quality Assurance Programs” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5155. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.210 Rev 1, ‘Qualification of Class 1E Battery Chargers, Inverters and Uninterruptible Power Supply Systems for Production and Utilization Facilities’” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5156. A communication from the Associate Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Evaluation for EPRI Technical Report 3002023774, EPRI MOV Performance Prediction Methodology, Version 4.1” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5157. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “National Occurrence and Causes of Boil Water Advisories in the United States Report to Congress”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5158. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standards and Practices for All Appropriate Inquiries” (FRL No. 11691-01-OLEM) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5159. 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; IA; Linn County Ordinances” (FRL No. 11827-02-R7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5160. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Revisions; California; Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Contingency Measure” (FRL No. 11525-02-R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5161. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation

Plans; Massachusetts; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for the Second Implementation Period” (FRL No. 11616-02-R1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5162. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Connecticut; Source Monitoring, Record Keeping and Reporting” (FRL No. 11783-02-R1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5163. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; State of Utah; Utah State Implementation Plan Revisions” (FRL No. 12019-01-R8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5164. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturing Industry (SOCMI) and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for the SOCMI and Group I & II Polymers and Resins Industry and NESHAP: Gasoline Distribution Technology Reviews and NSPS Review for Bulk Gasoline Terminals; Correction” ((RIN2060-AU97) (RIN2060-AV71) (FRL No. 12066-01-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5165. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Lime Manufacturing Plants Technology Review” ((RIN2060-AV59) (FRL No. 5948.1-01-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5166. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Integrating e-Manifest with Hazardous Waste Exports and Other Manifest-Related Reports, PCB Manifest Amendments, and Technical Corrections” ((RIN2050-AH12) (FRL No. 7308-02-OLEM)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5167. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “FY 2024 Distribution of State Revolving Funds Appropriation” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5168. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “FY25 Brownfields Job Training Grants” received in the Office of the Presi-

dent of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5169. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Heavy-Duty Vehicles - Phase 3; Correction” ((RIN2060-AV50) (FRL No. 8952-03-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5170. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Clean Air Act Re-classification of the San Antonio, Dallas-Fort Worth, and Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Ozone Nonattainment Areas; TX” (FRL No. 11640-02-R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5171. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review Final rule; Corrections” ((RIN2060-AW18) (FRL No. 11890-01-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5172. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “2023 Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force Biennial Report”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5173. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fee Schedules, Fee Recovery for Fiscal Year 2024” (RIN3150-AK74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 12, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5174. A communication from the Director of Civil Works, Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Reissuance and Modification of Nationwide Permits; Final Rule” (RIN0710-AA84) received during adjournment of the Senate in the office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5175. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Control of Non-Volatile Particulate Matter from Aircraft Engines: Emission Standards and Test Procedures; Correction” ((RIN2120-AL83) (Docket No. FAA-2023-2434)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5176. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Exclusive Economic Zone and Maritime Boundaries; Notice of Limits” (RIN1400-AF74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5177. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Adminis-

tration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Class E Airspace, Valkaria, FL” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-0298)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5178. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Modification of Class D and E Airspace; McClellan-Palomar Airport, Carlsbad, CA” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2023-0786)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5179. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of the designation of Amy Karpel as Chair of the United States International Trade Commission for the term expiring June 16, 2026; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5180. A communication from the Director of the Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Import Restrictions Imposed on Archaeological and Ethnological Material From Ecuador; Correction” (RIN1515-AE39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5181. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Work Outcomes Measures” (RIN0970-AD04) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5182. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Notice: Forthcoming Guidance Regarding Certain Partnership Related-Party Transactions” (Notice 2024-54) received during adjournment in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5183. A communication from the Senior Policy and Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare Program; Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program; Health Information Technology Standards and Implementation Specifications” (RIN0938-AV24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5184. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Increased Amounts of Credit or Deduction for Satisfying Certain Prevailing Wage and Registered Apprenticeship Requirements” ((RIN1545-BQ62) (TD 9998)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5185. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Certain Exceptions to the 10 Percent Additional Tax Under Code

Section 72(t)'' (Notice 2024-55) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5186. A communication from the Section Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance Related to the Foreign Tax Credit; Clarification of Foreign-Derived Intangible Income" ((RIN1545-BP70) (TD9959)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5187. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Brazil in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-019); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5188. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the Philippines in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-009); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5189. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Australia, Finland, and Norway in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-022); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5190. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Switzerland in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-029); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5191. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Mexico in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more and the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-011); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5192. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Japan in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-012); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5193. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Mexico in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-016); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5194. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2016 and Fiscal Year 2017 Report to Congress on Administration of the Tribal Self-Governance Program"; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-5195. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Revision to U.S. Munitions List Category XI—High-Energy Storage Capacitors" (RIN1400-AF27) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5196. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to hostage-taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals abroad that was declared in Executive Order 14078 of July 19, 2022; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5197. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Determination Under Section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA) to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5198. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Determination Under Section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA) to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5199. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Public Access to Information" (RIN1400-AE00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 20, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5200. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Immigrant Visas" (RIN1400-AE83) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5201. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Third-Party Attendance at Appointments for Passport, Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA), and Certain Other Services" (RIN1400-AF54) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5202. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exchange Visitor Program - General Provisions" (RIN1400-AC36) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5203. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Israel and the UK in the amount

of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 23-097); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5204. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Australia for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-023); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5205. A communication from the Chief of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR): State Department Directorate of Defense Trade Controls Filing Requirement and Clarifications to Current Requirements" (RIN0607-AA61) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 31, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5206. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in Hong Kong that was declared in Executive Order 13936 of July 14, 2020; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5207. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting a legislative proposal to amend the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program act of 2000 to clarify the Secretary of Energy's ongoing authority to designate beryllium vendors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5208. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2024 annual report on the financial status of the railroad unemployment insurance system; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5209. A communication from the Regulatory Policy Analyst, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicated Feed Mill License; Veterinary Feed Directive Drugs; Change of Address" (Docket No. FDA-2024-N-2731) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5210. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Susan Harwood Training Grant Program, FY 2024; Availability of Funds and Funding Opportunity Announcements" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5211. A communication from the Director, Women's Bureau, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "FY24 Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations Technical Assistance Grant Program" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5212. A communication from the Director, Women's Bureau, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "FY24 Fostering Access Rights and Equity Grant Program" received

during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5213. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Funding Opportunity Announcement for Mine Health and Safety State Grants” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5214. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Senior Community Employment Program National Grants Competition for Program Year 2024” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5215. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Senior Community Service Employment Program Optional Demonstration Grants on Sector-Based Training for Low-Income Older Adult Workers” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5216. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Employee Benefits Security Administration’s Interpretive Bulletin 95-1”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5217. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Current Good Manufacturing Practice, Certification, Post-marketing Safety Reporting, and Labeling Requirements for Certain Medical Gases” (RIN0910-AH96) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5218. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Grants, Contracts, and Other Agreements: Fraud and Abuse; Information Blocking; Office of Inspector General’s Civil Money Penalty Rules” (RIN0936-AA09) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5219. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Funding Opportunity Announcement for Mine Health and Safety State Grants” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5220. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “National Farmworker Jobs Program Housing Service Grants” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5221. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “National Farmworker Jobs Program Grants for Career Services and Training” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5222. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities Round 6: A Grant Initiative for the Appalachian, Delta, and Northern Border Regions” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5223. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Apprenticeship Building America, Round 2” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5224. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula, Round 2” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5225. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “DOL Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program, Round 2” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5226. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Workforce Pathways for Youth—Rounds 4 and 5” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5227. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Critical Sector Job Quality Grants, Round 2” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5228. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Growth Opportunities—Rounds 4 and 5” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5229. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Pathway Home 5” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5230. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training

Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Job Corps Information Technology Academy/Hub” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5231. A communication from the Board of Trustees, National Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Twenty-Ninth Actuarial Valuation of the Assets and Liabilities Under the Railroad Retirement Acts as of December 31, 2022”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5232. A communication from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Making Visible the Invisible: STEM Talent of Rural America”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5233. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “System Review Report”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5234. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Secretariat Division, Office of Governmentwide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation (GSAR); Reduction of Single-use Plastic Packaging (GSAR Case 2022-G517)” (RIN3090-AK60) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5235. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Guidance Procedures” (RIN3206-AO63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5236. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Program Fraud Civil Remedies: Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment” (RIN3206-AO65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5237. A communication from the Chair of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024 and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5238. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department’s Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5239. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Semiannual Report to Congress and Supplemental Management Report”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5240. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Education’s Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5241. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report and the Management Response for the period of October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5242. A communication from the Executive Director of Operations, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's fiscal year 2023 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5243. A communication from the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report for the period from October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5244. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Annual Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5245. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Trade Regulation Rule relating to Power Output Claims for Amplifiers Utilized in Home Entertainment Products" (RIN3084-AB62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5246. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "FY 2022 Report for Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization of 2022 Women in Federal Incarceration"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5247. A communication from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules Governing Pre-Issuance Internal Circulation and Review of Decisions Within the Patent Trial and Appeal Board" (RIN0651-AD68) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 13, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5248. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Immigration Policy, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Securing the Border" ((RIN1615-AC92) (RIN1125-AB32)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5249. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustments" (RIN3245-AI01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-5250. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Eliminating Self-Certification for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses" (RIN3245-AI10) re-

ceived in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-5251. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update and Clarify Regulatory Bars to Benefits Based on Character of Discharge" (RIN2900-AQ95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5252. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a typographical error in a report submitted in accordance with sections 107 and 502 of the Foreign Intelligence Act of 1978, as amended, 50 U.S.C. section 1801 et seq., and section 118 of USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005, as amended. The report provided information regarding, among other things, certain requests made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) pursuant to national security letter (NSL) authorities in calendar year 2019. The report stated the FBI had reported it made 19,601 NSL requests, and the correct number should have been 19,601; to the Committees on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; and the Judiciary.

EC-5253. 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 "Certification of Tribal Housing Counselors" (RIN2502-AJ64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2024; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-5254. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Health Breach Notification Rule" (RIN3084-AB56) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5255. A communication from the Director of the Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Enforcement of Copyrights and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act" (RIN1515-AE26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 20, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5256. A communication from the Acting Director of Minority and Women Inclusion, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's fiscal year 2023 report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5257. A communication from the Congressional Affairs Specialist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary: Establishment of Temporary Special Use Area for Coral Nursery" (RIN0648-BN10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5258. A communication from the Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot

Program" ((RIN3060-AK57) (FCC 24-63) (WC Docket No. 22-234)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5259. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedule of Fees for Consular Services - Non-immigrant and Special Visa Fees" (RIN1400-AF33) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5260. A communication from the Chief Regulatory Officer, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of a Family Reunification Parole Process for Salvadorans" (RIN1615-ZC00) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5261. A communication from the Chief Regulatory Officer, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of a Family Reunification Parole Process for Columbians" (RIN1615-ZB99) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5262. A communication from the Chief Regulatory Officer, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of a Family Reunification Parole Process for Hondurans" (RIN1615-ZC02) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5263. A communication from the Chief Regulatory Officer, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of a Family Reunification Parole Process for Guatemalans" (RIN1615-ZC00) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5264. A communication from the Chief Regulatory Officer, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of Changes to the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Process" (RIN1615-ZC03) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5265. A communication from the Chief Regulatory Officer, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of Changes to the Cuban Family Reunification Parole Process" (RIN1615-ZC04) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5266. A communication from the Chief Regulatory Officer, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of a Family Reunification Parole Process for Ecuadorians" (RIN1615-ZC07) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 28, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5267. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled “Schedule of Fees for Consular Services - Elimination of the ‘Return Check Processing Fee’” (RIN1400-AF48) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-126. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Ohio recognizing that natural gas and its production industry are not only vital to Ohio’s economic future but to maintain the position of the United States as the world’s leading energy producer and urging continued investment in natural gas infrastructure to make affordable energy available to every Ohioan and protect Ohio’s energy security and the energy security of the United States and our global allies; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 121

Whereas, Natural gas is a leading contributor to clean, affordable, and reliable energy security, and it is vital for Ohio families and businesses in maintaining lower energy bills and for Ohio to become the low-cost energy capital of the United States; and

Whereas, Ohio’s natural gas industry has transformed from a low production industry to one of the top seven in terms of production when compared to other states; and

Whereas, Ohio is a leader in clean energy technology, and the natural gas industry leads Ohio in clean electricity production when compared to other energy sources such as nuclear, wind, and solar. In addition, in 2019, natural gas generated more of Ohio’s in-state electricity than coal for the first time in history; and

Whereas, Natural gas saves the average Ohio family \$2,500 annually in total energy costs, including over \$1,000 for home heating and appliances. The 36% of Ohioans utilizing other energy sources do not realize these savings; and

Whereas, The natural gas industry supports 375,000 jobs, which constitutes 5.3% of Ohio’s total employment. In addition, the natural gas industry contributed \$58.8 billion to Ohio’s gross domestic product in 2019; and

Whereas, Restricting natural gas infrastructure development will impede continued access to low-cost natural gas supply; and

Whereas, Increased United States natural gas exports create massive economic benefits for United States communities while providing global access to the reliable United States natural gas supply needed to advance the global energy transition from higher greenhouse gas (GHG) emitting fuels to lower GHG emitting natural gas; and

Whereas, Residential natural gas prices in the United States remain among the lowest in the world despite natural gas exports and domestic consumption reaching all-time highs in recent years; Now therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the Senate of the 135th General Assembly of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, recognize that natural gas and the natural gas industry are not only vital components of the state’s economic future, but also critical to maintaining the position of the United States as the world’s leading energy producer, and urge continued investment in natural gas infrastructure to make affordable energy available to every Ohioan and protect Ohioans energy security and the energy secu-

rity of the United States and our global allies; and be it further

Resolved, That the clerk of the Senate send duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the President Pro Tempore and Clerk of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, each member of the Ohio congressional delegation, Governor Mike DeWine, and the news media of Ohio.

