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No. 113

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 9, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VINCE FONG to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

HONORING MY HUSBAND, JOSEPH LESKO

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

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my husband, Joseph Lesko. He is here in the House gallery today, right there.

I am totally convinced that God brought Joe and I together. We met in July in Phoenix at a snow skiing club, believe it or not. For both of us, it was our first time attending the meeting. That had to be fate.

I knew as soon as I saw him that I had to talk to that man, and I made a

beeline over to talk to him. We have now been married for over 30 years.

This will be my last year in Congress. I have decided it is time for me to go home and join my husband, Joe, our children, and our grandchildren. My mother, my sister, my brother, and my entire family lives within 20 minutes of my home, and I am here in Washington, D.C., most of the time, so it is time for me to go home.

I thank my husband, Joe, for being a wonderful husband, a wonderful father, and a wonderful grandfather. He has been there for me and our children through the ups and downs. He has supported me when my opponents vilified me in TV commercials. It hurt him probably more than me.

He has stood by me when I had to be here in Washington, D.C., working. He was at home, and it is hard. It is hard on a family. It is hard on a husband.

I thank Joe for always being there for me. I thank him for being a great husband and father and for being a great man. I love you.

HONORING MY MOTHER, DELORES LORENZ

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my mother, Delores Lorenz.

My mom will be 95 years old this year, and she is still going strong. She lives on her own. She cuts her own grass. I hope I can be like her.

My mom has always been there for me. She stayed home and raised us kids. She worked hard. Believe me, being a mom is hard work. She got up early in the morning because my dad had to go to work very early in the morning, and she would make sure that she would make him breakfast every morning.

She washed our clothes, cleaned up everything, and made our dinners. She was famous for baking pies, although she said she is now retired from baking pies, which makes me sad.

She helped all of us kids with our homework, and when I ran for Con-

gress, my mother stood in the heat in front of the Ace Hardware store outside of Phoenix, Arizona, and walked her whole neighborhood to collect signatures to get me on the ballot.

I love my mom. She made me who I am. I thank my mom for always being there for me. I thank her for everything she does.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members not to refer to persons in the gallery.

RECOGNIZING PARK AND RECREATION MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize July as Park and Recreation Month.

It is a fitting month to celebrate, as many Americans visit our Federal, State, and local public parks and recreation systems this summer.

As a lifelong resident of rural Pennsylvania, an avid outdoorsman, and a former recreational therapist, I strongly support our Nation's parks and recreation facilities. Our parks provide countless recreational and educational opportunities for individuals and families to enjoy the outdoors.

This month recognizes the important role these parks and public facilities play in the lives of Americans and the contributions of employees who work every day to maintain public parks across the Nation.

Our parks create opportunities for people to come together and experience a sense of community. They contribute to local economies by attracting businesses, jobs, and increasing housing values. Ninety percent of people in the United States agree that public park recreation facilities and activities are important government services. This support spans across all people in the

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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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country regardless of race, income, or political affiliation.

Nearly 75 percent of Americans agree it is important to ensure all members of their community have equitable access to public parks and recreation facilities. In the United States, local public park and recreation agencies generated nearly \$201 billion in economic activity and supported almost 1.1 million jobs.

The most economically sound areas are those with ample public park and recreation facilities and activities. A key factor in business expansion and location decisions is the quality of life for employees, with a premium placed on adequate and accessible public parks and open space.

Mr. Speaker, public parks and recreational facilities foster a variety of activities that contribute to a healthier society. Americans living within a 10-minute walk of a park have higher levels of physical activity and lower rates of obesity. People who use public parks and open spaces are three times more likely to achieve the recommended levels of physical activity than nonusers.

Recreation programs at public parks provide children with a safe place to play, access to healthy foods, opportunities to be physically active, and enrichment facilities that help prevent at-risk behavior such as drug use and gang involvement.

Over the summer, many Americans will visit public parks and recreation facilities to spend time outdoors with family, friends, and neighbors. We are blessed with beautiful outdoor facilities. It is my hope that all Americans get out and enjoy the parks in their areas.

HONORING JUDGE JERRY RELLIHAN

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and service of Judge Jerry Rellihan, who passed away last month from a heart attack.

Jerry's career in law began as a prosecutor in Kansas City, Missouri. He later founded The Law Firm of Jerry Rellihan, P.C., serving the Kansas City metro area for many years. In 2015, he was elected as associate circuit judge for St. Clair County, based in Osceola, Missouri, in the Fourth Congressional District, where he served with fairness, compassion, and integrity.

Judge Rellihan's contributions to our community extended far beyond the courtroom, though. He was a mentor, leader, and friend to many. His wisdom and kindness touched the lives of countless individuals, and his legacy will continue to inspire us all.

Today, we remember Judge Rellihan not only for his professional accomplishments but also for his humanity and the positive impact he had on everyone he met.

Our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who mourn this great loss.

CELEBRATING CARLA AND BEN FORD'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 60 years of marriage between Carla and Ben Ford. Carla and Ben are Missouri District Four constituents living in Johnson County who met on a blind date at the stockyards.

They are not only strong in their marriage but also in the family they have created and in upholding their American values. Their 60 years together have brought many things to be thankful for, the most important being their two children, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

What started out as a blind date turned into six decades of love and the beginnings of future family lines. They say that trust, communication, and laughter have kept them together all these years.

I congratulate this Missouri District Four couple on the lovely marriage they have had and built. We wish Ben and Carla many, many more happy years.

CONGRATULATING MEGAN WALKER AND ALY PRENTZLER

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, we have started a contest much like the art contest where you can see the art displayed in the gallery just down the hallway here, but we started a speech contest. We wanted to rebuild patriotism in America, and we are starting with school-age children in the Fourth Congressional District. The topic: What does America mean to you?

We have two more winners today, Mr. Speaker, of this contest.

I begin with Megan Walker from Buffalo High School, Buffalo, Missouri, Dallas County. She says: "America to me is a place where I can choose who I want to be and am given the opportunities and resources to do it. America is my home, where I can feel safe expressing who I am no matter what I believe. I am given every chance possible to achieve my goals and build relationships with people that I choose. Americans are encouraged to be creative individuals by our country's leaders. I am able to feel safe and protected by my country and the people in it. We are allowed freedoms that many others are not, and I will forever be grateful for America."

Our next speech contest winner is Aly Prentzler from Glasgow High School in Glasgow, Missouri, Howard County. "America to me means freedom, freedom that has been fought for by brave men and women who serve in the military. It means even more to me since I have family members who have been part of the military. My papa served in the Army to make sure I have the right to make my own choices. My oldest brother is currently serving to make sure I continue to have this right. I am proud of this freedom and those who have fought for this right."

Mr. Speaker, I think these students for being a shining example and a light in the classroom, sharing what America means to them.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize how important the situation is in California right now across the board with our resources: our water supply, our timber, our mining, and our agriculture.

Right now, of course, you are probably reading a lot of headlines about the fire situation, how much of our forests and open lands are in big trouble, and you are going to hear that side of the aisle talking all day long about climate change.

I throw back at them, if the climate is changing, what are we actually doing as people on the ground about it besides figuring out who we are going to tax or whose car we are going to take away or whose gas stove we are going to take away?

What are we doing, practically, about making our forests more fireproof or firesafe?

What are we doing about our water supply to make sure that there is more water stored so that people, agriculture, and, yes, even the environment can use it?

What are we doing to ensure we have a stronger electrical grid?

What is it we have happening? We see they want to tear out part of the electrical grid in the form of hydroelectric dams in northern California as well as up in Oregon and Washington, et cetera. It is just one after another.

Hydroelectric dams provide CO₂-free electricity, if you want to worry about the CO₂. Now, CO₂ only makes up 0.04 percent of our atmosphere, but they are using it as a weapon in order to force us to change our lifestyles.

□ 1015

Let's store more water so we have it for agriculture, so we have it for hydroelectric power, and so we have it for all manner of things that we need water for, for human use and environmental use. Let's move the ball on that.

In my own district, we have a project called the Sites Reservoir that has been talked about for 50 years. It seems to be coming close to fruition of actually getting started to be built, but there are still roadblocks that could be thrown up. There could still be weaponized lawsuits to try and stop the building of the Sites Reservoir, which would be 1½ million more acre-feet of storage for California, as well as its positive flood control benefits when you are pulling the water out of a flooded river system into that reservoir. Why can't we think ahead a little more about these issues with our infrastructure?