POM-127. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to enact reforms to federal permitting policies to accelerate deployment of new energy infrastructure; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Whereas, Louisiana recognizes that abundant, resilient, and diversified domestic energy production in the United States enhances American national security, economic competitiveness, and energy independence; and

Whereas, environmental stewardship that keeps our air and water clean, protects public health, ensures biodiversity and species protection, and conserves public lands is a worthy goal that is important to achieve; and

Whereas, the exclusively complex federal permitting and environmental review processes that have built up around America’s environmental laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Clean Water Act (CWA), and other federal requirements, have grown to be so cumbersome that they often unnecessarily slow or prevent the construction of essential new energy infrastructure and therefore discourage domestic energy production without advancing the goals of these laws; and

Whereas, energy is produced in the United States at a much higher environmental standard than is typically the case in the countries from which energy is imported, so the prevention of domestic energy production in the United States undermines environmental stewardship; and

Whereas, delays caused by permitting inefficiencies inhibit the building of essential components of a low-cost, reliable, and modern energy infrastructure that is needed to support economic competitiveness and domestic manufacturing, to enhance reliability and prevent blackouts, to lower costs for consumers and businesses, and to achieve the goals of America’s environmental laws; and

Whereas, after nearly two decades of flat electricity demand, the demand for electricity in the United States is projected to dramatically increase in the coming decades, requiring major increases in domestic energy production and more than doubling domestic electricity transmission grid capacity; and

Whereas, regulatory barriers today mean that more than 2,000 gigawatts of energy production and storage, more than the entire current American electricity capacity combined, are stuck in electricity interconnection queues and the average amount of time to interconnect new energy resources has nearly doubled from about two years to four years; and

Whereas, the average time it takes to process an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for major infrastructure projects has risen to an excessive length of four and a half years; and

Whereas, the United States is highly reliant on China and other countries that do not share our interest to mine and process crit-

ical minerals, with demand for some of these minerals potentially growing more than forty times by 2040; and

Whereas, other developed nations that share our goals to protect the environment while producing abundant energy resources, such as Canada and Australia, have shown that they can permit new mines within two to three years instead of nearly ten years, as is often the case in the United States; and

Whereas, both linear infrastructure, such as pipelines and transmission lines, as well as energy generation infrastructure, each face extraordinary and indefensible delays due to overlitigation, inappropriate blocking of nationally important projects by unrepresentative and often radical groups that hold those projects hostage, and excessive use of our court system to hamstring worthy projects; and

Whereas, major delays in projects caused by inefficient permitting or overlitigation can dramatically increase costs and make projects less viable, costing consumers, businesses, and taxpayers money and making our energy system less reliable; and

Whereas, unnecessary permitting and regulatory delays limit investments made in modernizing our Nation’s infrastructure that would result in a more efficient energy system with reduced emissions and environmental impacts; and

Whereas, overlapping federal permitting requirements lack the flexibility to allow for efforts that reflect the spirit and intent of traditional environmental laws by protecting human health and the environment instead of procedural compliance with outdated regulations; and

Whereas, failure to reform federal permitting laws is already resulting in fewer jobs, reduced security, and higher prices for Americans without providing additional benefits for the environment; and

Whereas, failing to reform federal permitting laws in the coming months will result in even greater limitations on our energy infrastructure, costing even more American jobs while raising costs for consumers and businesses and leaving America vulnerable to unreliability, blackouts, and the resulting severe harm to American citizens. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to enact reforms to federal permitting policies to accelerate deployment of new energy infrastructure; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-128. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana urging and requesting the United States Congress to enact reforms to federal permitting policies to accelerate deployment of new energy infrastructure; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2

Whereas, Louisiana recognizes that abundant, resilient, and diversified domestic energy production in the United States enhances American national security, economic competitiveness, and energy independence; and

Whereas, environmental stewardship that keeps our air and water clean, protects public health, ensures biodiversity and species protection, and conserves public lands is a worthy goal that is important to achieve; and

Whereas, the excessively complex federal permitting and environmental review processes that have built up around America’s

environmental laws—including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Clean Water Act (CWA), and dozens of other federal requirements—have grown to be so cumbersome that they often unnecessarily slow or prevent the construction of essential new energy infrastructure and therefore discourage domestic energy production without advancing the goals of these laws; and

Whereas, energy is produced in the United States at a much higher environmental standard than is typically the case in the countries from which energy is imported, so prevention of domestic energy production undermines environmental stewardship; and

Whereas, delays caused by permitting inefficiencies inhibit the building of all of the essential components of a low-cost, reliable, and modern energy infrastructure that is needed to support economic competitiveness and domestic manufacturing, to enhance reliability and prevent blackouts, to lower costs for consumers and businesses, and to achieve the goals of America's environmental laws; and

Whereas, after nearly two decades of flat electricity demand, demand for electricity in the United States is projected to dramatically increase in the coming decades, requiring major increases in domestic energy production and a more than doubling of domestic electricity transmission grid capacity; and

Whereas, regulatory barriers today mean that more than two thousand gigawatts of energy production and storage, which accounts for more than the entire current American electricity capacity combined, are stuck in electricity interconnection queues and the average amount of time to interconnect new energy resources has nearly doubled from about two years to nearly four years; and

Whereas, the average time it takes to process an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for major infrastructure projects has risen to an excessive length of four-and-a-half years; and

Whereas, the United States is highly reliant on China and other countries that do not share our interests to mine and process critical minerals, with demand for some of these minerals potentially growing by more than forty times by 2040; and

Whereas, other developed nations that share our goals to protect the environment while producing abundant energy resources, such as Canada and Australia, have shown that they can permit new mines within two to three years instead of nearly ten years, as is often the case in the United States; and

Whereas, both linear infrastructure; such as pipelines and transmission lines; as well as energy generation infrastructure each face extraordinary and indefensible delays due to excessive litigation, inappropriate blocking of nationally important projects by unrepresentative and often radical groups that hold those projects hostage, and excessive use of our court system to hamstringing worthy projects; and

Whereas, major delays in projects caused by inefficient permitting or over litigation can dramatically increase costs and make projects less viable, costing consumers, businesses, and taxpayers money and making our energy system less reliable; and

Whereas, unnecessary permitting and regulatory delays also increase American dependence on energy produced by foreign dictators and authoritarian regimes; and

Whereas, unnecessary permitting delays limit investments made in modernizing our Nation's infrastructure that would result in a more efficient energy system with reduced emissions and environmental impact; and

Whereas, overlapping federal permitting requirements lack the flexibility to allow for efforts that reflect the spirit and intent of traditional environmental laws by protecting human health and the environment instead of procedural compliance with outdated regulations; and

Whereas, failure to reform federal permitting laws is already resulting in fewer jobs, reduced security, and higher prices for Americans without providing additional benefits for the environment; and

Whereas, failing to reform these laws in the coming months will result in even greater limitations on our energy infrastructure, costing even more American jobs while raising costs for consumers and businesses and leaving America vulnerable to unreliability, blackouts, and resulting in severe harm to the American people. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request federal legislators to work in good faith to enact legislation that reforms federal permitting and environmental review processes to promote economic and environmental stewardship by expediting the deployment of modern energy infrastructure. Be it further

Resolved, That these reforms should enable faster and lowercost construction of energy infrastructure of all kinds, without prejudice, including by considering steps to do the following:

(1) Limit excessive use of judicial processes to slow projects inappropriately.

(2) Prevent inappropriate usage of the Clean Water Act and other laws to hamstringing the lawful building of linear energy infrastructure, such as pipelines and transmission lines

(3) Enact reforms to plan, permit, and pay for the necessary build-out of electricity transmission infrastructure to support a more reliable energy grid that lowers costs for consumers and businesses.

(4) Enable the domestic build-out of the full array of modern energy technologies, including nuclear, emissions management, hydrogen, critical mineral mining and processing, and all other needs for a modern energy system. Be it further

Resolved, That these legislative reforms should also strive to ensure accountability for federal agencies conducting permitting and environmental review processes, including better data, more aggressive time lines, and permitting shot clocks. Additionally these legislative reforms must be accompanied by a redoubling of efforts to streamline federal regulations to support the efficient building of new energy infrastructure. Be it further

Resolved, That failure to act to update our federal permitting system to support building new energy infrastructure will further harm consumers, workers, and businesses, while making the United States less competitive and more vulnerable to both foreign adversaries and domestic outages. Be it further

Resolved, That Congress must act with urgency in the coming months to fix our broken permitting system. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-129. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee urging the United States Congress to enact reforms to federal permitting policies to accelerate deployment of new energy infrastructure; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 318

Whereas, the State of Tennessee recognizes that abundant, resilient, and diversified domestic energy production in the United States enhances American national security, economic competitiveness, and energy independence; and

Whereas, environmental stewardship that keeps our air and water clean, protects public health, ensures biodiversity and species protection, and conserves public lands is a worthy goal that is important to achieve; and

Whereas, the excessively complex federal permitting and environmental review processes that have built up around America's environmental laws—including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), and dozens of other federal requirements—have grown to be so cumbersome that they often unnecessarily slow or prevent the construction of essential new energy infrastructure and therefore discourage domestic energy production without advancing the goals of these laws; and

Whereas, energy is produced in the United States at a much higher environmental standard than is typically the case in the countries from which energy is imported, so prevention of domestic energy production undermines environmental stewardship; and

Whereas, delays caused by permitting inefficiencies inhibit the building of all of the essential components of a low-cost, reliable, and modern energy infrastructure that is needed to support economic competitiveness and domestic manufacturing, to enhance reliability and prevent blackouts, to lower costs for consumers and businesses, and to achieve the goals of America's environmental laws; and

Whereas, after nearly two decades of flat electricity demand, demand for electricity in the United States is projected to dramatically increase in the coming decades, requiring major increases in domestic energy production and a more than doubling of domestic electricity transmission grid capacity; and

Whereas, regulatory barriers today mean that more than 2,000 gigawatts of energy production and storage—more than the entire current American electricity capacity combined—are stuck in electricity interconnection queues, and the average amount of time to interconnect new energy resources has nearly doubled from about two years to nearly four years; and

Whereas, the average time it takes to process an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for major infrastructure projects has risen to an excessive length of four and one-half years; and

Whereas, the United States is highly reliant on China and other countries that do not share our interests to mine and process critical minerals, with demand for some of these minerals potentially growing by more than forty times by 2040; and

Whereas, other developed nations that share our goals to protect the environment while producing abundant energy resources, such as Canada and Australia, have shown that they can permit new mines within two to three years instead of nearly ten years, as is often the case in the United States; and

Whereas, both linear infrastructure—such as pipelines and transmission lines—as well as energy generation infrastructure face extraordinary and indefensible delays due to overlitigation, inappropriate blocking of nationally important projects by unrepresentative and often radical groups that hold those projects hostage, and excessive use of our

court system to hamstring worthy projects; and

Whereas, major delays in projects caused by inefficient permitting or overlitigation can dramatically increase costs and make projects less viable, costing consumers, businesses, and taxpayers money and making our energy system less reliable; and

Whereas, unnecessary permitting and regulatory delays also increase American dependence on energy produced by foreign dictators and authoritarian regimes; and

Whereas, unnecessary permitting delays limit investments made in modernizing our nation's infrastructure that would result in a more efficient energy system with reduced emissions and environmental impact; and

Whereas, overlapping federal permitting requirements lack the flexibility to allow for efforts that reflect the spirit and intent of traditional environmental laws by protecting human health and the environment instead of procedural compliance with outdated regulations; and

Whereas, failure to reform federal permitting laws is already resulting in fewer jobs, reduced security, and higher prices for Americans without providing additional benefits for the environment; and

Whereas, failing to reform these laws in the coming months will result in even greater limitations on our energy infrastructure, costing even more American jobs while raising costs for consumers and businesses and leaving America vulnerable to unreliability, blackouts, and the resulting severe harm to the American people; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the One Hundred Thirteenth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, That we urge the U.S. Congress to work in good faith to enact legislation that reforms federal permitting and environmental review processes to promote economic and environmental stewardship by expediting the deployment of modern energy infrastructure; and be it further

Resolved, That these reforms should enable faster and lower-cost construction of energy infrastructure of all kinds, without prejudice, including the consideration of steps to: (1) limit excessive use of judicial processes to slow projects inappropriately; (2) prevent inappropriate usage of the Clean Water Act and other laws to hamstring the lawful building of linear energy infrastructure, such as pipelines and transmission lines; (3) enact reforms to plan, permit, and pay for the necessary build-out of electricity transmission infrastructure to support a more reliable energy grid that lowers costs for consumers and businesses; and (4) enable the domestic build-out of the full array of modern energy technologies, including nuclear, emissions management, hydrogen, critical mineral mining and processing, and all other needs for a modern energy system; and be it further

Resolved, That these legislative reforms should also strive to ensure accountability for federal agencies conducting permitting and environmental review processes, including better data, more aggressive timelines, and permitting shot clocks; and be it further

Resolved, That these legislative reforms must be accompanied by a redoubling of efforts to streamline federal regulations to support the efficient building of new energy infrastructure. Failure to act to update our federal permitting system to support building new energy infrastructure will further harm consumers, workers, and businesses while making the United States less competitive and more vulnerable to both foreign adversaries and domestic outages. Congress must act with urgency in the coming months to fix our broken permitting system; and be it further

Resolved, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker and the

Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, and each member of the Tennessee Congressional delegation.

POM-130. A resolution adopted by the House of the Representatives of the State of Arkansas encouraging the United States Congress to enact a trade policy that supports United States businesses and workers while penalizing global polluters; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1021

Whereas, on average, goods produced in:

(1) China generate three (3) times the emissions of equivalent goods made in the United States; and

(2) Russia emit four (4) times the emissions of equivalent goods made in the United States; and

Whereas, minerals mined in China are more than two (2) times as polluting as those mined in the United States; and

Whereas, the average pollution intensity of Russian oil is at least thirty-three percent (33%) higher than United States crude oil, and Russian natural gas is sixty percent (60%) more pollution intensive than United States natural gas; and

Whereas, many rural Americans are suffering from severe poverty, poor health care, and few economic opportunities, making them increasingly vulnerable to crime and the opioid crisis; and

Whereas, the average per capita income for rural Americans is only fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) compared to approximately sixty-four thousand dollars (\$64,000) for all Americans; and

Whereas, the poverty rate in rural America is fifteen point four percent (15.4%) compared with twelve point eight percent (12.8%) nationwide; and

Whereas, United States rural communities have lower wages, property taxes, and land prices, which should give them a competitive advantage in attracting investments in manufacturing that provide revenue streams that help fund local schools and infrastructure; and

Whereas, manufacturing jobs play a more important role in the rural economy than in urban areas, accounting for a greater share of jobs and earnings; and

Whereas, United States trade policy, which has given foreign polluters an unfair advantage over the past two (2) decades, has encouraged economic restructuring across rural America that has resulted in manufacturing employment falling by over twenty percent (20%); and

Whereas, China has been the major beneficiary of this poorly designed federal trade policy, with the United States losing roughly five million (5,000,000) jobs in the last twenty (20) years, and half of those losses are the result of the United States trade deficit with China; and

Whereas, rewarding United States firms for their environmental performance would bolster domestic manufacturing and generate well-paying jobs, particularly in rural areas, and reduce dependence on imports from high emitting producers like Russia and China: Now therefore, *be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fourth General Assembly of the State of Arkansas:*

That the House of Representatives encourage the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to enact a trade policy that holds high-polluting countries like China and Russia accountable for their pollution output and promotes American economic development and the rebuilding of United States supply chains, particularly in rural communities, by rewarding American

businesses and workers for their superior environmental performance while penalizing global polluters. Be it further

Resolved That upon adoption of this resolution, a copy be provided to the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Arkansas delegation to the United States Congress by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.

POM-131. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to impose a quota or tariff on imported shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish and to enact a buy plan for domestic shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish directly from domestic commercial fishermen; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 9

Whereas, the domestic fishing industry has faced severe hardships, such as Hurricane Ida and other natural disasters, repeated openings of the Bonnet Carre Spillway, unfair trade practices, illegal chemicals, rising inflation, gas prices, and supply chain issues; and

Whereas, in October of 2022, United States Congressman Garret Graves announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) purchased up to twenty-five million dollars of Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic wild caught shrimp; and

Whereas, Section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act authorizes the USDA to purchase domestic shrimp; and

Whereas, purchases such as this will help provide relief to Louisiana's shrimp industry; and

Whereas, Louisiana's seafood industry is the largest supplier in the country and the main economic driver in coastal areas; and

Whereas, more relief is necessary for the Louisiana seafood industry to compete with foreign importers; and

Whereas, strategies to ensure that domestic commercial fishermen are able to sell their products are necessary for the continued success of the Louisiana seafood industry; and

Whereas, plans to buy shrimp directly from domestic commercial shrimp fishermen are of vital importance to ensure the success of coastal communities that rely heavily on this industry. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to impose a quota or tariff on imported shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish and to enact a buy plan for domestic shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish directly from domestic commercial fishermen; and be it further

Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-132. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to support H.R. 82 and S. 597 of the 118th Congress, the Social Security Fairness Act, and all similar legislation and to take such actions as are necessary to review and eliminate all provisions of federal law which reduce Social Security benefits for those receiving pension benefits from federal, state, or local government retirement or pension systems, plans, or funds; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 20

Whereas, the Congress of the United States of America has enacted both the Government

Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spouse and survivor Social Security benefit and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned Social Security benefits payable to any person who also receives a public pension benefit; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving a federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit who would also be entitled to a Social Security benefit earned by a spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula unfairly reduces the spouse or survivor Social Security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the Social Security benefit even though the spouse paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

Whereas, the GPO has a harsh effect on hundreds of thousands of citizens and undermines the original purpose of the Social Security dependent/survivor benefit; and

Whereas, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than half a million individuals nationally are affected by the GPO; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefits, in addition to working in employment covered under Social Security and paying into the Social Security system; and

Whereas, the WEP unfairly reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in employment not covered under Social Security; and

Whereas, the WEP causes hardworking individuals to lose a significant portion of the Social Security benefits that they earned themselves; and

Whereas, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than one and a half million individuals nationally are affected by the WEP; and

Whereas, in certain circumstances, both the WEP and GPO can be applied to a qualifying survivor's benefit, each independently reducing the available benefit and in combination eliminating a large portion of the total Social Security benefit available to the survivor; and

Whereas, because of the calculation characteristics of the GPO and WEP, they have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs, like policemen, firefighters, teachers, and state employees; and

Whereas, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live here, yet the current GPO and WEP provisions compromise their quality of life; and

Whereas, the number of people affected by GPO and WEP is growing everyday as more and more people reach retirement age; and

Whereas, individuals drastically affected by the GPO and WEP may have no choice but to return to work after retirement in order to make ends meet, but the earnings accumulated during this return to work can further reduce the Social Security benefits to which the individual is entitled; and

Whereas, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law, and repeal of the GPO and WEP can only be enacted by congress; and

Whereas, the Legislature of Louisiana adopted House Concurrent Resolution No. 11 of the 2022 Regular Session memorializing congress to support H.R. 82 of the 117th Congress and other state legislators to do the same in order to reduce or eliminate the GPO and WEP. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to review the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to eliminate or reduce them by supporting H.R. 82 and S. 597 of the 118th Congress and all similar purposed legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation and the president of the United States.

POM-133. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to compel the United States Food and Drug Administration to fulfill its duties regarding inspection and testing of imported seafood; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10

Whereas, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in 2019 the United States imported six billion pounds of edible seafood products, including one and one half billion pounds of shrimp, an increase of nearly six and one half million pounds more than the shrimp imported in 2018; and

Whereas, the 2019 shrimp imports alone, valued at six billion dollars, accounted for twenty-seven percent of the total value of imported seafood that year, which reached twenty-two billion dollars; and

Whereas, it is estimated that over half of the imported seafood consumed in the United States is from aquaculture, or seafood farming, rather than wild-caught; and

Whereas, the FDA is responsible for the safety of all fish and fishery products entering the United States and sold in Louisiana; and

Whereas, the FDA's seafood safety program is governed by its Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point regulations, which address food safety management through the analysis and control of biological, chemical, and physical hazards from raw material production and procurement and handling to manufacturing, distribution, and consumption of the finished product; and

Whereas, FDA regulations are supposed to measure the compliance of imported seafood with inspections of foreign processing facilities, sampling of seafood offered for import into the United States, domestic surveillance sampling of imported products, inspections of seafood importers, foreign country program assessments, and the use of information from foreign partners and FDA overseas offices; and

Whereas, in 2011 the FDA was only inspecting two percent of the seafood imported into the United States; and

Whereas, unfortunately 2011 is the last year for which data regarding the percentage of imports inspected is available due to a lack of transparency and inadequate assessment measures; and

Whereas, in 2011 the Government Accountability Office (GAO) noted that the FDA's assessment of foreign aquaculture operations was limited by the FDA's lack of procedures, criteria, and standards; and ten years later, a 2021 GAO report found that the agency was failing to monitor the effectiveness of its own enforcement policies and procedures; and

Whereas, in contrast, the European Union regularly conducts physical checks of ap-

proximately twenty percent of all imported fish products that are fresh, frozen, dry, salted, or hermetically sealed, and for certain fishery products, physical checks are conducted on approximately fifty percent of imports; and

Whereas, the Louisiana State University School of Renewable Natural Resources published a 2020 paper titled "Determination of Sulfite and Antimicrobial Residue in Imported Shrimp to the USA", which presented findings from a study of shrimp imported from India, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Bangladesh, and Ecuador and purchased from retail stores in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

Whereas, a screening of these shrimp for sulfites and residues from antimicrobial drugs found the following: (1) five percent of the shrimp contained malachite green, (2) seven percent contained oxytetracycline, (3) seventeen percent contained fluoroquinolone, and (4) seventy percent contained nitrofurantoin, all of which have been banned by the FDA in domestic aquaculture operations; and

Whereas, although the FDA requires that food products exposed to sulfites must include a label with a statement about the presence of sulfites, of the forty-three percent of these locally purchased shrimp found to contain sulfites, not one package complied with this labeling requirement; and

Whereas, the drug and sulfite residues included in this screening can be harmful to human health during both handling and consumption and have been known to cause all a of the following: liver damage and tumors, reproductive abnormalities, cardiac arrhythmia, renal failure, hemolysis, asthma attacks, and allergic reactions; and

Whereas, the results of this study confirm that existing screening and enforcement measures for imported seafood are insufficient; whatever the percentage of imports inspected may be, seafood is currently being imported that contains unsafe substances that put American consumers at risk; and

Whereas, because imported seafood is not held to the same standards as domestic seafood, domestic fishing industries are put at a distinct and significant disadvantage commercially; and

Whereas, according to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the average value of Louisiana shrimp fell from three dollars and eighty cents per pound in 1980 to one dollar fifty cents per pound in 2017; and

Whereas, this unfair competition allows foreign competitors to flood the United States market with seafood harvested under intensive farming practices using antimicrobial drugs, while devastating local industries and the coastal communities built around them; and

Whereas, shrimp consumption is on the rise in the United States, yet domestic shrimp profits have decreased in recent years, particularly for shrimp sourced in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic regions; and

Whereas, Senator John Kennedy has previously introduced legislation to bolster Louisiana's shrimp, red snapper, and seafood industry and protect American consumers from illegal exports; and

Whereas, this legislation would increase funding to the Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) and would allow SIMP to conduct audits on seafood under its purview to prevent foreign seafood imports that misrepresent themselves from entering U.S. markets; and

Whereas, proposed legislation such as this is a necessary step that Congress must take to protect American consumers and bolster the Louisiana seafood industry. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to compel the United States Food and Drug Administration to fulfill its duties regarding inspection and testing of imported seafood; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-134. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to amend federal law to allow states to provide for the consolidation of federally funded workforce development services with federally funded social safety net services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

Whereas, the state of Louisiana desires to provide the most streamlined and consolidated customer service for those seeking work, unemployment benefits, or social safety net programs; and

Whereas, the United States Department of Labor and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) currently restrict the consolidation of federally funded employment and job training services with other federally funded services, such as safety net programs; and

Whereas, in Louisiana, federally funded employment services and workforce development services are provided by local workforce development boards and the Louisiana Workforce Commission, and federally funded social services are provided by the Louisiana Department of Health; and

Whereas, Louisianians seeking assistance with employment and job training services, as well as social safety net programs, are forced to seek these services at more than one location of state and local government agencies, with little to no consolidation or coordination of such services; and

Whereas, the state of Louisiana desires to develop a consolidation plan for the delivery of workforce development and social services to its citizens in order to provide a broader and more streamlined delivery of services to those seeking these services. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to amend federal law to allow states to provide for the consolidation of federally funded workforce development services with federally funded social safety net programs. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-135. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Michigan vehemently opposing the transfer of mail processing operations from the Iron Mountain Processing and Distribution Center to the Green Bay Processing and Distribution Center in Wisconsin; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

Whereas, The United States Postal Service has a long and venerable tradition of serving as a great equalizer between the people of our nation. Both the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution of the United States gave Congress the power to establish a system of post offices, and a Post Office Department was first established by the Sec-

ond Continental Congress in 1775, with Benjamin Franklin appointed to serve as the Postmaster General. Throughout its 250-year history, the Post Office has chosen time and time again to prioritize service over profit, from President Washington's support for the subsidization of stagecoaches in the 1780s, to the construction of money-losing postal routes to encourage settlement in the west during the mid-19th century, to the creation of the Pony Express to deliver the mail through extreme environments in 1860, to the elimination of price differences based on the distance of a letter was to travel in 1863. While free home delivery began in cities in 1863, it was not initially offered in rural areas, though they paid the same rates. After initial experiments showed how happy rural customers were to be given the same attention as city-dwellers, rural free delivery became a permanent service in 1902. It is the mission of the United States Postal Service "to bind the Nation together through the personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people"; and

Whereas, The Post Office is a service that we, as a society, have chosen to provide to our people. There is no constitutional mandate that the Post Office be run as a profitable business enterprise; to the contrary, our history shows that we have repeatedly used the Post Office to ensure that every American, no matter where they live, is connected through the post. The people can choose the level of postal service that they want the United States Postal Service to provide, and they can decide what costs they are willing to bear to provide that service; and

Whereas, Contrary to the desires of many that the United States Postal Service put service first, there are those who insist that it must be run like a business. The "Delivering for America" plan, published in March 2021, emphasizes the financial viability of the Postal Service, with a focus on raising enough revenue to cover their operating costs and fund new investments. The plan proudly proclaims that it will enable the United States Postal Service to operate with a positive net income, and the most recent report boasts that it has reduced projected ten-year losses from 160 billion dollars to 70 billion dollars. These publications read like a corporate marketing pitch, establishing goals such as "more rational pricing approach," a "stable and empowered workforce" and a "bold approach to growth, innovation and continued relevance." What these profit-minded advocates seemingly fail to recognize is that lower-quality service and higher prices drive customers away, decreasing use of the postal service and thus decreasing revenue, while simultaneously undermining the Postal Service's mission of binding the nation together; and

Whereas, The United States Postal Service's focus on financial optimization has already had negative impacts on those living in rural areas, such as Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Local post offices have changed the time when mail is gathered for delivery from the afternoon to the early morning, meaning that a piece of mail dropped off during the day will remain at the post office for far longer before the shipping process begins. In practical effect, this adds one day to shipping times even while allowing the Postal Service to deny having done so for accounting purposes. Additionally, one-day Priority Mail Express shipping, which was available as recently as early January 2024, is no longer available from the UP to anywhere in Michigan: instead, citizens are being charged the same rate for two-day shipping. Combined with the change in collection time above, next-day shipping has essentially been transformed into three-day shipping.

This is extremely problematic for businesses and health departments that need to collect samples of drinking water and have them delivered to a laboratory for bacterial testing within 24 hours of sampling. Delays in shipping also have negative consequences for patients who receive medications through the mail, for people who need to ensure their bills are paid on time, and for businesses delivering frozen foods such as the UP's beloved pasties. Focusing too much on the postal network as a whole while ignoring the importance of timely local shipping is not modernization; it is regression. The people of the Upper Peninsula want what's best for their communities, not what's best for the pocketbooks for those in Washington; and

Whereas, In January 2024, the United States Postal Service announced plans to transfer some mail processing services, including outgoing mail operations, from the Iron Mountain Processing and Distribution Center in Kingsford, Michigan, to the Green Bay Processing and Distribution Center in Wisconsin. The Postal Service has justified this plan based on the fact that a majority of the mail and packages sent from the Iron Mountain area are destined for locations outside the local area. While this might make sense from the standpoint of the Postal Service as a nationwide business, it does not make sense for the people of the Upper Peninsula, for whom timely local delivery is essential. The notices that have been published about this plan assure that, while five craft employee positions will be eliminated, no management positions will be eliminated. But the notices also indicate that there will be reassignments, which means that some employees could be left without a job if they are unwilling to be reassigned to a post office far away. Furthermore, recent changes to the Iron Mountain facility may have led to inaccurate conclusions about the need for it, stacking the deck so that the evidence would support the conclusion the government was looking for. The capacity of the Green Bay facility to handle the mail from the Iron Mountain area is curiously left out of the government's preliminary findings. When similar notices across the country all use identical, buzzword-riddled language about efficiency, cost-effectiveness, modern strategies, and "rightsizing" the postal workforce, it becomes difficult to trust that they have made a careful, informed decision about the proper level of services to provide at the Iron Mountain facility; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That we vehemently oppose the transfer of mail processing operations from the Iron Mountain Processing and Distribution Center to the Green Bay Processing and Distribution Center in Wisconsin; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Michigan, the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the United States Postmaster General.

POM-136. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan vehemently opposing the transfer of mail processing operations from the Iron Mountain Processing and Distribution Center to the Green Bay Processing and Distribution Center in Wisconsin; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 92

Whereas, The United States Postal Service has a long and venerable tradition of serving as a great equalizer between the people of

our nation. Both the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution of the United States gave Congress the power to establish a system of post offices, and a Post Office Department was first established by the Second Continental Congress in 1775, with Benjamin Franklin appointed to serve as the Postmaster General. Throughout its 250-year history, the Post Office has chosen time and time again to prioritize service over profit, from President Washington's support for the subsidization of stagecoaches in the 1780s, to the construction of money-losing postal routes to encourage settlement in the west during the mid-19th century, to the creation of the Pony Express to deliver the mail through extreme environments in 1860, to the elimination of price differences based on the distance a letter was to travel in 1863. While free home delivery began in cities in 1863, it was not initially offered in rural areas, though they paid the same rates. After initial experiments showed how happy rural customers were to be given the same attention as city-dwellers, rural free delivery became a permanent service in 1902. It is the mission of the United States Postal Service "to bind the Nation together through the personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people"; and

Whereas, The Post Office is a service that we, as a society, have chosen to provide to our people. There is no constitutional mandate that the Post Office be run as a profitable business enterprise; to the contrary, our history shows that we have repeatedly used the Post Office to ensure that every American, no matter where they live, is connected through the post. The people can choose the level of postal service that they want the United States Postal Service to provide, and they can decide what costs they are willing to bear to provide that service; and

Whereas, Contrary to the desires of many that the United States Postal Service put service first, there are those who insist that it must be run like a business. The "Delivering for America" plan, published in March 2021, and particularly its "optimized collections plan", emphasizes the financial viability of the Postal Service, with a focus on raising enough revenue to cover their operating costs and fund new investments. The plan proudly proclaims that it will enable the United States Postal Service to operate with a positive net income, and the most recent report boasts that it has reduced projected ten-year losses from 160 billion dollars to 70 billion dollars. These publications read like a corporate marketing pitch, establishing goals such as a "more rational pricing approach," a "stable and empowered workforce" and a "bold approach to growth, innovation and continued relevance." What these profit-minded advocates seemingly fail to recognize is that lower-quality service and higher prices drive customers away, decreasing use of the postal service and thus decreasing revenue, while simultaneously undermining the Postal Service's mission of binding the nation together; and

Whereas, The United States Postal Service's focus on financial optimization has already had negative impacts on those living in rural areas, such as Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Local post offices have changed the time when mail is gathered for delivery from the afternoon to the early morning, meaning that a piece of mail dropped off during the day will remain at the post office for far longer before the shipping process begins. In practical affect, this adds one day to shipping times even while allowing the Postal Service to deny having done so for accounting purposes. Additionally, one-day Priority Mail Express shipping, which was available as recently as early January 2024, is no

longer available from the UP to anywhere in Michigan; instead, citizens are being charged the same rate for two-day shipping. Combined with the change in collection time above, next-day shipping has essentially been transformed into three-day shipping. This is extremely problematic for businesses and health departments that need to collect samples of drinking water and have them delivered to a laboratory for bacterial testing with 24 hours of sampling. Delays in shipping also have negative consequences for patients who receive medications through the mail, for people who need to ensure their bills are paid on time, and for businesses delivering frozen foods such as the UP's beloved pasties. Focusing too much on the postal network as a whole while ignoring the importance of timely local shipping is not modernization; it is regression. The people of the Upper Peninsula want what's best for the communities, not what's best for the pocketbooks of those in Washington; and

Whereas, In January 2024, the United States Postal Service announced plans to transfer some mail processing services, including outgoing mail operations, from the Iron Mountain Processing and Distribution Center in Kingsford, Michigan, to the Green Bay Processing and Distribution Center in Wisconsin. The Postal Service has justified this plan based on the fact that a majority of the mail and packages sent from the Iron Mountain area are destined for locations outside the local area. While this might make sense from the standpoint of the Postal Service as a nationwide business, it does not make sense for the people of the Upper Peninsula, for whom timely local delivery is essential. The notices that have been published about this plan assure that, while five craft employee positions will be eliminated, no management positions will be eliminated. But the notices also indicate that there will be reassignments, which means that some employees could be left without a job if they are unwilling to be reassigned to a post office far away. Furthermore, recent changes to the Iron Mountain facility may have led to inaccurate conclusions about the need for it, stacking the deck so that the evidence would support the conclusion the government was looking for. The capacity of the Green Bay facility to handle the mail from the Iron Mountain area is curiously left out of the government's preliminary findings. When similar notices across the country all use identical, buzzword-riddled language about efficiency, cost-effectiveness, modern strategies, and "rightsizing" the postal workforce, it becomes difficult to trust that they have made a careful, informed decision about the proper level of services to provide at the Iron Mountain facility; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we vehemently oppose the transfer of mail processing operations from the Iron Mountain Processing and Distribution Center to the Green Bay Processing and Distribution Center in Wisconsin; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Michigan, the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the United States Postmaster General.