Agriculture in California is one of the most important components of our food supply for this whole country that you can imagine. We have so much that we grow in California, from the Sacramento Valley to the San Joaquin Valley, that many of those crops, 90 to 99 percent of them, are grown in California.

If we don't grow it there, we are going to have to import it, or we have to do without. If we have to import it, it means it is going to be a higher cost, it is going to be lesser quality, or it will not be a reliable, constant source if they want to play trade games against us with it as well.

Why don't we produce it in California? We have the water supply. Hundreds of thousands, millions of acres-feet, even, escape to the sea each year because we are not storing it. We are not trapping it. We are not putting it into groundwater recharge, which would be extremely helpful for the San Joaquin Valley, especially where the ground has actually subsided. It is sinking somewhat.

We pull a lot of water out of the ground in order to do agricultural activity, but that said, agriculture also means groundwater recharge. If we are flooding those fields and irrigating those fields, it percolates back down in there.

Instead, they take more water away from the farmers, and they want to replace it with what they call solar farms, which is an insult. Why would you call that a farm?

Indeed, we are finding more and more that these massive solar arrays, as well as windmills, can actually change the climate in the area where they are. Think of the concentration. Think of the heat sink. We see that in urban areas, the urban heat sinks from so much pavement, so much concrete, and so many buildings. It raises the temperature.

If you want to talk about temperature once again, what are you going to do to the San Joaquin Valley where the idea is to take more and more ag land out and put so-called solar farms in?

We need to have our State be much more productive in keeping agriculture going, keeping the jobs going, and having a domestic food supply that is reliable.

With that comes infrastructure, building more water supply, and not tearing out our hydroelectric dams but actually preserving them and adding more to our electrical grid.

We have the Diablo Canyon Power Plant that has been in place for 40-plus years. It was almost going to be decommissioned here this year or next year with the two different reactors. They bought 5 more years. We need 40 more years for that plant, and we need more plants like that.

We have small nuclear plants that we can build more and more of around the country to keep our electric grid stable. Right now, when you see the temperatures in California, and a lot of the

West, perhaps, over 100 degrees, 105, 108, even some other areas that are higher than that, it is going to be really tough on our electrical grid because we don't seem to have the foresight to produce electricity.

All these things work together for affordability and for families to sustain their homes and run the air conditioner and have a stable food supply that is halfway reasonable in cost.

It is a domestic food supply and one that brings jobs to our backyard and the water supply that we all need. We need all of the above on this.

RECOGNIZING BROOKE CHILDERS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere gratitude for Brooke Ann Childers, our amazing district director in Savannah.

Brooke passionately served the First Congressional District of Georgia for many years, and our district is better off for her hard work and dedication.

As our district director, Brooke has ensured that the highest level of constituent outreach and services are met throughout the district.

From cofounding the southeastern Rotary E-Club to volunteering across Georgia's First District, Brooke continues to improve our community in her professional and private life. She is a member of several women's GOP groups and the First Congressional District GOP.

In every aspect of Brooke's time with us, she has prioritized the growth, well-being, and empowerment of the people she encounters.

I am forever grateful for her leadership in our district office and representation in our community.

I wish Brooke good luck in her future endeavors. We surely will miss her.

RECOGNIZING CHARLIE CONDON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize University of Georgia baseball player Charlie Condon who recently was awarded the Golden Spikes Award.

This award is given annually to the premier amateur baseball player in the country, combining on-field accolades with a penchant for sportsmanship.

Condon began his career at Georgia as a walk-on and ended his career as the single-season home-run leader at Georgia.

He broke the Georgia program record in just two seasons of being in the lineup, hitting 62 home runs in only 116 games.

Charlie also led the country in home runs, batting average, slugging percentage, total bases, and OPS this season as well.

Not only is he the university's first Golden Spikes Award winner, but he is also the first Dick Howser Trophy winner, as well as the Bobby Bragan National Collegiate Slugger Award winner.

In addition to his stellar hitting, he was also well accomplished in the field, playing first and third base and all three outfield positions.

I congratulate Charlie on an amazing career at the University of Georgia. I look forward to seeing how many more home runs he hits in his professional career.

RECOGNIZING BERNADETTE BALL-OLIVER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Mrs. Bernadette Ball-Oliver following her recent retirement from the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System.

Mrs. Ball-Oliver completed her successful 35-year career as the deputy superintendent of teaching and learning for the school system where she always put the needs of students first.

She graduated from Beach High School and returned to Savannah's public school system as a high school English teacher.

Throughout her career, she served as a teacher, an assistant principal, a principal, and worked in the central office as a school turnaround executive director for her alma mater before becoming deputy superintendent.

Mrs. Ball-Oliver is known for her dedication to promoting what is best for students and improving educational outcomes for students across Savannah.

I know I join all students, parents, and employees of the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System in wishing Mrs. Ball-Oliver a wonderful, well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING DR. RUSSELL T. KEEN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the exciting news that Augusta University has named its next president, my friend, Dr. Russell T. Keen.

The Georgia Board of Regents voted for Keen to lead the university, which includes the primary medical and dental school in the State.

I echo the words of USG Chancellor Sonny Perdue when I say that we are looking forward to seeing how Dr. Keen continues to push Augusta University toward being one of the best research universities in the Nation and to set its students up for lifelong success.

Keen is well equipped for the new position as he has over 20 years of experience in higher education, including his current role as executive vice president for administration and chief of staff to the retiring president.

I congratulate Russell. He is more than qualified to lead this prestigious institution. I know he will serve the Augusta community very well.

NEGATIVE NATIONAL SECURITY CONSEQUENCES

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the negative national security consequences of 3½ years of President Biden's open-border policies.

While we hear President Biden and his allies boast about a so-called drop in illegal immigrant encounters in recent weeks, the number of national security threats resulting from this administration's policies continue to mount.

According to the Department of Homeland Security's own threat assessment for this year, illegal drugs produced in Mexico and sold in the United States will take more American lives than any other threat we face.

Further underscoring the threat our country faces due to the President's open-border policies, we learned 2 weeks ago that the Department of Homeland Security has identified more than 400 illegal immigrants that have entered the U.S. over the last 3 years as "subjects of concern." They are subjects of concern because they were brought here by an ISIS-affiliated human smuggling network, according to sources who spoke with NBC News.

These unnamed officials report that 150 of these individuals have been arrested, but the whereabouts of many more are unknown. We also don't know whether the money earned in this human smuggling operation is funding ISIS activity.

A couple of weeks prior to this story, NBC also reported that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested eight men from Tajikistan, also for suspected affiliation with ISIS, in three major U.S. cities. This turned out to be an entirely separate ISIS-affiliated human smuggling network.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a couple of examples from recent weeks. We face many, many more national security threats that are a direct result of open borders and a refusal to uphold existing immigration laws in this country.

More than 350 illegal immigrants who are on the terror watch list have attempted to cross into the United States since President Biden took office. More than 1.8 million people have successfully evaded Border Patrol. Hundreds of thousands of unknown individuals have been admitted into the U.S. on parole with no way of tracking many of these individuals. This widespread abuse of parole authority was a key factor in my vote to impeach DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. It has truly paved the way for countless instances of crime across this country.

The President's recent executive order is far too little, far too late. It doesn't go far enough to treat these threats to our safety and security with the seriousness that they merit. The action, however, does prove what I have been saying and arguing for months, that the President has and has had the authority to end this crisis at our border. It also highlights the fact that our Commander in Chief waited 3½ years before taking any action to curb the unprecedented flow of illegal immigrants into this country.

This isn't hyperbole. These are facts. As sobering as they may be, I fear they will persist as long as President Biden or whoever is making decisions at the White House is in the White House.

HONORING ANDRE JONES

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Andre Jones, in recognition of BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month. Andre's life and creativity are an invitation to celebrate the beauty of our shared humanity.

Andre, a Chicago native from the Logan Square area in Illinois-03, has published a unique coloring book. It is called "Colorful Memoirs: A Journey Through Andre's Life," that offers a glimpse into his experiences and affirms his credo: Just like you, I am a human being.

Andre participates in the community living programs at Envision Unlimited where he practices his commitment to inclusion and community building through his leadership of the cycling committee. Andre is donating the proceeds from the coloring book to support his beloved summer cycling programs.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend Andre for his contributions to mental health awareness and his ongoing efforts to equip and uplift our community.

I thank and congratulate Andre.

HONORING NAT VIKITSRETH

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nat Vikitsreth in recognition of BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month.

Nat is the founder of Come Back to Care based in the Illinois-03 and a self-described dot connector, norm agitator, and a lover of liberation. She brings wit, authenticity, honesty, and audacity to the work of collaborating with parents to address intergenerational family trauma and healing from internalized oppression.

Nat unapologetically pursues social justice and liberation in her practice while rooting her work in our sacred shared humanity.

While she has a long, impressive list of awards, publications, and traditional credentials to be proud of, Nat believes that her work with parents, caregivers, and children is the highest honor.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend Nat Vikitsreth for her contributions to mental health, especially for Black and Brown communities, and her unwavering commitment to the sacred work of healing and justice.

I thank and congratulate Nat.

□ 1030

HONORING JACK ROSS

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Illinois' Third constituent and veteran, Jack Ross.

Jack was wounded in action during his deployment in Vietnam while serving as his squad's point man. Like so many servicemembers living with disabilities and traumas as a result of their service, Jack witnessed unspeak-

able horrors and returned home injured and with PTSD.

His commendable service and sacrifice were recognized with two Purple Hearts, two Bronze Star Medals and an Air Medal.

Upon returning home, Jack turned his military experience into a lifetime of community leadership. He owns and operates Manor Press, a veteran-owned business in River Grove. He has also served on the boards of Oak Leyden Developmental Services and his alma mater, Guerin Prep High School.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend Jack Ross for his courage, for his service to our communities, and his unwavering leadership.

CONGRATULATING HENDERSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOFTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Henderson County High School girls' softball team on an amazing season and their first-ever State championship.

The Lady Colonels won the title in a dominating fashion by a final score of 11-0.

This State title capped an impressive season. The team notched 36 wins and recorded multiple school records, including highest batting average, most hits, most runs scored, most singles, most doubles, most RBIs, and most stolen bases.

Three players on the Henderson County team were also named to the All-Tournament Team. This is an amazing accomplishment for Henderson County High School, for the program, the community, and I am so honored to represent this great community in west Kentucky.

I again congratulate the Henderson County girls' softball team on their first-ever State championship.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the new bill that I filed titled the "Presidential Ethics Reform Act."

This bill is a bipartisan bill that I have filed with Representative KATIE PORTER from California. The American people are skeptical about whether government officials actually work in the public interest, regardless of which party they are in.

This bill would require Presidents and Vice Presidents to disclose foreign payments, family gifts, family loans, family use of government travel, and tax returns.

Increasing transparency is a key step to restoring trust in the government. Let the American people see for themselves whether or not there are conflicts of interest with their leadership.

Both parties have complained about previous administrations having conflicts of interest, especially among

their immediate family members. That is why Representative PORTER and I have filed this piece of legislation.

To summarize, let me go through what the Presidential Ethics Reform Act actually does.

First of all, it requires Presidents and Vice Presidents to disclose payments, transfers, or other items of value from foreign sources received by themselves or immediate family members within 2 years before taking office, during their time in office, and for 2 years after leaving office.

This bill requires Presidents and Vice Presidents to disclose conflicts of interest upon taking office and throughout their time in office.

This bill requires Presidents and Vice Presidents to disclose gifts valued at more than \$10,000 received from or by immediate family members within 2 years before taking office, during their time in office, and for 2 years after leaving office.

This bill requires Presidents and Vice Presidents to disclose loans or loan repayments made to them by an immediate family member of any amount or received by an immediate family member from any source, except commercial loans, for over \$10,000 within 2 years before taking office, during their time in office, and for 2 years after leaving office.

This bill requires Presidents and Vice Presidents to disclose when immediate family members accompany the President or Vice President on official travel, specifying when they do so, and whether or not it is for business purposes.

Finally, the Presidential Ethics Reform Act requires Presidents and Vice Presidents to disclose tax returns for the 2 years preceding their time in office, during their time in office, and for the 2 years following their departure from office.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this ethics bill will address all the concerns that Members of both parties and members of both the conservative and liberal media have had about this administration, the previous administration, and administrations prior to the last administration.

When I announced the Biden influence pedaling investigation in November of 2022 when it was apparent that the House was going to flip from Democrat to Republican, I said two things about that investigation that I hoped would be accomplished: number one, that the American people would be given the truth about just exactly what the Biden family has been doing in their family schemes, and I believe we have provided that; and, secondly, we were going to pass legislation to define influence pedaling and prevent it from happening in the future.

That is what the Presidential Ethics Reform Act does today. I am pleased to file this bill in a bipartisan manner with my colleague KATIE PORTER.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 36 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Loving God, like a shepherd, lead us into this day. You have blessed us with the refreshment of mercy and shelter. You have led us to drink freely from the still waters of Your grace. Refresh both our minds and our souls for the work that lies ahead.

Then guide us along the path of righteousness. Though the way is enshrouded with the darkness of these times, remind us that we have no need to fear, for You remain with us. Guide us with Your rod of protection. Comfort us with the strong staff of Your compassion.

Open our eyes to the bounty You set before us, a feast rich with Your abiding presence, anointed with Your wisdom, overflowing with evidence of Your steadfast provision.

Surely, Your goodness and love will remain with us, now and in all the days to come.

May all in this House dwell with You this day.

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 California (Mr. PETERS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PETERS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

BIDEN BORDER CRISIS THREATENS FAMILIES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the Biden border crisis threatens all American families at risk of murderous attacks.

Since Biden, there have been 16 million illegal alien crossings. In April alone, there were 180,000 illegal alien crossings.

This represents 38 consecutive months of higher illegal crossings than any month under President Donald Trump.

In the last 7 months, more than 27,000 Chinese communist nationals illegally crossed, breaking the total of all of last year.

The American people have exposed corrupt Judge Merchan, dismissing his unethical witch hunt with the achievement ultimately of electing President Donald Trump. Merchan will be warmly welcomed as my guest at the Trump inauguration.

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

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAN DIEGO PRIDE

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

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of San Diego Pride, a two-day celebration of love, acceptance, and diversity. The event is a powerful testament to the resiliency and spirit of the San Diego LGBTQ community.

San Diego Pride started in 1974 with an unsanctioned march. Since then, it has grown into one of the city's largest, most cherished events. The centerpiece is a parade through Hillcrest, the vibrant neighborhood that serves as San Diego's LGBTQ hub, which I am proud to represent. Its streets, adorned with Pride flags, reflect the tireless work of people who refuse to be muted and marginalized.

I take this opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the community in San Diego and beyond and reaffirm my commitment to ensuring that everyone can live authentically and without fear of discrimination. Together, let's celebrate our diversity and recognize that love knows no boundaries.

RECOGNIZING DAVID LINDSAY

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding performance of Central Mountain High School's David Lindsay.

He recently repeated as the State champion in the PA Class 3A tennis singles championship. It takes great skill, tenacity, and determination to be named the champion at this level 2 years in a row.

On May 26 at the Hershey Racquet Club, David completed a back-to-back sweep of the 3A singles championship bracket. He won 6-2 in the final match and remained the best singles player across the Commonwealth.

Madam Speaker, this is an incredible accomplishment for David and the Wildcats. I am proud of the team and David for their monumental season and dedication to the sport. I look forward to seeing what the future holds for David.

Congratulations to David for being the best in the Commonwealth and making the community proud.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to tout the transformational Flexible Services Program in Massachusetts' Medicaid program and to highlight an important upcoming transition that will further strengthen its approach to supporting those experiencing illness, hunger, and homelessness.

Since early 2020, Massachusetts has been providing housing support and nutrition services like medically tailored meals, food prescriptions, kitchen supplies, and nutrition education and counseling to eligible members through MassHealth.

It is also the first of its kind to serve vulnerable household members like children and high-risk pregnant mothers.

Early next year, the program will transition to a new health-related, social needs services framework to better provide supplemental nutrition services to eligible members. Transportation and food delivery costs will be included as a supplemental benefit, currently among the biggest barriers to adequate and affordable nutrition.

I am incredibly proud of Massachusetts' forward-thinking approach to providing nutrition and housing supports to those struggling to make ends meet. I encourage other States to look at this innovative model. Together, we can end hunger now.

REMOVING NONCITIZENS FROM EXISTING VOTER ROLLS

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, only Americans should vote in American elections. That is why I rise in support of the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility or SAVE Act, introduced by my friend from Texas (Mr. ROY).

This bill would require States to obtain proof of citizenship, in person, when registering an individual to vote and also requires States to remove noncitizens from existing voter rolls. These proposals are as commonsense as it gets.