POM-137. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Guam expressing support for the passage of measures by the United States Congress during the 118th Congress which would amend the "Radiation Exposure Compensation Act" to include the people of Guam as "downwinders" of U.S. Pacific nuclear test sites, extend the claims period,

and improve compensation and benefits; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

RESOLUTION NO. 171-37

Whereas, the United States government detonated sixty-seven (67) nuclear devices in the Bikini and Eniwetak Atolls of the Republic of the Marshall Islands between the years of 1946 and 1962. These nuclear test sites in the Marshall Islands, in addition to other locations in the Pacific Ocean, became known as the "Pacific Proving Grounds." On October 31, 1952 (GMT), one (1) U.S. nuclear test titled "Operation Ivy" was conducted on Elugelab Island ("Flora") in the Eniwetak Atoll, in which the first true thermonuclear hydrogen bomb (a 10.4 megaton device), code-named "Mike," was detonated, destroying the entire island, and leaving behind a crater six thousand two hundred forty (6,240) feet across and one hundred sixty-four (164) feet deep in its aftermath; and

Whereas, radioactive fallout occurs after a detonation of a nuclear bomb where radioactive particles and earth debris, which form the mushroom cloud, are released into the atmosphere, and remain there for about twenty-four (24) hours before descending back to Earth. Before the descent back to Earth, these radioactive particles can be carried through jet-streams in the atmosphere to locations over a thousand miles away from the actual test site and settle into the environment causing multiple health and environmental problems; and

Whereas, in a 2005 Assessment of the Scientific Information for the Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program reported by the National Research Council on behalf of the Committee to Assess the Scientific Information for the Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program and Board on Radiation Effects Research Division on Earth and Life Studies, it was confirmed that Guam "did receive radioactive debris from fallout during the nuclear-weapons testing in the Pacific Ocean" and was a harbor for the decontamination of ships present in the Marshall Islands during the nuclear testing; and

Whereas, in the sworn testimony of retired U.S. Navy Lieutenant Charles Bert Schreiber on the fallout of the first hydrogen bomb test, the detonation of Operation Ivy's Mike, he states, "I was the Radiological Safety Officer for the Headquarters Command Guam. On or about November 3, 1952, I was making my monthly check sitting at the desk in that office that was about five (5) feet from the window screens that covered the wall all the way down to about a couple of inches from the floor. I took out the metal calibration rod (about as big as a normal soda straw and about six (6) inches long) stored in the instrument that has a small radioactive source on its end. I put the counter on the low setting (it has three (3); low, medium, and high) and was ready to place the rod near the detection windows (two (2) of them), but the dial needle was way over on the scale and the audible signal was clicking like mad, or almost a continuous sound; sounds like constant static on a radio. My original thought was that the counter was malfunctioning, but when I raised it up and put it nearer the screen window, the dial needle swung even further over, and the sound increased still further. I then put it close to the screen near the floor and the needle went off the scale (as far as it could swing right). I knew it was not the counter, but that there was some radioactivity outside. I panicked. My first thought was that Guam had been subjected to some radioactive dust attack"; and

Whereas, Guam's local residents were never warned or informed by the U.S. Navy of an increase in radioactivity, and documents with this information were classified until 1994; and

Whereas, on October 15, 1990, H.R. 2372 (U.S. Public Law 101-426), relative to the “Radiation Exposure Compensation Act” (RECA), was enacted. The law covered some of those who were affected by nuclear fallout during atmospheric testing in Nevada and the Marshall Islands. RECA established the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program (RECP) with the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice to administer its responsibilities under RECA; and

Whereas, on July 10, 2000, an amendment to RECA (U.S. Public Law 106-245) broadened the scope of eligibility for benefit coverage to include new victim categories, and to modify the eligibility criteria for compensation. The amendment extended the time-period for consideration and compensation, and included other individuals who experienced radiation exposure, such as uranium miners, uranium millers, ore transporters, and “downwinders”; and

Whereas, to address the issue of eligibility under RECA, the Board on Radiation Effects Research (BRER) Committee invited Guam’s Mr. Robert N. Celestial and then-Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo to give oral and written testimonies in 2004. After completing both testimonies, an independent committee was convened. Its conclusions are documented in the Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program (RESEP) Report 2005, which states: “As a result of its analysis, the committee concludes that Guam did receive measurable fallout from atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons in the Pacific. Residents of Guam during that period should be eligible for compensation under RECA in a way similar to that of persons considered to be downwinders”; and

Whereas, the Guam Legislature supports extension of RECA coverage to claimants who were residents of Guam for at least one (1) year from 1946 to 1962 and diagnosed with a RECA covered illness as “downwinders” of U.S. Pacific nuclear test sites; an increase of RECA awards for “downwinders” from Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000); coverage for additional forms of cancer and medical benefits; and an extension of the fund claims period for nineteen (19) more years; and

Whereas, the cancer diagnoses eligible under RECA include leukemia, multiple myeloma, lymphoma (other than Hodgkin’s disease), and primary cancers of the thyroid, male or female breast, esophagus, stomach, pharynx, small intestine, pancreas, bile ducts, gallbladder, salivary gland, urinary bladder, brain, colon, ovary, liver (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated), and lung; and

Whereas, incidence data reported from Guam to the Pacific Regional Central Cancer Registry between 2007 and 2018 shows that seven (7) of the top ten (10) adult cancers in Guam are compensable under RECA; now therefore, be it

Resolved, that I Mina’trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan (the 37th Guam Legislature) does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, express support for the passage of measures by the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives during the 118th Congress which would amend the “Radiation Exposure Compensation Act” to include Guam as a “downwinder” of U.S. Pacific nuclear test sites, extend the fund claims period, improve compensation to One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000), and provide medical benefits; and does further support the extension of RECA coverage to those persons who were present in Guam for at least one (1) year from 1946 to 1962 and diagnosed with a RECA covered illness; and be it further

Resolved, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption

hereof, and that copies of the same be there- after transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President, United States of America; to the Honorable Kamala Harris, Vice President, United States of America; to the Honorable Patty Murray, President Pro Tempore, U.S. Senate; to the Honorable Ben Ray Lujan, New Mexico Senator, U.S. Senate; to the Honorable Dick Durbin, Chairperson, U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary; to the Honorable Teresa Leger Fernandez, New Mexico Representative, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairperson, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary; to the Honorable Virginia Foxx, Chairperson, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce; to the Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Chairperson, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce; to the Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Burgess Owens, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Bob Good, Chairman of the House Freedom Caucus; to the Honorable James C. Moylan, Guam Delegate, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior; to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs; to the U.S. Attorney General, Department of Justice; to Mr. Robert N. Celestial, President, Pacific Association of Radiation Survivors (PARS); and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, I Maga’hågan Guåhan.

POM-138. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Colorado concerning the designation of March 4, 2024, as “Colorado Aerospace Day”; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24-012

Whereas, Our nation and the world have significantly benefitted from technological and scientific advances resulting from space exploration and aerospace activities; and

Whereas, Colorado ranks first in the nation for aerospace employment concentration; and

Whereas, There are over 37,000 Coloradans who are directly employed in aerospace, with the aerospace cluster supporting over 250,000 jobs; and

Whereas, Colorado is home to the nation’s top aerospace companies, including Ball Aerospace, Blue Origin, Boeing, L3Harris, Lockheed Martin Space, Maxar Technologies, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, Sierra Space, and United Launch Alliance, and close to 500 additional companies that support the aerospace sector by providing services and developing products, including spacecraft, launch vehicles, satellites, command and control software, sensors, and navigation operations; and

Whereas, Colorado is a strategic location for national space and cyber activity, with five key military commands: North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), the United States Northern Command, the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense, the United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, and the permanent home of United States Space Command, and three space-related United States Space Force bases: Buckley, Peterson, and Schriever; and

Whereas, The United States Air Force Academy, along with Colorado’s colleges and universities, including the University of Colorado Boulder, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University, Metropolitan

State University of Denver, University of Denver, Colorado Mesa University, and Fort Lewis College, provides access to world-class aerospace-related degrees and offers aerospace companies one of the country’s most educated workforces; and

Whereas, Various organizations are key to Colorado’s prominence in aerospace, such as the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the world’s largest aerospace technical society; the Colorado Space Coalition, a group of industry stakeholders working to grow and promote Colorado as a center of excellence for aerospace; the Colorado chapter of Citizens for Space Exploration, housed within the Colorado Business Roundtable, whose mission is to promote better understanding of aerospace and its importance in our economy and daily lives, as well as promoting the importance of human space exploration; and the Colorado Space Business Roundtable, an organization that works to convene stakeholders from industry, government, and academia to advance aerospace business and workforce opportunities throughout the state. Together, these organizations form the Colorado chapter of the Aerospace States Association, a nonpartisan organization of lieutenant governors and associate members from aerospace organizations and academia who represent states’ interests in federal aerospace and aviation policy development, currently led by Colorado Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera; and

Whereas, The Colorado Air and Space Port seeks to serve as America’s hub for commercial space transportation, research, and development. This horizontal launch facility will have the potential to become the foundation for a global suborbital transportation network connecting Colorado globally; now, therefore,

Be it Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-Fourth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein.

That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly:

(1) Strongly urge and request the government of the United States of America to take action to preserve and enhance American leadership in space, spur innovation, and ensure our continued national and economic security by increasing funding for space exploration and activities;

(2) Congratulate NASA and Lockheed Martin Space on the return of its mission OSIRIS-REx to earth on September 24, 2023, after its six-year journey from Bennu with the first-ever sample return from an asteroid;

(3) Recognize and appreciate the Colorado companies, including Ball Aerospace, Boeing, Lockheed Martin Space, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, United Launch Alliance, and others, that are key to enabling human exploration throughout our solar system, supporting NASA’s Artemis Program to take humans to the moon and beyond. These companies’ work continues to expand our understanding of the universe, enabling a new generation of groundbreaking research with innovations like the James Webb Space Telescope, and will help lead the way in the search for life beyond our planet with the Habitable Worlds Observatory;

(4) Recognize and appreciate the exciting new innovations such as the successful inaugural flight of the United Launch Alliance Vulcan Centaur Rocket on January 8, 2024, as well as the upcoming inaugural flight of Boeing’s CST-100 Starliner Crew Test Flight to the International Space Station and the upcoming inaugural flight of the Sierra Space Dream Chaser, the world’s only winged commercial spaceplane, to the International Space Station, both of which will launch on a United Launch Alliance rocket; and

(5) Hereby declare March 4, 2024, to be “Colorado Aerospace Day”.

Be it Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to President Joseph Biden, Jr.; Vice President Kamala Harris; Speaker of the House of Representatives Mike Johnson; House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries; Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer; Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell; Senator John Hickenlooper; Senator Michael Bennet; Congresswoman Diana DeGette; Congressman Joe Neguse; Congresswoman Lauren Boebert; Congressman Ken Buck; Congressman Doug Lamborn; Congressman Jason Crow; Congresswoman Brittany Pettersen; Congresswoman Yadira Caraveo; Bill Nelson, NASA Administrator; Michael Whitaker, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration; Governor Jared Polis; Lieutenant Governor and Co-chair, Colorado Space Coalition, Dianne Primavera; Brigadier General Laura Clellan, The Adjutant General of Colorado; General Stephen N. Whiting, Commander, U.S. Space Command; Colonel Marcus Jackson, Buckley Garrison Commander, Buckley Space Force Base; Dr. Christopher Scolese, Director, National Reconnaissance Office; Ross B. Garelick Bell, Executive Director, Aerospace States Association; Heather Pringle, Chief Executive Officer, Space Foundation; Dr. Ronald M. Sega, Co-chair, Colorado Space Coalition; Michael Gass, Co-chair, Colorado Space Coalition; Debra Wilcox, Chair, Colorado Space Business Roundtable; Christie Lee and Stacey DeFore, Co-chairs, Colorado Citizens for Space Exploration; Marshall Lee, Chair, AIAA Rocky Mountain Section; Jeff Kloska, Director, Colorado Air and Space Port; and Debbie Brown, President, Colorado Business Roundtable.

POM-139. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to fund the construction of a new air traffic control tower for the Gerald R. Ford International Airport; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 122

Whereas, The Gerald R. Ford International Airport, located in Cascade Township near Grand Rapids, Michigan, is the largest commercial airport in western Michigan and second largest airport in the state. This airport has been ranked by the Federal Aviation Administration as one of the fastest growing airports in the United States. The Gerald R. Ford International Airport, originally named the Kent County Airport, was built in 1963 and is in desperate need of an update to its air traffic control tower; and

Whereas, The current air traffic control tower in use at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport is over six decades old, making it the second-oldest control tower in the nation’s top 100 markets. Recent terminal upgrades mark this airport as dedicated to setting the bar high regarding the quality of the services it provides. Securing funding for a new air traffic control tower would ensure that the Gerald R. Ford International Airport maintains this trend; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we urge Congress to fund the construction of a new air traffic control tower for the Gerald R. Ford International Airport; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-140. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana

urging the United States Congress to support the extension of funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program of 2021, which provides Louisiana residents access to broadband services; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, on August 29, 2019, by executive order, Governor John Bel Edwards created the Broadband for Everyone in Louisiana Commission, which facilitates private-sector providers, public entities, and other broadband stakeholders to improve both the adoption and availability of broadband service for Louisiana residents by providing universal access to broadband service; and

Whereas, during the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, the office of broadband and connectivity was created within the governor’s office to promote and encourage broadband adoption for households in an effort to eliminate the digital divide in Louisiana by 2029; and

Whereas, the office of broadband and connectivity’s mission is to coordinate federal, state, and municipal efforts by identifying best practices and tactics necessary to reach their goal; and

Whereas, in 2021, as part of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act’s historic investment in broadband infrastructure and digital equity, Congress appropriated more than fourteen billion dollars for the ACP; and

Whereas, Congress assigned the Federal Communications Commission to administer the ACP, the successor program to the Emergency Broadband Benefit, which helped almost nine million households afford internet access during the pandemic; and

Whereas, under the ACP, eligible households can receive a discount of up to thirty dollars per month for internet services and up to seventy-five dollars per month for households on qualifying tribal lands; and

Whereas, eligible households may also receive a one-time discount of up to one hundred dollars to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers; and

Whereas, Louisiana was the first state to receive broadband award approval from the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and is number one in the nation for ACP enrollment with an estimated forty-six percent of eligible households enrolled; and

Whereas, currently, there are more than nine hundred thousand eligible households within the state that may qualify for the ACP and four hundred twenty-two thousand two hundred fifty-seven households that have enrolled; and

Whereas, based on current take rates, more than fourteen billion dollars in funding appropriated for the ACP program could be exhausted in late 2023 or early 2024; and

Whereas, the ACP has been a critical tool in helping bridge the digital divide that exists between those who have access to modern information and communications technology and those who do not. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to support continued funding of the ACP so that low-income Louisiana households can continue to receive the support they need to participate in the digital marketplace; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-141. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii en-

dorsing the participation of Taiwan as an observer in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, and International Criminal Police Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

Whereas, the United States and Republic of China, also commonly known as Taiwan, are bonded by a shared commitment to democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and a free market economy; and

Whereas, for years, Taiwan has actively engaged in climate change research, supported anti-terrorism cooperation, and worked with its partners to tackle transnational crime; and

Whereas, Taiwan’s meaningful participation in bodies such as the World Health Organization, International Criminal Police Organization, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and International Civil Aviation Organization would make international mechanisms even more global; and

Whereas, the Congress of the United States passed the landmark Taiwan Relations Act in 1979, which is the foundation of United States—Taiwan relations as it promotes a close bilateral relationship that advances mutual security and commercial interests between the United States and Taiwan; and

Whereas, preserving peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait is crucial to the maintenance of a free and open IndoPacific, and Taiwan is an indispensable partner in this endeavor; and

Whereas, Taiwan is the ninth largest trade partner of the United States, with bilateral trade totaling \$135,500,000,000 in 2022; and

Whereas, Taiwan supports the United States-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, as it will help bolster the economic potential of the region by defining shared trade objectives among partners and addressing standards for technology, supply chains, the digital economy and clean energy; and

Whereas, the United States—Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade intends to develop concrete methods to deepen their economic and trade relationship, advance mutual trade priorities based on shared values, and promote innovative and inclusive economic growth for workers and businesses, including through new trade agreements; and

Whereas, to strengthen bilateral trade, the government of Taiwan has expressed its desire for a Bilateral Trade Agreement, Bilateral Investment Agreement, and an Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement; and

Whereas, since establishing a sister-state relationship in 1993, Hawaii and Taiwan have developed an enduring and mutually beneficial friendship exemplified by the Taiwan government’s generous \$500,000 contribution to Hawaii in the aftermath of the disastrous Maui wildfire in 2023; and

Whereas, Taiwan is Hawaii’s tenth largest import partner and its ninth largest export partner, as Taiwan imported \$54,000,000 worth of goods, with award-winning Kona coffee beans being the most popular, and exported \$13,000,000 worth of goods in 2023; and

Whereas, the State of Hawaii Office in Taipei and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Honolulu have been working together to promote substantial cooperation and exchanges in the areas of tourism, agriculture, culture, education, and trade between Hawaii and Taiwan; and

Whereas, the United States—Taiwan Education Initiative was launched in 2020 to strengthen cooperation in international education and highlight Taiwan’s capacity to provide Mandarin language instruction; and

Whereas, given Mandarin’s designation as a critical language and Taiwan’s plans to be

bilingual by 2030, schools and institutions of higher education in both Hawaii and Taiwan are encouraged to enhance their exchanges, as exemplified by the partnership between the University of Hawaii and the National Tsing Hua University; and

Whereas, Taiwan has established the Gift Scholarship at the University of Hawaii to sponsor Language Flagship for students interested in Mandarin immersion programs in Taiwan, and the University of Hawaii and the National Taiwan Ocean University have signed a memorandum of understanding on Academic Cooperation and an Agreement of Cooperative 3+2 Master Programs, which will further improve the bilateral exchange of education; and

Whereas, the United States has assisted Taiwan in participating in the World Health Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, and International Criminal Police Organization and will continue to support Taiwan's meaningful participation in these and other international organizations; now, therefore, and be it

Resolved, By the Senate of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the House of Representatives concurring, that this body endorses the participation of Taiwan as an observer in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, and International Criminal Police Organization; and be it further

Resolved, That this body supports the further progress on the United States—Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade and a speedy conclusion to this negotiation and encourages the United States Trade Representative to commence negotiations to enter into a bilateral trade agreement with Taiwan; and be it further

Resolved, That this body supports the State's thirty-first anniversary of sister-state relations with Taiwan and commemorates the forty-fifth anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States; President of the United States Senate; Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; United States Secretary of State; members of Hawaii's congressional delegation; Governor; and Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

POM-142. A resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco, California, urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to amend specified provisions of the federal Social Security Act to allow recipients of disabled adult child benefits under the act to continue to receive those benefits upon marriage; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 4036. A bill to establish a Government Spending Oversight Committee within the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-186).

By Mr. SCHATZ, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1723. A bill to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding

School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-187).

By Mr. REED, from the Committee on Armed Services, without amendment:

S. 4638. A bill 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 (Rept. No. 118-188).

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. PETERS (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 4630. A bill to establish an interagency committee to harmonize regulatory regimes in the United States relating to cybersecurity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 4631. A bill to amend title 41, United States Code, to prohibit minimum education requirements for proposed contractor personnel in certain contract solicitations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 4632. A bill to establish an earlier application processing cycle for the FAFSA; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 4633. A bill to provide for the settlement of the water rights claims of the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 4634. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 154 First Avenue East in Jerome, Idaho, as the "Representative Maxine Bell Post Office." ; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 4635. A bill to require a report and updated guidance on continued risk management for pharmaceutical supply chains of Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 4636. A bill to require reporting on offerors that have denied requests for uncertified cost or pricing data; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

S. 4637. A bill to amend the Food for Peace Act to allow additional forms of assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. REED:

S. 4638. A bill 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; from the Committee on Armed Services; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 4639. A bill to establish in the National Institute of Standards and Technology the Foundation for Standards and Metrology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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 and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 751. A resolution congratulating the Triune University Thunder women's softball team for winning the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Women's Softball National Championship; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 752. A resolution expressing the condolences of the Senate and honoring the memory of the victims on the second anniversary of the mass shooting at the Fourth of July parade in Highland Park, Illinois, on July 4, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 91

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 91, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

S. 265

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 265, a bill to reauthorize the rural emergency medical service training and equipment assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the United States.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 711, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

S. 912

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Colorado

(Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 912, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, and for other purposes.

S. 930

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 930, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

S. 1597

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1597, a bill to amend chapter 110 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit gender transition procedures on minors, and for other purposes.

S. 1665

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1665, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to establish an Advisory Commission on Serving and Supporting Students with Mental Health Disabilities in Institutions of Higher Education, and for other purposes.

S. 1742

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1742, a bill to modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain land, and for other purposes.

S. 1840

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1840, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and improve the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program for fiscal years 2024 through 2028, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 2496

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2496, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to include information regarding VA home loans in the Informed Consumer Choice Disclosure required to be provided to prospective FHA borrowers.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2757, a bill to limit the Secretary of

Veterans Affairs from modifying the rate of payment or reimbursement for transportation of veterans or other individuals via special modes of transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2781

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2781, a bill to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

S. 3335

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3335, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program to help law enforcement agencies with civilian law enforcement tasks, and for other purposes.

S. 3341

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

S. 3444

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3444, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to improve the accessibility of 9-8-8, and for other purposes.

S. 3482

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3482, a bill to establish a multi-stakeholder advisory committee tasked with providing detailed recommendations to address challenges to transmitting geolocation information with calls to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, and for other purposes.

S. 3530

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) 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. 3543

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3543, a bill to establish the Historic Greenwood District-Black Wall Street National Monument in the State of Oklahoma, and for other purposes.

S. 3653

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3653, a bill to apply user fees with respect to tobacco products deemed subject to the requirements of chapter IX of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

S. 3686

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3686, a bill to prevent anti-competitive conduct through the use of pricing algorithms by prohibiting the use of pricing algorithms that can facilitate collusion through the use of nonpublic competitor data, creating an antitrust law enforcement audit tool, increasing transparency, and enforcing violations through the Sherman Act and Federal Trade Commission Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3818

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3818, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to include fuel for ocean-going vessels as additional renewable fuel for which credits may be generated under the renewable fuel program.

S. 3832

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 3832, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure appropriate access to non-opioid pain management drugs under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 4001

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4001, a bill to establish a commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes.

S. 4141

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4141, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the FIFA World Cup 2026, and for other purposes.

S. 4178

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4178, a bill to establish artificial intelligence standards, metrics, and evaluation tools, to support artificial intelligence research, development, and capacity building activities, to promote innovation in the artificial intelligence industry by ensuring companies of all sizes can succeed and thrive, and for other purposes.

S. 4199

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr.

CRAPO), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4199, a bill to authorize additional district judges for the district courts and convert temporary judgeships.

S. 4235

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 4235, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize grants to support for law enforcement officers and families, and for other purposes.

S. 4292

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4292, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

S. 4363

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4363, a bill to secure the rights of public employees to organize, act concertedly, and bargain collectively, which safeguard the public interest and promote the free and unobstructed flow of commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 4425

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4425, a bill to support democracy and the rule of law in Georgia, and for other purposes.

S. 4502

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4502, a bill to prohibit forced arbitration in work disputes, and for other purposes.

S. 4516

At the request of Mr. VANCE, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 4516, a bill to ensure equal protection of the law, to prevent racism in the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

S. 4539

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4539, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain provisions with respect to qualified ABLE programs permanent.

S. 4543

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 4546

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 4554

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 4554, a bill to express support for protecting access to reproductive health care after the Dobbs v. Jackson decision on June 24, 2022.

S. 4619

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4619, a bill to revise sections 552, 1461, and 1462 of title 18, United States Code, and section 305 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1305), and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 92

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 92, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "New Source Performance Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From New, Modified, and Reconstructed Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units; Emission Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Existing Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units; and Repeal of the Affordable Clean Energy Rule".

S. RES. 158

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 158, a resolution condemning the deportation of children from Ukraine to the Russian Federation and the forcible transfer of children within territories of Ukraine that are temporarily occupied by Russian forces.

S. RES. 616

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 616, a resolution condemning the treatment of Dr. Gubad Ibadoghlu by the Government of Azerbaijan and urging his immediate release, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 684

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr.

KAINE) 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").

S. RES. 748

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 748, a resolution expressing that the United States should not enter into any bilateral or multilateral agreement to provide security guarantees or long-term security assistance to Ukraine.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 751—CONGRATULATING THE TRIUNE UNIVERSITY THUNDER WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2023 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION III WOMEN'S SOFTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 751

Whereas, on June 7, 2023, the Trine University Thunder women's softball team (referred to in this preamble as the "Thunder") won the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Women's Softball National Championship (referred to in this preamble as the "2023 NCAA National Championship");

Whereas that victory, just 1 year after finishing as runner-up in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as "NCAA") Division III women's softball tournament, is the first NCAA national championship victory for the Thunder;

Whereas the Thunder finished the 2023 season with a regular season record of 32 wins and 4 losses, a post season record of 14 wins and 2 losses, which includes 4 wins and 1 loss during the National Championship tournament, and a final record of 46 wins and 6 losses, which is the most wins in a single season in the history of the Thunder program;

Whereas the Thunder was led by head coach Don Danklefsen and a dedicated staff;

Whereas Carolyn Biel hit a walk-off single for the Thunder to win the 2023 NCAA National Championship by a score of 1 to 0;

Whereas, during the 2023 NCAA National Championship game, Alexis Michon threw a complete-game shutout for the Thunder, allowing just 2 hits on 79 pitches;

Whereas, during the awards ceremony following the 2023 NCAA National Championship game, 6 members of the team were named as part of the NCAA Division III Women's All-Tournament Team, including Cassie Woods, Emma Beyer, Emma Lee, Alexis Michon, Debbie Hill, and Amanda Prather;

Whereas freshman Debbie Hill was named "Most Outstanding Player", sweeping the honor at every round of the 2023 NCAA National Championship tournament; and

Whereas the contributions of the players, coaches, and support staff of the Thunder, and the entire Trine University community, were instrumental in achieving the historic victory of the Thunder in the 2023 NCAA National Championship and providing inspiration for future generations of young athletes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Trine University Thunder women's softball team for its victory in the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Women's Softball National Championship;

(2) recognizes the dedication, perseverance, and hard work of the players and coaches of the Trine University Thunder women's softball team, and the students, alumni, administration, and support staff of Trine University that directly contributed to the victory in the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Women's Softball National Championship; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the president of Trine University, John Shannon;

(B) the athletics director of Trine University, Matt Land; and

(C) the head coach of the Trine University Thunder women's softball team, Don Danklefsen.