Unfortunately, many on the other side disagree. While falsely alleging that the 2016 election was stolen due to foreign election interference, they ignore the very real threat of foreign election interference that currently exists.

Maybe if President Biden didn't hold the door open for more than 9.5 million immigrants to enter our country illegally, this bill wouldn't be necessary. Because he did, it is essential to pass the SAVE Act to uphold the integrity of our elections.

CELEBRATING THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF DEPEW

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 130th anniversary of the village of Depew. Named in honor of U.S. Senator Chauncey Depew and incorporated at a time of significant growth and industrialization on July 23, 1894, Depew quickly became a key manufacturing and railroad hub for the city of Buffalo.

Built on the hard work of immigrants hailing from Holland, Ireland, Prussia, Hungary, Ukraine, and Poland, the village thrived, raising generations of hardworking and successful Americans.

Historically known for being a vital manufacturer in the railroad industry, the village continues to be a hub of economic development in western New York, hosting numerous businesses in the logistics, construction, and hospitality industries, among others.

For the thousands of people who live there, Depew is home; a great place to raise a family, start a business, and be a part of a tight-knit community.

It is the kind of place where neighbors look out for each other and where civic engagement is still a core part of daily life.

I congratulate the people of Depew and my friend Mayor Kevin Peterson on the village's 130th anniversary and thank them for their continued contributions to the fabric of western New York.

HONORING ROSANELL EATON

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the remarkable life and enduring legacy of Rosanell Eaton. She achieved incredible feats, overcoming obstacles and championing voting rights.

Mother Eaton was a trailblazing figure in Franklin County where she was the first African American to register and vote. She rode 8 miles to Louisburg at the age of 21 on a mule to pass a literacy test.

Her work placed her on the State and national stage with her daughter, Armenta, by her side until her passing at 97 years old. She wore many hats and had an infectious smile and loved her church, her faith.

Recently, Michael and Deborah Liter, church members, renovated the building that once served as the local board of elections office at 217 Court Street and named it in her honor.

Mother Eaton's impact was felt far and wide, and she still inspires us. While at the building dedication, the sky became overcast, but the Sun reappeared, and our angel shone upon us.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8281, SAFEGUARD AMERICAN VOTER ELIGIBILITY ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION H.J. RES. 165, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RELATING TO "NON-DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES RECEIVING FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE"; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8772, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7700, STOP UNAFFORDABLE DISHWASHER STANDARDS ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7637, REFRIGERATOR FREEDOM ACT

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1341 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1341

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 8281) 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. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. 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. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided

and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (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”. All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 3. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8772) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived.

SEC. 4. (a) No amendment to H.R. 8772 shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution and pro forma amendments described in section 5 of this resolution.

(b) Each amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules 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 this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(c) All points of order against amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules are waived.

SEC. 5. During consideration of H.R. 8772 for amendment, 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.

SEC. 6. At the conclusion of consideration of H.R. 8772 for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 7. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 7700) to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for dishwashers that

are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 8. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 7637) to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

□ 1215

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Last night, the Rules Committee met and reported out a rule, House Resolution 1341, providing for the consideration of five measures: H.R. 8281, 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. 7700, Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act; H.R. 7637, Refrigerator Freedom Act; and H.R. 8772, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2025.

House Resolution 1341 provides a closed rule for consideration of 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. 7700, Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act; and H.R. 7637, Refrigerator Freedom Act.

House Resolution 1341 also provides for a structured rule for consideration of H.R. 8772, Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2025.

The rule provides one motion to recommit for each measure.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to bring forward this rule and look forward to supporting the underlying measures on the House floor later this week. H.R. 8772 supports the House of Representatives and its operations, recommending approximately \$5.5 billion for activities under the legislative branch’s jurisdiction. This includes the support of certain agencies, such as the Library of Congress and the Government Accountability Office.

Each agency listed in this appropriations package provides research and analysis to Congress. The Government Accountability Office, in particular, provides fact-based information and investigates Federal spending and performance. The reports and recommendations of this office are often used by Members of Congress and their staff as the basis for legislative recommendations and the basis for amendments.

My Democratic colleagues admit themselves in the Committee Report that there is no contention with the funding in this package. I hope then, Madam Speaker, that we may be able to pass this bill on a bipartisan basis to support Congress and a continuation of its ability to work on behalf of the American people.

H.R. 7637 and H.R. 7700 prohibit the Department of Energy from issuing, updating, or enforcing energy conservation standards for refrigerators and dishwashers unless the standards are determined by the Department to be technologically feasible, economically justified, unlikely to increase net costs for consumers, and result in a net savings of energy.

Madam Speaker, inflation has taken a toll on every American. Appliance bills may not seem to be ostentatious, but they prioritize the taxpayer’s right to choose how to furnish their homes based on their lifestyle and not this administration’s Green New Deal laundry list.

H.J. Res. 165, introduced by Congresswoman MARY MILLER, prevents a Department of Education rule proposed and finalized under President Biden from taking effect. This rule, if not reversed, would place unfair burdens on schools, colleges, and universities, as well as potentially undermining protections in Federal law for biological women.

We must uphold Title IX for females to have equal access in academic and

athletic settings. For nearly half a century, it has been successful in ensuring that female athletes and scholars have opportunities historically only afforded to their male counterparts. This final rule from the Biden administration counters these efforts and seeks to fundamentally change what might be protected under Title IX. I urge my colleagues to support Congresswoman MILLER's resolution and oppose the Department of Education's rule on this matter.

H.R. 8281 introduced by my fellow Rules Committee member Representative CHIP ROY requires proof of citizenship to vote in Federal elections. This is a commonsense bill, and I hope Members across the aisle can agree to it. The right to vote in our Nation is a privilege, and it is a responsibility given only to American citizens.

Since taking office, the Biden administration has released well over 8 million illegal aliens into the country and over 1.5 million of these have been what are called got-aways. In some places in our country, the District of Columbia included, they allowed non-citizens to vote in local elections. This legislation corrects this trend for elections on the Federal level, requiring States to obtain proof of United States citizenship and identity before votes are cast.

Additionally, this legislation both allows a State to remove noncitizens from existing voter rolls and permits citizens to sue election officials who fail to do so.

Americans' faith in our national elections has declined precipitously over the last two election cycles. To restore that faith, we must work to protect American voters and the integrity of those very elections. Strengthening existing voter ID laws is a certain way to achieve both of these efforts. We owe it to our constituents to restore confidence in their electoral process.

I appreciate the bills brought before us today by my colleagues and all of the effort that has gone into crafting them. We did have a robust debate with witness testimony last night in the Rules Committee. Madam Speaker, I look forward to continuing those discussions here today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, yesterday, the Republican Party released their new platform, and I heard Republican pundits saying that this platform was going to be more moderate. I saw reporters even claiming that Republicans were softening their radical, extreme views on abortion and on same-sex marriage. I even saw one Republican Senator on TV yesterday defending the platform and trying to spin it to make Trump sound like a normal, rational, moderate person, which is an impossibility, by the way.

Then I actually read the platform, and it is more of the same old same old. It is more of the same fear-mongering and divisive politics that they have been pushing for years now. They are not kicking MAGA extremism aside; they are doubling down on it.

Talk is cheap around here. Look at their legislation. Look at the bills before us this week. If someone looks at these bills and thinks the Republican Party is normal or rational or moderate, I think they need to get checked out because they are living in a fantasy world. These bills are getting crazier and crazier the longer they are in charge.

Here is the Republican agenda for this week: more attacks on the LGBTQ community; more attacks on immigrants; more attacks on voting rights because they know they can only win if fewer people vote; more attacks on working families; and more giveaways to special interests and billionaire companies.

There is nothing new here. There is just more division, more destruction, and more disarray.

There has been a lot of talk about Project 2025 lately, the Republican plan to dismantle the government, get revenge on their political adversaries, weaponize the White House, and install Trump as a dictator.

The former President recently made a laughable attempt to try to distance himself from its extremism, and what do you know, now Project 2025 is right here on the House floor because it is what Republicans actually believe.

That is what this SAVE Act is about. It is a voter suppression bill that lays the groundwork for them to undermine the next election so they can justify another January 6-style attempt to seize power even if they lose.

They will use this gotcha bill to say Democrats want to give noncitizens the ability to vote in Federal elections. Let me say now: That is a lie. It is a total lie. It is a lie that Democrats are against preventing noncitizens from voting in Federal elections. That is already illegal. What we are against is making it harder for American citizens to vote, and that is what this bill does.