SENATE RESOLUTION 752—EX-PRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE AND HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS ON THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASS SHOOTING AT THE FOURTH OF JULY PARADE IN HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS, ON JULY 4, 2022

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 752

Whereas, on July 4, 2022, a gunman opened fire at the corner of Central Avenue and Second Street in Highland Park, Illinois, during the annual Fourth of July parade;

Whereas the gunman took the lives of 7 individuals and injured 46 more individuals;

Whereas the 7 individuals who lost their lives that day were—

(1) Katie Goldstein, age 64, of Highland Park, Illinois, a beloved wife and mother, who was known for her kind, caring personality, and for bringing neighbors delicious baked goods during the holidays;

(2) Irina McCarthy, age 35, of Highland Park, Illinois, a wife and mother of 2-year-old Aiden, who met her husband Kevin through their mutual work in the pharmaceutical industry;

(3) Kevin McCarthy, age 37, of Highland Park, Illinois, a husband and father of 2-year-old Aiden, who died protecting his son from gunfire;

(4) Stephen Strauss, age 88, of Highland Park, Illinois, a brother, husband, father, and grandfather, who was a joke-teller and avid reader and greatly enjoyed the Art Institute of Chicago and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra;

(5) Jacquelyn Sundheim, age 63, of Highland Park, Illinois, a kind and caring wife and mother, who was a lifelong member of North Shore Congregation Israel, in Glencoe, where she also taught preschool and served as the events coordinator;

(6) Nicolas Toledo-Zaragoza, age 78, of Morelos, Mexico, who was attending the pa-

rade with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; and

(7) Eduardo Uvaldo, age 69, of Waukegan, Illinois, who was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather;

Whereas dozens of individuals were wounded by gunfire or injured fleeing the scene of the mass shooting;

Whereas the Highland Park Police Department and the Highland Park Fire Department led dozens of agencies in responding to the shooting with bravery and professionalism, including—

(1) the Illinois State Police;

(2) the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives;

(3) the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

(4) the United States Secret Service;

(5) the United States Marshals Service;

(6) the Naval Criminal Investigative Service;

(7) the Lake County Major Crimes Task Force;

(8) the Chicago Police Department;

(9) the Lake County Sheriff's Office;

(10) the Cook County Sheriff's Office;

(11) the Northwest Central Dispatch System;

(12) the Regional Emergency Dispatch Center (RED Center);

(13) the Glenview Public Safety Dispatch Center;

(14) the Highland Park Community Emergency Response Team (CERT);

(15) the Deerfield-Bannockburn Fire Protection District;

(16) the Northbrook Fire Department;

(17) the Winnetka Fire Department;

(18) the Northfield Fire Department;

(19) the Buffalo Grove Fire Department;

(20) the Prospect Heights Fire Department;

(21) the Libertyville Fire Department;

(22) the Lincolnshire-Riverwoods Fire Protection District;

(23) the Evanston Fire Department;

(24) the Glenview Fire Department;

(25) the Lake Bluff Fire Department;

(26) the Skokie Fire Department;

(27) the Wilmette Fire Department;

(28) the Des Plaines Fire Department;

(29) the Glencoe Department of Public Safety;

(30) the Lake Forest Fire Department;

(31) the Morton Grove Fire Department;

(32) the Park Ridge Fire Department;

(33) the Waukegan Fire Department;

(34) the Niles Fire Department;

(35) the Addison Fire Protection District;

(36) the Streamwood Fire Department;

(37) the Hanover Park Fire Department; and

(38) the police departments of—

(A) Addison;

(B) Antioch;

(C) Arlington Heights;

(D) Bannockburn;

(E) Barrington;

(F) Barrington Hills;

(G) Bartlett;

(H) Berwyn;

(I) Buffalo Grove;

(J) Carpentersville;

(K) Cary;

(L) Crystal Lake;

(M) Deerfield;

(N) Des Plaines;

(O) Elk Grove Village;

(P) Elmhurst;

(Q) Evanston;

(R) Fox Lake;

(S) Franklin Park;

(T) Glencoe;

(U) Glenview;

(V) Grayslake;

(W) Gurnee;

(X) Hanover Park;

(Y) Harwood Heights;

(Z) Hoffman Estates;

(AA) Inverness;

(BB) Kenilworth;

(CC) Kildeer;

(DD) Lake Bluff;

(EE) Lake Forest;

(FF) Lake Villa;

(GG) Lake Zurich;

(HH) Libertyville;

(II) Lincolnshire;

(JJ) Lincolnwood;

(KK) McHenry;

(LL) Morton Grove;

(MM) Mount Prospect;

(NN) Mundelein;

(OO) Niles;

(PP) Norridge;

(QQ) North Chicago;

(RR) North Riverside;

(SS) Northbrook;

(TT) Northfield;

(UU) Palatine;

(VV) Prospect Heights;

(WW) Riverwoods;

(XX) Rolling Meadows;

(YY) Rosemont;

(ZZ) Round Lake;

(AAA) Round Lake Beach;

(BBB) Round Lake Park;

(CCC) Schiller Park;

(DDD) Skokie;

(EEE) Streamwood;

(FFF) Vernon Hills;

(GGG) Wauconda;

(HHH) Waukegan;

(III) Western Springs;

(JJJ) Wheeling;

(KKK) Wilmette;

(LLL) Winnetka;

(MMM) Winthrop Harbor; and

(NNN) Zion;

Whereas the emergency responders and the doctors, nurses, and other health care providers at Highland Park Hospital, Glenbrook Hospital, Evanston Hospital, Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital, Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, and University of Chicago Medicine Comer Children's Hospital provided professional and dedicated care to the victims;

Whereas, during the year following the shooting, many volunteer counselors traveled to North Shore School District 112 and Township High School District 113 to assist the community in the process of healing;

Whereas members of the Highland Park, Highwood, Waukegan, and North Chicago communities, along with communities across the entire North Shore, the State of Illinois, the United States, and the world remain united in support of the victims of this horrific massacre and their families on its 2-year anniversary;

Whereas, according to the Gun Violence Archive, the tragic mass shooting that occurred in Highland Park was 1 of 10 mass shootings that occurred on July 4, 2022; and

Whereas senseless gun violence has caused devastation, trauma, and grief to too many families and communities across the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses sincere condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of Katie Goldstein, Irina McCarthy, Kevin McCarthy, Stephen Strauss, Jacquelyn Sundheim, Nicolas Toledo-Zaragoza, and Eduardo Uvaldo, the victims of the devastating shooting along the parade route on July 4, 2022, in Highland Park, Illinois;

(2) honors the lives and memory of the victims, with gratitude for their selfless dedication to others;

(3) continues to extend support to the individuals who were injured and subjected to the trauma of the shooting;

(4) expresses gratitude to the law enforcement officers, medical personnel, and emergency responders who responded to the

shooting with professionalism, dedication, and bravery; and

(5) stands in solidarity with the victims of senseless gun violence in communities across the United States.

NATIONAL ANTI-COUNTERFEITING AND CONSUMER EDUCATION AND AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 736.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 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”.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that 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. 736) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of June 13, 2024, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 9; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Lee nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed on June 20, 2024, ripen at 12 noon and that following the cloture vote on the Lee nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; that if cloture is invoked on the Lee nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m. and that if cloture is invoked on the Meriweather nomination, all time be considered expired at 5:45 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday’s session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:52 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

BYRON B. CONWAY, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN, VICE WILLIAM C. GRIESBACH, RETIRED.

JONATHAN E. HAWLEY, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, VICE JAMES E. SHADID, RETIRING.

RYAN YOUNG PARK, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT, VICE JAMES A. WYNN, JR., RETIRING.

GAIL A. WEILHEIMER, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, VICE GENE E. K. PRATTER, DECEASED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

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

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. STEVEN G. BEHMER
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM D. BETTS
BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH L. CAMPO
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL E. CONLEY
BRIG. GEN. COLIN J. CONNOR
BRIG. GEN. LUKE C.G. CROPSY
BRIG. GEN. ROBERT D. DAVIS
BRIG. GEN. GERALD A. DONOHUE
BRIG. GEN. AARON D. DRAKE
BRIG. GEN. LYLE K. DREW
BRIG. GEN. RUSSELL D. DRIGGERS
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL R. DROWLEY
BRIG. GEN. DAVIS S. EAGLIN
BRIG. GEN. GREGORY KREUDER
BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH D. KUNKEL
BRIG. GEN. JEFFERSON J. O'DONNELL
BRIG. GEN. DEREK J. O'MALLEY
BRIG. GEN. NEIL R. RICHARDSON
BRIG. GEN. FRANK R. VERDUGO

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. JOHN M. SCHUTTE

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. LUCAS J. TEEL

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. DAVID WILSON

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

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JUSTIN W. OSBERG

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. JOSEPH A. RYAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AND APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 10506:

To be lieutenant general

BRIG. GEN. JONATHAN M. STUBBS

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. JOSEPH M. RUDD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF ENGINEERS AND 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., SECTIONS 601 AND 7036:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM H. GRAHAM, JR.

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

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ANDREE G. CARTER
BRIG. GEN. KELLY M. DICKERSON
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL J. DOUGHERTY
BRIG. GEN. JAKE S. KWON
BRIG. GEN. ROBERT S. POWELL, JR.
BRIG. GEN. DAVID M. SAMUELSEN
BRIG. GEN. MATTHEW S. WARNE
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL L. YOST

To be brigadier general

COL. CLINT A. BARNES
COL. MANU L. DAVIS
COL. DAWN M. JOHNSON
COL. KYSON M. JOHNSON
COL. CRAIG C. MCFARLAND
COL. SHAUN P. MILLER
COL. CHRISTOPHER R. PILAND
COL. MITCHELL J. WISNIEWSKI III

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. KEVIN D. ADMIRAL

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

To be brigadier general

COL. BRIAN R. ABRAHAM
COL. BRION J. ADERMAN
COL. DIANE M. ARMBRUSTER
COL. ANDREW W. BALLENGER
COL. GLORIA A. BERLANGA
COL. DONALD C. BERLOW III
COL. MATTHEW M. BROWER
COL. MAC B. CARTER
COL. CATHERINE L. CHERRY
COL. BRETT D. COMPTON
COL. MATTHEW W. COOPER
COL. KEVIN P. CRAWFORD
COL. STEVEN M. DAVENPORT
COL. ROBERT B. DEATON
COL. PHILIP R. DEMONTIGNY
COL. MATTHEW O. DINENNA
COL. WILLIAM L. DIONNE
COL. WILLIAM M. DIPROFIO
COL. MICHAEL G. DYKES
COL. CATHLEEN A. EAKEN
COL. MICHAEL P. FLAHERTY
COL. PAUL D. GAFINSKI
COL. WILLIAM J. GENTILE
COL. RONALD C. GUERNSEY II
COL. MATTHEW R. HANNDY
COL. JAMES H. HANKINS, JR.
COL. DAVID R. HATCHER II
COL. JEFFREY A. HEATON
COL. VANCE R. HOLLENACK
COL. PAUL W. HOLLENACK
COL. MATTHEW R. JAMES
COL. CHRISTOPHER M. JOHNSON
COL. FRANKLIN L. JONES
COL. MATTHEW J. JONKEY
COL. MARK G. KAPPELMANN
COL. CHARLES H. LAMPE
COL. JASON C. LEFTON
COL. NATALIE L. LEWELLEN
COL. DANIAL LISTER
COL. JOEL P. LYNCH
COL. CHRIS M. MABIS
COL. JOHN S. MACDONALD
COL. MICHAEL P. MARCINIAK
COL. KRIS J. MARSHALL
COL. CHRISTOPHER J. MARTINDALE
COL. BRADLEY O. MARTSCHING
COL. TANYA S. MCGONEGAL
COL. FRANK J. MCGOWEN IV
COL. FRANCIS R. MONTGOMERY
COL. DAVID A. MOORE
COL. JOE E. MURDOCK
COL. DERRALD R. NEUGEBAUER
COL. TIMOTHY J. NEWMAN
COL. KEVIN P. O'BRIEN
COL. RICHARD F. OBERMAN
COL. JASON D. OBERTON
COL. JAMES K. PERRIN, JR.
COL. MARK D. PHILLIPS
COL. JOHN P. PLUNKETT
COL. LEONARD J. POIRIER
COL. MATTHEW N. PORTER
COL. RYAN S. PRICE

COL. CREGG M. PUCKETT
 COL. JAMES B. RICHMOND
 COL. STEVEN T. RIVERA
 COL. DENNIS M. ROHLER
 COL. SCOTT J. ROHWEDER
 COL. ARTHUR C. ROSCOE, JR.
 COL. CHAD M. ROUDEBUSH
 COL. DAVID P. SANTOS, JR.
 COL. STEVEN J. SIEMONSMA
 COL. BARRY B. SIMMONS
 COL. MICHAEL J. SIPPLES
 COL. BENJAMIN J. SPROUSE
 COL. BARBARA P. TUCKER
 COL. MARK C. TURNER
 COL. ANSEL M. TYNDALL II
 COL. GABRIEL V. VARGAS
 COL. ROBERT H. WALTER, JR.
 COL. ERIC C. WIELAND
 COL. CARLIN G. WILLIAMS
 COL. LEONARD A. WILLIAMS
 COL. ROGER B. ZEIGLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT
 IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED
 UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 156:

To be brigadier general

COL. ERIC W. WIDMAR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF
 THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN

THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED
 UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. TROY E. ARMSTRONG
 BRIG. GEN. JOHN B. BOWLIN
 BRIG. GEN. SEAN T. BOYETTE
 BRIG. GEN. FELICIA BROKAW
 BRIG. GEN. MARTIN M. CLAY, JR.
 BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH A. HOPKINS III
 BRIG. GEN. KIPLING V. KAHLER
 BRIG. GEN. HALDANE B. LAMBERTON
 BRIG. GEN. DEREK N. LIPSON
 BRIG. GEN. LAURA A. MCHUGH
 BRIG. GEN. JASON P. NELSON
 BRIG. GEN. JOHN R. PIPPY
 BRIG. GEN. DAVID K. PRITCHETT
 BRIG. GEN. DANIEL L. PULVERMACHER
 BRIG. GEN. BREN D. ROGERS
 BRIG. GEN. JAMES P. SCHREFFLER
 BRIG. GEN. LELAND T. SHEPHERD
 BRIG. GEN. ROBIN B. STILWELL
 BRIG. GEN. JONATHAN M. STUBBS
 BRIG. GEN. JOHN M. WALLACE
 BRIG. GEN. RICHARD A. WHOLEY
 BRIG. GEN. TERI D. WILLIAMS

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) SCOTT M. BROWN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT
 IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED
 WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND
 RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. DANIEL W. DWYER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT
 IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED
 WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND
 RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. MICHAEL E. BOYLE

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by
 the Senate July 8, 2024:

THE JUDICIARY

NANCY L. MALDONADO, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED
 STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING STELLA WHITNEY-
WEST

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable career and leadership of Stella Whitney-West, who is retiring after 17 years as Chief Executive Officer of NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center in Minneapolis.

NorthPoint, one of my district's Federally Qualified Health Centers, serves thousands of my constituents every year, Federally Qualified Health Centers make up the fabric of our country's health safety net—and Ms. Whitney-West's leadership has been instrumental in making NorthPoint a shining example of the FQHC model. In fact, it should be noted that NorthPoint was the first FQHC to be designated as a Health Care Home by the Minnesota Department of Public Health. Ms. Whitney-West began her career at NorthPoint as Chief Operating Officer in 2004. When she became the Chief Executive Officer in 2007, she led NorthPoint through a transitional time of several renovations and expansions to better serve our community. Throughout Ms. Whitney-West's tenure, she and her staff have prioritized fostering partnerships with other organizations throughout the city to expand their reach of care. NorthPoint's role in serving our community during the COVID-19 pandemic is immeasurable. Under Ms. Whitney-West's steadfast leadership, NorthPoint was a cornerstone of health and wellness for those who needed it most; not only by providing critical care and information, but also access to countless other resources like food and housing support. The positive impact that NorthPoint has on my district cannot be overstated, and it is thanks in large part to Stella Whitney-West's incredible leadership.

Ms. Whitney-West has spent the last 20 years at NorthPoint deeply committed to improving the lives of those in and around Minneapolis. She has also served on the boards of Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers, and the African American Leadership Forum. While Ms. Whitney-West will be truly missed at NorthPoint, I am sure that the strong foundation she built will ensure NorthPoint's long-term success and positive role in our community for generations to come. Ms. Whitney-West's leadership and dedication to public health is invaluable—her life's work serving others has made Minneapolis a healthier, more equitable place for all.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to honor and thank Stella Whitney-West for her distinguished career and faithful service to our community.

CELEBRATING FRANK CHARLES
BIELECKI'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2024

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of my constituent, Frank Charles Bielecki, who turns 100 years old on August 28th of this year. Mr. Bielecki has dedicated his life to our country, his family, and Michiganders.

Bielecki served in the United States Army for three years, where he worked as a Private and Tec 5 Cook at Fort Custer in Michigan. Bielecki spent 60 wonderful years with his wife Dorothy Joan Kulak, and he is a proud father to three sons, a grandfather of seven, and a great grandfather of eleven. Before retiring in 1986, he worked at Rapistan Conveyors in Grand Rapids for over 31 years.