Republicans in this bill want to require all this new documentation for an individual just to register to vote. They say: Well, you can use your passport.

What about someone who can't afford a \$130 passport? What about someone who doesn't have the time to take a day off from work to get their birth certificate? What about someone who recently got married and changed their name so their birth certificate doesn't match their ID?

The Republican answer here is: Too bad. You can't vote.

They are going to disenfranchise millions and millions of people in response to what we know, that there have maybe been a couple dozen cases of voter fraud over the last two decades.

This isn't about voter fraud. Let's be clear. This is not about voter fraud. It is about them trying to cheat in the next election. It is paving the way again for another violent insurrection if their candidate does not succeed.

I should say, Madam Speaker, the key witness in the House Administration Committee on behalf of this bill is one of the architects of Project 2025.

□ 1230

I mean, they are all linked. Let me throw one other thing out there for Members to digest. The chairman of the House Administration Committee, the Republican chairman of the House Administration Committee, I asked him pointblank whether Trump lost the election. He couldn't give me a direct answer. What the hell is wrong with these people?

They are so detached from reality. They are so oblivious to the truth. This is dangerous stuff.

Then, another Project 2025 priority is more giveaways for polluters and attempts to dismantle the entire Federal Government's effort to protect the environment. It is shocking, actually.

They want to take freedom away from women. They want to take freedom away from the LGBTQ+ community. They want to take freedom away from families who want to use IVF, but freedom for fridges? Sign them up. They want freedom for refrigerators and dignity for dishwashers while taking away the rights of actual people. It is sick.

For the record, if somebody wants to keep their 50-year-old refrigerator, go for it. This bill has nothing—nothing—to do with that.

This bill gives billion-dollar companies the ability to cut corners when they make appliances. I guess nothing says freedom to Republicans quite like forcing their constituents to pay more on their electric bills.

Republicans don't want to talk about how extreme they are. The bottom line is, we should want companies to make appliances more efficient. Why? Because it saves consumers more money. The only reason to be against that is to help the big energy companies so they can charge consumers even more.

My Republican friends don't want to talk about how they want to ban abortion nationwide and take away the right to choose in every State. They don't want to talk about how their own members want to ban IVF. They don't want to talk about their obsession with attacking the LGBTQI+ community. They want to turn the clock back on voting rights. The legislation that we are seeing on the floor today is just more of the same.

While Republicans desert the American people in service to Donald Trump, Democrats will remain committed to doing our job: lowering the cost of living, standing up to the special interests of big corporations, protecting the right to vote, and defending the freedom of our constituents. We are

proud to stand on the side of democracy, on the side of the American people, and on the right side of history.

Madam Speaker, this is just an awful rule. I will say more about that later. I urge a strong “no,” and I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would like to remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward presumptive nominees for the Office of the President.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House, and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I am going to yield to Mr. ALFORD here in just a moment, but let me yield myself 2 minutes for the purpose of a response.

It is difficult for me to sit here and be lectured about the cost of living by the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Madam Speaker, 2 years ago in the Rules Committee, when Republicans were in the minority and Democrats were in the majority, we pleaded with the then-majority to not do the American Rescue Plan, to not do the Inflation Reduction Act, and to not engage in all of this vast Federal spending that they had teed up.

The problem was, after the coronavirus infection in December 2020, the economy was basically getting back on its feet. All we had to do was stay out of the way. Instead, \$2 trillion went to the American Rescue Plan and \$4 trillion to the Inflation Reduction Act, with an extremely bloated infrastructure bill.

What happened? The cost of living blew through the roof for the poor and middle class because inflation became so severe.

The people who are supposed to be watching this, like the Chairman of the Fed and the Treasury Secretary, said that inflation is transitory, that we will get a handle on that. We are sitting here now, 18 months later, and they don't have a handle on it.

My colleague talked about the cost of living and talking to his constituents about that. They are still suffering from what Democrats did at the beginning of this administration.

Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD).

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman BURGESS for leading this rule debate.

Madam Speaker, as I travel the Fourth Congressional District of the great State of Missouri, I get one question repeated often, over and over: What are we going to do to secure our elections? We can pass a lot of laws in Congress, but if we don't secure our elections, we don't have a democracy. We don't have a Republic.

Voters in the Fourth Congressional District of the great State of Missouri

want to make sure that only those who should be voting are voting—one vote, one person, one citizen of the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, that is why I rise today in support of the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, or SAVE Act, H.R. 8281.

For years, progressive Democrats have falsely claimed that 2016 was stolen because of foreign election interference. Yet, today, they are ignoring the real threat of foreign interference: noncitizens registering and voting in U.S. elections.

The SAVE Act will address this threat head-on by requiring proof of citizenship in order to register to vote. It is pretty simple. It allows State officials to accept a wide variety of documents that will actually make it easier for citizens to register to vote. The bill also ensures that States can access the databases they need to clean up our voter registration rolls and remove noncitizens.

It is very simple, Madam Speaker. If you are not a citizen of the United States of America, you should not be voting in elections in the United States of America, but just like our progressive Democrat friends have defended on this very House floor Marxism, socialism, and open borders, they are opposing this very measure at this time in our Nation's history.

The dirty little secret is that progressive Democrats want to turn the some 12 million illegal aliens that have come into our precious sovereign Nation—because of this failed administration and their lack of ability to stop the illegal immigrants—they want to turn them into voters to secure more power, to make them dependent upon the U.S. Government.

Madam Speaker, we cannot let that happen. We will not let that happen. It is time to secure our border. It is time to secure our elections. That is why I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the rule for the SAVE Act and the act itself. The time is now. We may not have time again.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I don't even know where to begin after all that.

Madam Speaker, I request unanimous consent to include in the RECORD an article from the CATO Institute titled: “Noncitizens Don't Illegally Vote in Detectable Numbers.”

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

There was no objection.

[From the Cato Institute, Nov. 25, 2020]

NONCITIZENS DON'T ILLEGALLY VOTE IN
DETECTABLE NUMBERS

(By Alex Nowrasteh)

One of the most frequent and less serious criticisms that comes across my desk is that immigration is bad because non-citizens vote illegally in such large numbers that sway elections. A new report by James D. Agresti, pushed by some news outlets, argues that the number of noncitizens who illegally voted in

2020 substantially increased Biden's vote share but did not affect the outcome of the election. It has been illegal for non-citizens to vote for federal elected officials since 1996, so these noncitizen voters would all be breaking federal law. Is the Agresti paper reliable? Are large numbers of noncitizens voting in federal elections to such an extent that several states voted for Biden as a result?

No, but to understand why you have to follow how the Agresti paper arrived at its conclusion. The Agresti report relies on a peer-reviewed academic paper by political scientists Jesse T. Richman, Gulshan A. Chattha, and David C. Earnest that was published in 2014 that estimates the rate at which noncitizens voted for president in 2008. Their paper relies upon responses to the Cooperative Congressional Election Study (CCES) for the 2008 election that found a substantial proportion of noncitizens voted in that year. The Agresti paper combined two figures from the Richman, Chattha, and Earnest paper to get their primary estimate that 15.8 percent of noncitizens voted in 2008. Agresti then applies that 15.8 percent rate to the non-citizen population in swing states in 2020 to reach their conclusion.

The big problem, as explained in two succinct pieces, is that non-citizens voting illegally is a small subset of a small population of Americans measured in the CCES survey. In the CCES survey, as in any survey, a certain number of respondents click the wrong box. Thus, some respondents will incorrectly click that they are non-citizens by accident and that they voted. Or they will make any number of other errors. This general problem is called measurement error and it afflicts every survey. These errors are common in surveys, but if it surveys enough people and there isn't a tragic flaw in design that causes large numbers of people to make the same error, then it doesn't matter much for the final result.

“The problem is that the authors focused on a small number of non-citizens in a very large survey that likely accidentally said they were noncitizens who voted when they were really citizens who voted. The CCES survey asked about 20,000 people how they voted and about 19,500 of them said that they were U.S. citizens. Since the CCES is about federal elections, it oversamples citizens who can vote and under sample non-citizens who can't vote. In fact, the number of reported non-citizens in the CCES survey who said they voted in a federal election is just about exactly the number who should have misidentified themselves as non-citizens in such a large survey.”