When asked about his secret to longevity, Bielecki recalls always working hard, staying healthy, and eating plenty of Vernors and Little Debbie Honey Buns. From raising generations of Michiganders to serving our country, Bielecki has inspired so many people across the Third District. I applaud the positive impact he continues to make in our West Michigan community.

Mr. Speaker, once more I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Bielecki for his lifelong commitment to family, community, and service; and to Mr. Bielecki, I wish him another happy, healthy, and fulfilling year ahead.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF
NARSAI MICHAEL DAVID

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2024

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of an extraordinary American, Narsai Michael David.

Narsai David, the child of Assyrian immigrants, was born in South Bend, Indiana on June 26, 1936 and grew up in Turlock, California. He died in his home in Berkeley on June 20, 2024 from injuries suffered as a result of a fall.

Narsai David graduated from Turlock High School and the University of California, Berkeley, where he studied math and pre-med. He worked in a restaurant during college and after owning a printing company for two years, he worked at a restaurant in Berkeley where he eventually became a partner. In 1970 he launched a catering business and one of his first clients, rock impresario Bill Graham, introduced him to many of the legends of the era.

In 1976 Narsai opened his eponymous restaurant in Kensington, California, and was in the vanguard of the food revolution of the

1970's. He also owned a vineyard in the Napa Valley where he produced Cuvée and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Narsai David's inviting smile, warm voice and passion for food and travel made him a widely beloved and highly regarded writer of a cooking column in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and commentator on KCBS radio and television for many years.

Reminiscing about Narsai, his colleagues at KCBS remember his signature bow ties, and how he would begin with "I'm Narsai David to say . . ." and launch into his news reports. He never said anything negative on the radio or television about a restaurant or chef, and when he was hosting a dinner he would tinkle his fork on a glass and say "good evening, good evening and a very good evening," all with a sparkle in his eye.

Narsai was a generous philanthropist who was affiliated with the Assyrian Aid Society of America and Alameda County's Meals on Wheels program. His pride in being an Assyrian American was evident to all, and his gourmet enterprises all reflected the culture.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of a great and good man, Narsai David, and in extending our most sincere condolences to his wife Venus and his son Daniel. We are a better Nation because of this exceptional man who was a dear friend and mentor to me.

HONORING KAREN ST. HILAIRE
FOR HER SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO VETERANS

HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2024

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Karen St. Hilaire, President of the New York American Legion Auxiliary, and her work with the Hope For The Warriors project.

Karen St. Hilaire is a 49-year member of the Mattydale American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 1832 in Onondaga County. She became a member through her father John Allen who served in World War Two. Her late husband Jerry Hilaire was also a Veteran in the Army who served in Vietnam.

Karen's leadership skill began as Unit President in 1999 progressing to County in 2008, and District in 2011. She has chaired the Community Service, Americanism, Leadership, Children and Youth, VA&R, Membership Committees, and as an Executive Board member.

Karen has been spending her year promoting and raising money for the "Hope For The Warriors," Hope For The Warriors was founded by military families aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, NC in 2006 as they witnessed, firsthand, the effects war impacts on service members and their families. Hope For the Warriors believes those touched by military service can succeed at home by restoring their sense of self, family, and hope.

● 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.

Nationally, Hope For The Warriors provides comprehensive support programs for service members, veterans, and military families that are focused on transition, health and wellness, peer engagement, and connections to community resources.

Hope For The Warriors understands the challenges, pride, and joy of being a military family. For today, tomorrow, and years to come, they will strive to meet the changing needs of service members and their families. Hope For The Warriors is a family, united by our shared conviction of honor and sacrifice. In Karen's personal life, she is active in her community as a retired Firefighter and currently elected Fire Commissioner for Hinsdale Volunteer Fire Department. Karen is a retired Registered Nurse with a certification from American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

Karen has often cited that her greatest accomplishment is that she and her late husband Jerry have two daughters, Amy and Kristin, along with six grandchildren, Ariana, Emyrson, Ayva, Camryn, Brooklyn, and Dylan. I am honored to share the admirable work that Mrs. Hilaire has devoted to helping care for our Veterans.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment No. 44—which has been included in the En Bloc amendment—to help ensure that the U.S. remains focused on helping to end female genital mutilation around the world at a time when some countries are considering repealing existing bans.

Female genital mutilation (FGM) involves procedures that alter or injure the female genitalia for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women.

As the person who led efforts to outlaw female genital mutilation in the State of Wisconsin, I am too keenly aware that this remains a pressing issue.

More than 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone female genital mutilation. And it is estimated that 4.4 million girls are at risk of experiencing this harmful practice this year alone.

This is a practice that has no health benefits but harms girls and women.

I share concerns that have been raised about the overall funding levels in this bill that have been so well articulated and the deep cuts to a range of programs that are vital to our Nation's interest and national security efforts.

I am also troubled by a number of policy riders that have been inserted into this bill. The bill defunds agencies like the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) that have been working to address female genital mutilation for years. Agencies like the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) that have also been engaged in helping to move the world towards the elimi-

nation of this practice. The Department of State has annually provided about \$5 million to UNICEF to support a Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation.

While we have not yet eliminated the practice of FGM, our investments and those of our international partners have seen results. As noted by the UN, over the last three decades, the prevalence of FGM has declined globally. It wasn't by accident.

It took hard work by dedicated partners at all levels from the international community to the local community working to reframe laws and attitudes.

But the work must continue.

For example, the parliament in The Gambia is considering repealing the FGM ban enacted in that country in 2015.

The repeal campaign began after the government dared to actually enforce the law a few years ago.

Overall, there is concern that if The Gambia repeals its law, this could inspire other countries to do likewise.

But more importantly, is what it would mean for the women and girls in Gambia, where some estimated that up to three-quarters of the women and girls have undergone the procedure.

In February of this year, when the world commemorated the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, our Secretary of State Antony Blinken said, "FGM, in all forms, is a Human rights abuse that harms all women."

We cannot rollback the U.S. commitment to ending this human rights abuse and that includes ensuring that we adequately fund these efforts.

Our commitment to eliminating FGM—working with international organizations, such as UNICEF and UNFPA, countries, survivors, and other stakeholders—will only go as deep as our resources take it. My amendment would send a message that we still think this is important even in a bill that makes harmful cuts across the board to development, diplomacy, and humanitarian assistance.

I urge support.

RECOGNIZING THE BEREA CITIZEN

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Berea Citizen, a newspaper in Kentucky's Sixth District. The Berea Citizen was founded in 1899. It has been a trusted news source for the people of Madison County for 125 years.

The idea for the newspaper originated with Berea College President William G. Frost and at first it served as the school newspaper. It remained connected with Berea College until 1984, when it became a private newspaper. It was first delivered on Chestnut Street along a dirt road. The newspaper survived the Great Depression, two World Wars, and a global pandemic, delivering local news to the community without interruption.

The Berea Citizen staff recognizes that freedom of the press is critical in our society. They prioritize fair and balanced coverage of local meetings and events. The Berea Citizen

reached more than 10,000 readers each week. They are currently owned by Nolan Group Media from Manchester, Kentucky. Keith Taylor, the publisher, began in 2020 as the pandemic was beginning. The owner is Jay Nolan, and the Vice President is Glenn Gray. The Berea Citizen is one of the few locally owned newspapers in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and it is printed in Kentucky at J. Frank Publishing in London, Kentucky.

In an era when many community newspapers are declining and no longer able to print news for the citizens, The Berea Citizen continues its mission to be a voice in the community. I congratulate them on their 125-year anniversary, and I am honored to recognize them before the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATIE PORTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2024

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on Roll Call Nos. 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, and 335. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on No. 327, NAY on No. 328, YEA on No. 329, YEA on No. 330, NAY on No. 331, YEA on No. 332, NAY on No. 333, YEA on No. 334, and NAY on No. 335.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIRNESS IN FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS MEDICAL CARE ACT OF 2024

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Fairness in Federal Bureau of Prisons Medical Care Act of 2024. This bill would eliminate the copay the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) imposes on individuals in its custody when they visit a health care provider.

Under BOP rules, individuals in its custody are required to "pay a fee for health services of \$2.00 per health care visit." While \$2 may seem insignificant, when such individuals earn only twelve to forty cents per hour on their work assignments, \$2 is substantial. That money could better be used to pay for the cost of necessities. Moreover, while copays can reduce unnecessary appointments, we should be encouraging such individuals to seek medical care before their conditions become worse and more expensive for taxpayers. Early care is better for patients and much less expensive for the federal government than costly treatments that could have been avoided by a simple health care visit earlier in the process.

Under BOP rules, if an individual in BOP custody is found responsible through the Disciplinary Hearing Process of having caused an injury to another person in BOP custody that required a visit to a health care provider, the offending individual is required to pay the \$2 copay for the injured individual's visit. That rule would not change under this bill.

Removing this unnecessary copay would encourage early treatment and would save the federal government money.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN MEMORY OF ERNEST L. HESTER, JR.

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to lift up the life of a great American. Ernest L. Hester, Jr., known to most as Tim, who passed away on April 16, 2024.

Mr. Hester was born June 28, 1939. He served in the United States Army Reserves in the early 1960's and was stationed at Fort Drum and at Fort Sill. He served as a contractor with the United States Department of Defense in a classified capacity in the United States and abroad. He was involved with design work regarding national and international security. Mr. Hester used his talents to serve our Nation in a quiet but very important way.

Mr. Hester was married to his wife Barbara Ann Banks Hester for 59 years. They have one son, Peter, and two daughters, Jennifer and Aimee. Their family also includes ten grandchildren. Mr. Hester was a Christian and a patriotic American. A true gentleman, he always treated others with kindness, generosity, and respect. Mr. Hester was known for his resourcefulness and his ability to get things done.

Mr. Hester was a generous, faithful, and intelligent man who served our country well. I am honored to recognize Ernest L. "Tim" Hester before the United States Congress.

HONORING MRS. MARTHA ANN SANDERS

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2024

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of St. Louis to celebrate the 80th birthday of Mrs. Martha Ann Sanders.

Eighty years is a remarkable milestone and worthy of great celebration. Mrs. Sanders has seen and lived through segments of history that most of us can only learn about through being in close community with our elders. Her trials, triumphs, and everything in between, are a beautiful testament to a remarkable life.

As we honor and celebrate her birthday, I would like to recognize Mrs. Sanders' family and friends who are celebrating this milestone occasion. Mrs. Sanders' unwavering strength and profound love for her family is evident and today serves as a reminder of the impact she has had on her family and broader community.

On behalf of Missouri's First Congressional District, I wish Mrs. Martha Ann Sanders peace, blessings, and a joyous start to her 80th year.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate com-

mittees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

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

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 10

- 10 a.m.
 - Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
 - To hold an oversight hearing to examine digital commodities. SR-328A
 - Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
 - To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Shannon A. Estenoz, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior. SD-366
 - Committee on Environment and Public Works
 - To hold hearings to examine the state and federal response to the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse on March 26, 2024. SD-406
 - Committee on Finance
 - To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jeffrey Samuel Arbeit, of the District of Columbia, Benjamin A. Guider III, of Louisiana, and Cathy Fung, of California, each to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court. SD-215
 - Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
 - To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Permitting Council, focusing on improving transparency and coordination. SD-342
 - Committee on the Judiciary
 - To hold hearings to examine certain pending nominations. SD-226
- 2 p.m.
 - Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
 - To hold hearings to examine war crimes and complicity from Syria to Ukraine. RHOB-2247
- 2:15 p.m.
 - Committee on Foreign Relations
 - To received a closed briefing on the Columbia River Treaty. SVC-217
- 2:30 p.m.
 - Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
 - Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy
 - To hold hearings to examine the state of rural infrastructure, focusing on emergency response, recovery, and resilience. SR-328A

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 2783, to amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act to authorize the expansion of the Miccosukee Reserved Area and to carry out activities to protect structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding, S. 3406, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make a technical correction to the Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund, to amend the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 to make technical corrections to the Taos Pueblo Water Development Fund and Aamodt Settlement Pueblos' Fund, S. 3857, to take certain land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California, and S. 4365, to provide public health veterinary services to Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations for rabies prevention. SD-628

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine personnel vetting, security clearance reform, and Trusted Workforce 2.0. SH-216

JULY 11

- 9 a.m.
 - Committee on Armed Services
 - To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Tonya Parran Wilkerson, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and Security, and Michael Louis Sulmeyer, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Defense. SH-216
- 9:30 a.m.
 - Committee on Appropriations
 - Business meeting to consider 302(b) Subcommittee allocations, and to markup an original bill entitled, "Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2025", an original bill entitled, "Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025", and an original bill entitled, "Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025". SD-106
- 10 a.m.
 - Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
 - To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Christy Goldsmith Romero, of Virginia, to be Chairperson and Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Caroline A. Crenshaw, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Kristin N. Johnson, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Gordon I. Ito, of Hawaii, to be a Member of the Financial Stability Oversight Council. SD-538
 - Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 - To hold hearings to examine the need to protect Americans' privacy and the AI Accelerant. SR-253
 - Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 - To hold hearings to examine what Congress can do to end the medical debt crisis in America. SD-562
 - Committee on the Judiciary
 - Business meeting to consider S. 1306, to reauthorize the COPS ON THE BEAT

grant program, and the nominations of Embry J. Kidd, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, Adam B. Abelson, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, Michelle Williams Court, Anne Hwang, and Cynthia Valenzuela Dixon, each to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Sarah Netburn, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Stacey D. Neumann, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine, Joseph Francis Saporito, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and Meredith

A. Vacca, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York.

SD-G50

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine health care transparency, focusing on lowering costs and empowering patients.

SD-138

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the U.S. taxpayer funded high-risk virus research.

SD-342

SEPTEMBER 24

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine Novo Nordisk's high prices for Ozempic and Wegovy for patients with diabetes and obesity.