“This problem arises because the survey was not designed to sample non-citizens, and the non-citizen category in the citizenship question is included for completeness and to identify those respondents who might be non-citizens. We expect that most of that group are in fact non-citizens (85 of 105), but the very low level of misclassification of citizens, who comprise 97.4 percent of the sample, means that we expect that 19 ‘non-citizen’ respondents (16.5 percent of all reported non-citizens) are citizens who are misclassified. And, those misclassified people can readily account for the observed vote among those who reported that they are non-citizens [emphasis added].”

Survey misuse, misdesign, and misinterpretation is a serious problem that we all witnessed right after the 2020 election. This strain of research appears to be another instance of that. There are likely many problems with America's voting system and there is no doubt that a non-zero number of non-citizens illegally voted, but there is no good evidence that noncitizens voted illegally in large enough numbers to actually shift the

outcome of elections or even change the number of electoral votes

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, at a press conference on the SAVE Act, the Speaker of the House said: "We all know intuitively that a lot of illegals are voting in Federal elections, but it has not been something that is easily provable. We don't have that number."

Madam Speaker, this body legislates based on facts—at least, it is supposed to—not on intuition. Maybe it is time for House Republicans to get serious about their jobs and stop making laws based off of absurd conspiracy theories.

If my Republican friends want to talk about protecting elections, maybe they ought to start telling the truth about the last election. Let me remind my colleagues that the leader of their party tried to submit fraudulent slates of electors to steal the last election.

That is voter fraud, Madam Speaker. That is what voter fraud looks like.

My friends on the other side of the aisle said not a thing after court after court upheld the fact that we had a free and fair election, but the former President actually submitted fraudulent slates of electors to try to change the results of the last election.

The gentleman from Texas went on about the cost of living and blamed the American Rescue Plan Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. Those bills were passed in the aftermath of a pandemic to save our economy and to save American families from going bankrupt.

Madam Speaker, I remind the gentleman that inflation is coming down faster in the United States than in any other country in the world, but if he is blaming the Inflation Reduction Act and the American Rescue Plan Act for increased high inflation in countries like China and other countries in the world, that is absurd.

Let me just say one other thing because this is the rule that we are talking about here today. Republicans are emboldening our adversaries and abandoning our allies. They held up aid to Ukraine for 9 months, doing irreparable damage to the fight against authoritarianism.

By the way, I should also point out to those who dragged their feet on Ukraine that Russia bombed a children's hospital in Ukraine. Deal with that. Another war crime, yet we had Republicans holding up the Ukraine aid package. The Ukrainians are fighting against authoritarianism.

Speaking of authoritarianism, we have here four more closed rules, four more completely closed rules. Putin would be proud of some of the most authoritarian rules I have ever seen. They must have learned that from their patron saint, Donald Trump.

On the one structured rule here, they made only Republican amendments in order, no bipartisan amendments nor Democratic amendments, even though many of them were rule compliant. Republicans just want to shut this place down. They said "no" to everything.

If this is what my Republican friends consider a fair process, wow. I mean,

we have a bill that we think will disenfranchise millions of American citizens in terms of voting.

The ranking Democrat, Mr. MORELLE, had an amendment that he offered that was totally rule compliant. We ought to at least have that debate. The majority can vote to suppress the vote all they want, but we ought to have that debate and get people on the record. The Republicans of the Rules Committee said no.

What is the majority afraid of? Are Republicans afraid of a little debate on some of these important issues?

We have a different definition of "fair" because this process, once again, makes a mockery of this institution and once again shows the majority's disdain for democracy. The Rules Committee continues to be a place where democracy goes to die.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY).

Ms. STANSBURY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition not only to this rule but the bills that it advances.

I have to say that I am amazed daily by the debates that I hear in this Chamber and in our committees and outraged that the GOP is using the floor to advance a hateful agenda to take away voting rights and to advance insane legislation.

One week after we celebrated this great Nation's independence, we are here today as they are putting forward legislation to protect our kitchen appliances. That is right, folks. They are running bills on the floor titled the freedom for refrigerators and dignity for dishwashers. I am not making this up. These are the real names of the bills they are running this week.

Apparently, they are more concerned about the freedom of our refrigerators than the freedom to make decisions about our own bodies. They are more concerned about our dishwashers than they are about democracy. They are more concerned about appliances than an autocrat who is seeking reelection and says he wants to be a dictator on day one.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues, honestly, how do they do this with a straight face? Y'all, this ain't normal. This is insane.

Is this the freedom and democracy that our country fought for, arguing for kitchen appliances? Is this what constituents are telling my colleagues? Mine are telling me they are terrified about the future of this country, their families, and their rights. They are asking us to fight to protect LGBTQ+ rights and abortion, address climate change, lower costs, and protect voting rights.

□ 1245

You are over here asking us to vote on a bill to protect the rights of dishwashers and refrigerators. It is insane. I am just at a loss. It is time to wake up. It is time to get to work. It is time to serve the American people because, literally, our democracy depends on it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would, once again, like to remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward presumptive nominees for the Office of the President and also to direct their comments to the Chair.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY), who is a fellow member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Speaker, first, I thank the chairman of the Rules Committee and the gentleman from Texas for yielding the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the rule today which includes consideration of my bill, the Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act.

The Biden Department of Energy, pandering to radical environmentalists, is actively working to make life harder for the American people. Under the administration's latest proposed dishwasher efficiency standards rule, the average American family would be stuck with fewer, more expensive appliance options, with no real cost savings over the appliance's lifespan.

By limiting consumer choice and imposing draconian new standards and regulations that make absolutely no sense from either an affordability or energy standpoint, this administration is making life harder for the American people.

I urge my colleagues to support my bill, H.R. 7700, and push back on these unaffordable policies that jeopardize access to affordable, reliable consumer products that we all once took for granted.

I am also proud to cosponsor another measure to be considered under this rule, the SAVE Act, which will require proof of U.S. citizenship to register to vote in Federal elections. This legislation will ensure that only American citizens decide America's future.

The Democrats' open-border policies have brought nothing but chaos and destruction to our communities as millions and millions of illegal aliens have flooded into this country. The left's refusal to secure our borders is deliberate, and it is a direct threat to our democratic institutions as a growing number of noncitizens are registered to vote and have been found to vote in our local, State, and Federal elections.

By allowing noncitizens to vote, they dilute the voice of every American citizen, undermining what should be a free and fair election.

Enough is enough. We cannot stand by while our borders are overrun and our communities are destroyed. The SAVE Act must be passed to protect the integrity of our elections.

Madam Speaker, our country was built on the principles of freedom, fairness, and justice. This administration's policies are a slap in the face to every immigrant who followed the legal path to citizenship and who respected the rule of law and earned their right to participate in our democracy.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this rule and support the SAVE Act so that we can safeguard our elections, secure our borders, and ensure a brighter future for all Americans.

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

Madam Speaker, sadly, this place is becoming a forum for trivial issues to get debated passionately and important ones not at all. I would say to the gentleman who just spoke that—and he should know this—that it is illegal for noncitizens to vote in Federal elections. It is already the law, but I feel like we have to point that out to my Republican friends.

In listening to the way he spoke with such passion about dishwashers and refrigerators, I feel I need to remind the viewing audience that this is not Home Depot. This is supposed to be the United States Congress where we are supposed to be tackling serious issues that are confronting the American people, and, unfortunately, under this Republican leadership, we never do that.

Madam Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 12, a bill that would restore the nationwide right for providers to provide abortion care and for patients to receive care.

With bill after bill, House Republicans are letting the American people know who they are. Every opportunity they get they try to inject poison pill riders to ban IVF, to restrict access to abortion care, and to make life harder for the American people. As I have said before, they want to turn back the clock on our rights.

Just look at Project 2025, a dystopian plan for the future of our country crafted by former Trump administration officials. They want to cut your earned benefits. They want to cut school meals, and, yes, end access to abortion care. They even want to take mifepristone off the market completely.

Madam Speaker, we must bring H.R. 12, the Women's Health Protection Act, to the floor to let them know that we will not let them turn back the clock on the American people.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI), to discuss our proposal.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. MCGOVERN for yielding the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the rule and in strong support of something my constituents are call-

ing about. It is not dishwashers, and it is not refrigerators. It is support for the Women's Health Protection Act which will provide in law the right for Americans to make their own reproductive healthcare decisions.

The rightwing extremists on the Supreme Court who authored the Dobbs decision overturning abortion rights have shown that they will do anything to further their regressive, extreme, and dangerous ideology regardless of the long history of Court precedent.