SD-562

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4215–S4250

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4630–4639, and S. Res. 751–752. **Page S4245**

Measures Reported:

S. 4036, to establish a Government Spending Oversight Committee within the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–186)

S. 1723, to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–187)

S. 4638, 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. (S. Rept. No. 118–188) **Page S4245**

Measures Passed:

National Anti-Counterfeiting and Consumer Education and Awareness Month: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 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”, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S4249**

Measures Considered:

Reproductive Freedom For Women Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 4554, to express support for protecting access to reproductive health care after the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision on June 24, 2022. **Page S4224**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination

of Anne Marie Wagner, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2029. **Page S4224**

Prior to the consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Pages S4223–24**

Wagner Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Anne Marie Wagner, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2029. **Page S4223**

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 Charles J. Willoughby, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. **Page S4223**

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S4223**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4223**

Kiko Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Colleen Duffy Kiko, of North Dakota, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority. **Page S4224**

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 S. 4554, to express support for protecting access to reproductive health care after the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision on June 24, 2022. **Page S4224**

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 S4224**

Lee and Meriweather Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday,

July 9, 2024, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Patricia L. Lee, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board; that the motions to invoke cloture filed on Thursday, June 20, 2024, ripen at 12 noon, on Tuesday, July 9, 2024; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Patricia L. Lee, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m., and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Robin Michelle Meriweather, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, all time be considered expired at 5:45 p.m. **Page S4249**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 47 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 203), Nancy L. Maldonado, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit. **Pages S4215–23, S4250**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Byron B. Conway, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Jonathan E. Hawley, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

Ryan Young Park, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Gail A. Weilheimer, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

21 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.
129 Army nominations in the rank of general.
3 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Pages S4249–50

Messages from the House: **Page S4230**

Measures Referred: **Page S4230**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S4230**

Executive Communications: **Pages S4230–37**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S4237–45**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4245–47**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S4247–49

Additional Statements: **Pages S4226–29**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—203) **Page S4223**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:52 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 9, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4249.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 17 public bills, H.R. 8937–8953; and 1 resolution, H. Res. 1340, were introduced. **Pages H4476–77**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H4477–79**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 7816, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center for an assessment of notice letters that the Secretary sends to claimants for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–576); and

H.R. 6493, to limit the involvement of Federal agencies in voter registration activities, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–577, Part 1). **Page H4476**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Carl to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H4459**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:23 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H4462**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:07 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. **Page H4462**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures: Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act: H.R. 897, amended, to provide for the establishment of the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 349 yeas to 19 nays, Roll No. 336;

Pages H4463–64, H4470–71

Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act: H.R. 5441, to reauthorize

Long Island Sound programs, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nay vote of 333 yeas to 51 nays, Roll No. 337;

Pages H4464–66, H4472

Water Monitoring and Tracking Essential Resources (WATER) Data Improvement Act: H.R. 5770, amended, to reauthorize certain United States Geological Survey water data enhancement programs;

Pages H4466–67

Restoring the ability of the people of American Samoa to approve amendments to the territorial constitution based on majority rule in a democratic act of self-determination: H.R. 6062, to restore the ability of the people of American Samoa to approve amendments to the territorial constitution based on majority rule in a democratic act of self-determination, as authorized pursuant to an Act of Congress delegating administration of Federal territorial law in the territory to the President, and to the Secretary of the Interior under Executive Order 10264, dated June 29, 1951, under which the Constitution of American Samoa was approved and may be amended without requirement for further congressional action, subject to the authority of Congress under the Territorial Clause in article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the United States Constitution; and

Pages H4467–68

Accelerating Appraisals and Conservation Efforts Act: H.R. 5443, amended, to establish a policy regarding appraisal and valuation services for real property for a transaction over which the Secretary of the Interior has jurisdiction.

Pages H4468–70

Recess: The House recessed at 4:46 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

Page H4470

Oath of Office—Fourth Congressional District of Colorado: Representative-elect Greg Lopez presented himself in the well of the House and was administered the Oath of Office by the Speaker. Earlier, the Clerk of the House transmitted a copy of a letter received from the Honorable Jena M. Griswold, Colorado Secretary of State, indicating that, according to the unofficial results for the Special Election held June 25, 2024, the Honorable Greg Lopez was elected for Representative to Congress for the Fourth Congressional District of Colorado.

Pages H4471, H4475

Whole Number of the House: The Speaker announced to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentleman from Colorado, the whole number of the House is 433.

Page H4472

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yeas-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4470–71 and H4472.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Committee Meetings

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025; SAFEGUARD AMERICAN VOTER ELIGIBILITY ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE RELATING TO NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES RECEIVING FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE; REFRIGERATOR FREEDOM ACT; STOP UNAFFORDABLE DISHWASHER STANDARDS ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 8772, the “Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2025”; H.R. 8281, the “Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act”; 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. 7637, the “Refrigerator Freedom Act”; and H.R. 7700, the “Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act”. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 8–3, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 8281, the “Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act”, H.R. 8772, the “Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2025”, 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. 7637, the “Refrigerator Freedom Act”, and H.R. 7700, the “Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act”. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 8281, the “Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on House Administration now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommend. The rule further provides for consideration of

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”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. The rule provides that the joint resolution shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the joint resolution. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 8772, the “Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2025”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the report and pro forma amendments described in section 5. Each amendment shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 5 of the rule, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. All points of order against the amendments printed in the report are waived. The rule provides that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 7700, the “Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration H.R. 7637, the “Refrigerator Freedom Act”, under a closed rule.

The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Chairman Foxx, and Representatives Steil, Morelle, Valadao, Espaillat, Scott of Virginia, Duncan, Pallone, and Moylan.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D644)

H.R. 2365, to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national project to prevent, diagnose, treat, and cure Parkinson’s, to be known as the National Parkinson’s Project. Signed on July 2, 2024. (Public Law 118–66)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to Congress, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine CBO’s updated 2024–2034 budget and economic outlook, 10 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the GSA’s Public Buildings Service, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the state of child care, focusing on how Federal policy solutions can support families, close existing gaps, and strengthen economic growth, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Children and Families, to hold hearings to examine everyday expenses and everyday Americans, focusing on how high costs impact children and families, 10 a.m., SD–562.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: business meeting to consider the nominations of Sherri Malloy Beatty-Arthur, Rahkel Bouchet, Erin Camille Johnston, Ray D. McKenzie, and John Cuong Truong, each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 9:45 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine closing the justice gap, focusing on how to make the civil justice system accessible to all Americans, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SVC-217.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Full Committee, markup on the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2025; the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2025; and the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2025, 9 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, hearing entitled “Confronting Union Antisemitism: Protecting Workers from Big Labor Abuses”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “The Fiscal Year 2025 Federal Communications Commission Agency Budget”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce, hearing entitled “The Fiscal Year 2025 Federal Trade Commission Budget”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Annual Testimony of the Secretary of the Treasury on the State of the International Financial System”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight and Accountability, hearing entitled “Management Successes and Failures: Assessing the U.S. Agency for Global Media”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled “Examining the 2024 Annual Trafficking in Persons Report: Progress over Politics”, 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security, hearing entitled “Protecting the Homeland—Examining TSA’s Relationships with U.S. Adversaries”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement; and the Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability, joint hearing entitled “Smart Investments: Technology’s Role in a Multi-Layered Border Security Strategy”, 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, hearing entitled “Hearing on the Weaponization of the Federal Government”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on H.R. 3283, the “Facilitating DIGITAL Applications Act”; H.R. 3299, the “DIGITAL Applications Act”; H.R. 5401, the “9/11 Memorial and Museum Act”; H.R. 6012, the “Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act of 2023”; H.R. 7976, the “Civil War Defenses of Washington National Historical Park Act”; and H.R. 8012, the “Jackie Robinson Commemorative Site Act”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing on H.R. 7544, the “Water Rights Protection Act of 2024”; H.R. 8308, the “Nutria Eradication and Control Reauthorization Act of 2024”; H.R. 8811, the “America’s Conservation Enhancement Reauthorization Act of 2024”; and legislation on the ESA Amendments Act of 2024, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, hearing entitled “An Examination of the California Air Resources Board’s (CARB) In Use Locomotive Regulation”, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 8914, the “University Accountability Act”; H.R. 8913, the “Protecting American Students Act”; H.R. 8915, the “Education and Workforce Freedom Act”; and H.J. Res. 148, disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of the Treasury related to “Clean Vehicle Credits Under Sections 25E and 30D; Transfer of Credits; Critical Minerals and Battery Components; Foreign Entities of Concern”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of July 9 through July 12, 2024

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Patricia L. Lee, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 12 noon. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Patricia L. Lee, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Robin Michelle Meriweather, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination at 5:45 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Robin Michelle Meriweather, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Charles J. Willoughby, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

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

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: July 10, to hold an oversight hearing to examine digital commodities, 10 a.m., SR-328A.

July 10, Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy, to hold hearings to examine the state of rural infrastructure, focusing on emergency response, recovery, and resilience, 2:30 p.m., SR-328A.

Committee on Appropriations: July 11, business meeting to consider 302(b) Subcommittee allocations, and to markup an original bill entitled, “Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2025”, an original bill entitled, “Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025”, and an original bill entitled, “Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025”, 9:30 a.m., SD-106.

Committee on Armed Services: July 11, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Tonya Parran Wilkerson, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and Security, and Michael Louis Sulmeyer, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Defense, 9 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: July 9, to hold hearings to examine the Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to Congress, 10 a.m., SH-216.

July 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Christy Goldsmith Romero, of Virginia, to be Chairperson and Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Caroline A. Crenshaw, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Kristin N. Johnson, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Gordon I. Ito, of Hawaii, to be a Member of the Financial Stability Oversight Council, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on the Budget: July 9, to hold hearings to examine CBO’s updated 2024–2034 budget and economic outlook, 10 a.m., SD-608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: July 11, to hold hearings to examine the need to protect Americans’ privacy and the AI Accelerant, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: July 10, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Shannon A. Estenoz, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: July 9, Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the GSA’s Public Buildings Service, 10 a.m., SD-406.

July 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the state and federal response to the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse on March 26, 2024, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: July 9, to hold hearings to examine the state of child care, focusing on how Federal policy solutions can support families, close existing gaps, and strengthen economic growth, 10 a.m., SD-215.

July 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jeffrey Samuel Arbeit, of the District of Columbia, Benjamin A. Guider III, of Louisiana, and Cathy Fung, of California, each to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: July 10, to received a closed briefing on the Columbia River Treaty, 2:15 p.m., SVC-217.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: July 9, Subcommittee on Children and Families, to hold hearings to examine everyday expenses and everyday Americans, focusing on how high costs impact children and families, 10 a.m., SD-562.

July 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine what Congress can do to end the medical debt crisis in America, 10 a.m., SD-562.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: July 9, business meeting to consider the nominations of Sherri Malloy Beatty-Arthur, Rahkel Bouchet, Erin Camille Johnston, Ray D. McKenzie, and John Cuong Truong, each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 9:45 a.m., SD-342.

July 10, Full Committee, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Permitting Council, focusing on improving transparency and coordination, 10 a.m., SD-342.

July 11, Full Committee, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the U.S. taxpayer funded high-risk virus research, 10:30 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: July 10, to hold hearings to examine S. 2783, to amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act to authorize the expansion of the Miccosukee Reserved Area and to carry out activities to protect structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding, S. 3406, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make a technical correction to the Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund, to amend the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 to make technical corrections to the Taos Pueblo Water Development Fund and Aamodt Settlement Pueblos’ Fund, S. 3857, to take certain land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California, and S. 4365, to provide public health veterinary services to Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations for rabies prevention, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: July 9, to hold hearings to examine closing the justice gap, focusing on how to make the civil justice system accessible to all Americans, 10 a.m., SD-226.

July 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine certain pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD-226.

July 11, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1306, to reauthorize the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, and the nominations of Embry J. Kidd, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, Adam B. Abelson, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, Michelle Williams Court, Anne Hwang, and Cynthia Valenzuela Dixon, each to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Sarah Netburn, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Stacey D. Neumann, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine, Joseph Francis Saporito, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and Meredith A. Vacca, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

Select Committee on Intelligence: July 9, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SVC-217.

July 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine personnel vetting, security clearance reform, and Trusted Workforce 2.0, 2:30 p.m., SH-216.

Special Committee on Aging: July 11, to hold hearings to examine health care transparency, focusing on lowering costs and empowering patients, 10 a.m., SD-138.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, July 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Examining the Consequences of EPA’s Actions on American Agriculture”, 2 p.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, July 10, Full Committee, markup on the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2025; the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2025; and the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2025; and the Revised Report on the Sub-allocation of the Budget Allocations for FY 2025, 9 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, July 10, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 8932, the “FAFSA Deadline Act”; H.R. 2941, the “Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act”; H.R. 6319, the “Supporting Accurate Views of Emergency Services Act of 2023”; H.R. 2574, the “EMS Counts Act”; and H.J. Res. 142, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to “Retirement Security Rule: Definition of an Investment Advice Fiduciary”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, July 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Federal Reserve’s Semi-Annual Monetary Policy Report”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, July 10, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 8926, to modify and reauthorize the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018; H.R. 8345, to limit funds to the United Nations and other organizations that provide any status, rights, or privileges beyond observer status to the Palestine Liberation Organization, and for other purposes; H. Res. 1323, rejecting the United Nations decision to place the Israel Defense Force on a list of child’s rights abusers; H.R. 7151, to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 to provide for expedited consideration of proposals for additions to, removals from, or other modifications with respect to entities on the Entity List, and for other purposes; H. Res. 837, reaffirming ties between the United States and the Philippines; H.R. 8566, to require reports and certain actions with respect to the Republic of Georgia; H. Res. 554, affirming the nature and importance of the support of the United States for the religious and ethnic minority survivors of genocide in Iraq; H.R. 1425, to require any convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response reached by the World Health

Assembly to be subject to Senate ratification; H.R. 7025, to extend and authorize annual appropriations for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom through fiscal year 2026; H.J. Res. 164, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Commerce relating to “Revision of Firearms License Requirements”; H. Res. 1328, recognizing the actions of the Rapid Support Forces and allied militias in the Darfur region of Sudan against non-Arab ethnic communities as acts of genocide; H.R. 3042, to modify the requirements for candidate countries under the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003, and for other purposes; H.R. 7914, to require the imposition of sanctions on the Popular Resistance Committees and other associated entities, and for other purposes; H.R. 8232, to authorize the Secretary of State to withdraw from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East Federal funds previously made available to such organization; H.R. 8924, to require the Secretary of Commerce to identify and report on foreign adversary entities using intellectual property related to emerging technology without a license, and for other purposes; H.R. 8892, to modify certain provisions relating to bilateral agreements and AUKUS defense trade cooperation under the Arms Export Control Act, and for other purposes; H.R. 8936, to provide protection, support, and humanitarian assistance to Rohingya refugees and internally displaced people as well as promote accountability and a path out of genocide and crimes against humanity for Rohingya; and H.R. 8934, to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons engaged in piracy, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on House Administration, July 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Library of Congress”, 10:15 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, July 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Collusion in the Global Alliance for Responsible Media”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, July 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, July 10, Full Committee, markup on legislation on the NASA Reauthorization Act of 2024, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, July 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Main Street Realities: Examining the Current Economic Landscape in America”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, July 10, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing entitled “Eliminating Bottlenecks: Examining Opportunities to Recruit, Retain, and Engage Aviation Talent”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, July 10, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing on H.R. 2971, the “Veterans Claims Education Act of 2023”; H.R. 6362, the “Protecting Benefits for Disabled Veterans Act of 2023”; H.R. 6507, the “Mark Our Place Act”; H.R. 7729, the “Dennis and Lois Krisfalusy Act”; H.R. 8792, the “Flowers for Fallen Heroes Act of 2024”; H.R. 8854, the “Ensuring Veterans’ Final Resting Place

Act of 2024”; H.R. 8910, the “Dayton National Cemetery Expansion Act of 2024”; H.R. 8893, the “Preserving Veterans’ Legacy Act of 2024”; H.R. 8874, the “Modernizing All Veterans and Survivors Claims Processing Act”; H.R. 8881, the “Rural Veterans’ Improved Access to Benefits Act of 2024”; H.R. 8879, the “Improving VA Training for Military Sexual Trauma Claims Act”; legislation on the Veterans 2nd Amendment Restoration Act; legislation on the Safeguarding Veterans 2nd Amendment Rights Act; legislation on the Simplifying Forms for Veterans Claims Act; legislation on the Board of Veterans

Appeals’ Attorney Retention and Backlog Reduction Act; legislation on the Veterans’ Burial Improvement Act; legislation on the VA Insurance Improvement Act; and legislation on the Survivor Benefits Update Act, 10:15 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Joint Meeting

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: July 10, to hold hearings to examine war crimes and complicity from Syria to Ukraine, 2 p.m., 2247, Rayburn Building.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, July 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Patricia L. Lee, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 12 noon. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Patricia L. Lee, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Robin Michelle Meriweather, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination at 5:45 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Robin Michelle Meriweather, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Charles J. Willoughby, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

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

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, July 9

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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