For almost 50 years, the intensely personal decision about whether or when to bear a child or have an abortion was right where it belongs, with the one who is pregnant.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle claim to be pro-life, but the policies they support are anything but.

I remember the days before Roe v. Wade when abortions done without medical care could and often did have tragic outcomes, including death. Even before the Dobbs decision, maternal death rates in 2020 were 62 percent higher in States that ban or restrict abortion than in States where it was acceptable.

Restrictive abortion laws also cause infant mortality rates to rise, including in Texas where both infant death rates and the number of babies who died of birth defects have increased since their restrictive law banning abortion as early as 6 weeks went into effect.

A study from Johns Hopkins University found that between 2021 and 2022, the infant mortality rate increased by 8.3 percent in Texas, and that is compared with a 2.2 percent increase nationally. While the death rate of babies 28 days old or younger fell in other States overall, it increased by 5.8 percent in Texas.

Make no mistake, Madam Speaker, these laws are not about protecting life. They are about control: controlling the bodies of others and removing their personal freedom to make the decision about whether or when to bear a child.

This will not stop at the State level. At the first opportunity, congressional Republicans will try to enact a nationwide abortion ban to prevent anyone in this country from getting the care they need.

For these reasons and more, we must defeat the previous question so we can pass the very important Women's Health Protection Act to protect the right to abortion and restore the freedoms that the Supreme Court, with support from Republicans, brazenly stripped away.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute to point out, and to bring us back to the discussion at hand, that we are talking about only having American citizens voting in American elections.

We are talking about checking a Department of Energy that has just run roughshod over the rights of working Americans. Let's remember what we are doing here today.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, let me remind people what we are here about, as well, a voter suppression bill, we are here to talk about freedom for household appliances, and we are here to attack the LGBTQ+ community. That is what these bills are all about before us today.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD an article from the BBC titled "Project 2025: A wish list for a Trump Presidency, explained."

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

There was no objection.

[From BBC News]

PROJECT 2025: A WISH LIST FOR A TRUMP PRESIDENCY, EXPLAINED

(By Mike Wendling)

President Joe Biden's Democrats are mobilising against a possible governing agenda for Donald Trump if he is elected this November.

The blueprint, called Project 2025 and produced by the conservative Heritage Foundation, is one of several think-tank proposals for Trump's platform.

Over more than 900 pages, it calls for sacking thousands of civil servants, expanding the power of the president, dismantling the Department of Education and other federal agencies, and sweeping tax cuts.

The Heritage Foundation unveiled its agenda in April 2023, and liberal opposition ramped up as former President Trump has taken a lead in polls after President Biden's poor debate performance.

Early this July, Heritage president Kevin Roberts raised the prospect of political violence during a podcast interview.

"We are in the process of the second American revolution, which will remain bloodless if the left allows it to be," Mr Roberts told the War Room podcast, founded by Trump adviser Steve Bannon.

The remarks prompted the Biden campaign to accuse Trump and his allies of "dreaming of a violent revolution to destroy the very idea of America".

The comments have refocused attention on Project 2025.

It is common for Washington think-tanks to propose policy wishlists for potential governments-in-waiting. The liberal Center for American Progress, for example, was dubbed Barack Obama's "ideas factory" during his presidency.

What has Trump said about Project 2025?

In early July, Trump said on his social media platform that he knows "nothing about Project 2025".

"I have no idea who is behind it. I disagree with some of the things they're saying and some of the things they're saying are absolutely ridiculous and abysmal," he wrote.

"Anything they do, I wish them luck, but I have nothing to do with them."

However, several people linked to the project worked in Trump's administration or as allies in his re-election campaign.

Project 2025 director Paul Dans was chief of staff at the Office of Personnel Management under Trump

Associate director Spencer Chretien was a former special assistant to Trump and associate director of Presidential Personnel

Adviser Russell Vought worked in Trump's Office of Management and Budget.

What is Project 2025?

The Project 2025 document outlines four main aims: restore the family as the centerpiece of American life; dismantle the administrative state; defend the nation's sovereignty and borders; and secure God-given individual rights to live freely.

It is one of several policy papers for a platform broadly known as Agenda 47—so-called because Trump would be America's 47th president if he won.

Heritage says Project 2025 was written by several former Trump appointees and reflects input from more than 100 conservative organisations.

Here's an outline of several key proposals: Government:

Project 2025 proposes that the entire federal bureaucracy, including independent agencies such as the Department of Justice, be placed under direct presidential control—a controversial idea known as “unitary executive theory”.

In practice, that would streamline decision-making, allowing the president to directly implement policies in a number of areas.

The proposals also call for eliminating job protections for thousands of government-employees, who could then be replaced by political appointees.

The document labels the FBI a “bloated, arrogant, increasingly lawless organization” and calls for drastic overhauls of this and other federal agencies, including eliminating the Department of Education.

Immigration:

Increased funding for a wall on the US-Mexico border—one of Trump's signature proposals in 2016—is proposed in the document.

However, more prominent are the consolidation of various US immigration agencies and a large expansion in their powers.

Other proposals include increasing fees on immigrants and allowing fast-tracked applications for migrants who pay a premium.

EPA—Climate and Economy:

The document proposes slashing federal money for research and investment in renewable energy, and calls for the next president to “stop the war on oil and natural gas”.

Carbon-reduction goals would be replaced by efforts to increase energy production and security.

The paper sets out two competing visions on tariffs, and is divided on whether the next president should try to boost free trade or raise barriers to exports.

But the economic advisers suggest that a second Trump administration should slash corporate and income taxes, abolish the Federal Reserve and even consider a return to gold-backed currency.

Abortion:

Project 2025 does not call for a nationwide abortion ban.

However, it proposes withdrawing the abortion pill mifepristone from the market.

Tech and education:

Under the proposals, pornography would be banned, and tech and telecoms companies that facilitate access to such content would be shut down.

The document calls for school choice and parental control over schools, and takes aim at what it calls “woke propaganda”.

It proposes to eliminate a long list of terms from all laws and federal regulations, including “sexual orientation”, “diversity, equity, and inclusion”, “gender equality”, “abortion” and “reproductive rights”.

Jared Huffman, a Democrat congressman from California, has launched a Stop Project 2025 Task Force.

He described Project 2025 as “a dystopian plot that's already in motion to dismantle our democratic institutions”.

Mr. Huffman said the project would “abolish checks and balances, chip away at church-state separation, and impose a far-right agenda that infringes on basic liberties and violates public will.

“We need a coordinated strategy to save America and stop this coup before it's too late.”

Heritage has previously said Mr Biden's party was scaremongering with “an unserious, mistake-riddled press release”.

“House Democrats are dedicating taxpayer dollars to launch a smear campaign against the united effort to restore self-governance to everyday Americans,” said Mr. Roberts in early June.

“Under the Biden administration, the federal government has been weaponized against American citizens, our border invaded, and our institutions captured by woke ideology.”

The Heritage Foundation is one of the most influential of a number of think tanks that has produced policy papers designed to guide a possible second Trump presidency.

Since the 1980s, Heritage has produced similar policy documents as part of its Mandate for Leadership series.

Project 2025, backed by a \$22m (£17m) budget, also sets out strategies for implementing policies beginning immediately after the presidential inauguration in January 2025.

In his speeches and on his website, Trump has endorsed a number of ideas included in Project 2025, although his campaign has said the candidate has the final say on policy.

Many of the proposals would face immediate legal challenges if implemented.

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, this article describes Project 2025, a policy wish list for a second Trump term cooked up by some of Trump's closest allies at the far-right Heritage Foundation. It is chilling. It is a chilling window into what may await us come January should Mr. Trump win.

The items on Project 2025's agenda are straight-up dystopian. They want to take complete control of the Department of Justice and end the independence of all Federal agencies. They want to take mifepristone off the market which would amount to a virtual nationwide ban. They want to slash efforts to combat climate change, implement inhumane border policies and fire thousands of government employees.

I am just scratching the surface here. You can read it for yourself, Madam Speaker. I urge people to download it and to read all the information on it.

If that wasn't horrifying enough, the architects of this atrocious Project 2025 are also threatening political violence to all who oppose them.

Just last week, Kevin Roberts, the president of The Heritage Foundation, said that the second American Revolution will remain bloodless if the left allows it to be.

Madam Speaker, Donald Trump literally incited an insurrection to stay in power. He claimed he would be a dictator on day one of his second term, and the Supreme Court just granted him full immunity for acts committed while in office.

Is anyone here stupid enough to believe he won't act on these threats?

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from

New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), who is a member of the Rules Committee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Before the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico, the Chair would, once again and, hopefully, for the last time, remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities towards presumptive nominees for the Office of the President.

Mr. McGOVERN. I didn't think I was.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, the House Republicans' bills would give freedom to refrigerators but restrict freedom for American citizens to vote.

Last week we marched in parades and celebrated our Nation's 248th birthday. Democracy and elections are at the core of that celebration. However, this week, Republicans welcomed us back to Washington with a bill that chips away at Americans' most sacred right, the right to vote.

This bill is consistent with Project 2025, the extreme Republicans' blueprint they want to implement in a second Trump Presidency. Project 2025 is their proposal to restrict democracy, restrict women's freedoms, and favor the wealthy. Remember that, Madam Speaker. These bills favor the wealthy and corporations over consumers.

Project 2025 would do away with the Department of Education and destroy Social Security.

The architects of Project 2025 are the same people who served as experts for the bill we are hearing this week. We don't need to wonder if these extreme proposals could become a reality because the Republicans are showing us that when they are in charge they will go after our freedoms, our voting, and our planet.

Rather than celebrate the record-high turnout of our last Presidential election in 2020, the Republicans' SAVE Act, which is actually a voter restriction act, would decrease voting access for Americans citizens.

Republicans don't like mail-in and absentee voting, so they go after that.

If this bill becomes law, a recently married woman who changed her last name couldn't use her birth certificate to register to vote because her name would no longer match. If this bill becomes law, a military ID—imagine that—a military ID would not be enough for that servicemember to vote. Our men and women sacrifice so much. They risk their lives. Why would Republicans make it harder for them to vote?

Perhaps it is because military servicemembers voted in bigger numbers for President Biden than Trump than they had expected.

If that wasn't enough, their voter suppression bill would also make it more difficult for Native Americans to vote. They would not accept Tribal IDs. Imagine, the first Americans being restricted from their ability to vote.

I believe that they are going after the very communities that voted

against Trump last November with these bills.

But, wait, Madam Speaker, that is not enough. Once again, Republican bills favor big corporations over consumers. Republicans want to roll back popular energy efficiency standards because they favor the richest corporations. While the Nation swelters and the heat kills, Republicans ignore the climate change only to protect their biggest benefactors. They don't care about saving folks money on their energy bills.

Sadly, it doesn't end there.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. At a time when women demand that we have reproductive freedoms, Republicans instead brought us a bill to give refrigerators freedom. Republicans say that it is overreach to regulate home appliances, but they will regulate women's bodies. We say no, we are against these bills. We are against Project 2025. We urge Americans to see what they are doing and what they intend to do.

□ 1300

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes for the purposes of a response.

First off, on Project 2025, this is the work of a think tank. Here is a news flash for everyone: There are think tanks in Washington, D.C. There are a lot of them. There are right-leaning think tanks. There are left-leaning think tanks.

In fact, one of the more frightening left-leaning think tanks is Center for American Progress. The head of the Center for American Progress is now ensconced in the White House as the Domestic Policy Advisor to the Biden administration. Members shouldn't pretend that there aren't think tanks on the left just as think tanks exist on the right. Their purpose is to provide information to legislators, House Members and Senators, and sometimes to inform legislation.

The issue keeps coming up about freedom. Let's talk about freedom for just a moment.

What about the freedom for the parents who were targeted by the Biden Department of Justice for voicing their concern about their children at a school board meeting?

What about the freedom of the Jewish students who are being violently targeted on college campuses and whose mere existence is so offensive to the radical, pro-Hamas left?

What about the freedom for homeowners in my State on the southern border who cannot safely leave their homes because, in May alone, there were over 170,000 illegal immigrant encounters, including 350 members on the terrorist watch list, at least 350 that were apprehended. There is no telling how many more came across undetected and undeterred.

Let's talk about freedom of the American families who are working to put food on their tables, create opportunities for their families, but the economy of the Biden administration is crushing them.

Let's talk about freedom of citizens of our country who want to have a vote in secure elections and want to have confidence in our systems. This bill today will provide that confidence.

My colleagues support freedom, but it seems that their idea of freedom is reserved for those whose expression of it aligns with their values and their agenda. Nevertheless, the question that is before us today is not do we all share the same views on what constitutes good policy; but, rather, did we provide for consideration of these measures in a manner that is consistent with the rules and precedents of the House?

I believe we did our duty and responsibility at the Rules Committee to advance these measures to the House floor, where our colleagues can decide whether or not to support them on their merits.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I respond to the gentleman from Texas by saying: When Democrats speak of freedom, we are talking about freedom for people, not for dishwashers.

The gentleman raised the issue of Project 2025 as somehow it is the product of some distant think tank.

Madam Speaker, I would include in the RECORD a list of all the former Trump administration officials who are architects of this atrocious document.

I also point out for the record that the key witness in the House Administration Committee on this horrific voter suppression bill is one of the co-architects of Project 2025.

The gentleman tried to take a swipe at the Center for American Progress. I think they actually have good ideas, but the Center for American Progress doesn't want to install Joe Biden as a dictator, unlike what Project 2025 wants to do with regard to Trump.

Madam Speaker, we know that there is a lot that we can do when you have competent leadership in control. Look at the last Congress when the Democrats were in charge. We invested to rebuild our neglected infrastructure of airports, roads, bridges, and ports in our communities.

Many of my Republican friends voted against it, but my colleagues on the other side of the aisle take bows and issue press releases when the majority gets the money and a project is happening in their district.

We brought manufacturing back to the United States, passing the Chips and Science Act to drive innovation and create good-paying jobs. We made the largest investment in climate, protecting our water and our air. We strengthened our supply chains and set up new programs to support minority

businesses. We ensured that our veterans got healthcare that they earned during their service.

I would say to my friends: It is possible for us to deliver for the American people, though I haven't seen much of it yet this year. All we have done is vote on bills that destroy and dismantle progress, that further polarize this country. Now the far-right fringe are forcing us in a way that we are plummeting toward a costly government shutdown in an effort to get their extreme agenda through.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD an article from The Hill titled: "Democrats deliver as Republicans dither."

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

There was no objection.

[From the Hill, Jan. 13, 2023]

DEMOCRATS DELIVER AS REPUBLICANS DITHER
(By Debbie Cox Bultan, Opinion Contributor)

For the first time in a century, the House of Representatives failed to elect a Speaker on the first ballot, or even on the tenth, as Republicans were held hostage by a small group of extremists within their own party. Republicans ultimately found the votes needed in the 15th round, after tempers flared and concerns grew about the power that extreme members potentially would have in the new Congress. This kind of spectacle is the opposite of what Americans want to see.

In November's election, voters clearly rejected extremist candidates, opting instead for leaders such as Gov.-elect Josh Shapiro in Pennsylvania and Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson in Michigan, who ran on platforms promising to solve problems and better meet the needs of constituents. "Chaos agents" and 2020-election deniers lost in major statewide races across the country. Now, in return for voters' trust, Democrats must continue to deliver on issues that matter to ordinary Americans and show that we are the party that can deliver for our constituents.

Washington, it appears, is headed for two years of gridlock. This heightens the importance of state and local leaders, who must play a critical role through their work by putting forth innovative policies and by making the most of federal investments, including in infrastructure, housing and a clean-energy economy. Here's how:

First and foremost, state and local leaders must stay focused on issues that matter to voters. They have a tremendous opportunity to do so and to show the value of Democrats' approach to government, by making wise use of investments approved by Congress and signed into law by President Biden over the past two years.

The American Rescue Plan, for example, did more than just save scores of small businesses that were struggling to recover from the COVID pandemic. State and local leaders are using the funding to bolster child care initiatives in Columbus, Ohio, and expand broadband access in Brownsville, Texas. In Kansas City, Mo., local leaders are using that funding to address the issues of homelessness and affordable housing.

Similarly, school districts across the Nation will be transitioning from diesel-fueled school buses to electric ones through funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The demand for electric buses was so overwhelming that the Environmental Protection Agency doubled the amount of funding available at the end of last year, to nearly \$1 billion. Cleaner buses mean cleaner air

for the children and neighborhoods, as well as long-term financial savings for school districts.

There is the potential for thousands more projects across the nation to repair aging roads and bridges, and huge opportunities to grow a clean-energy economy that is sustainable and pays well. Plus, thousands of high-paying jobs will be created through the CHIPS and Science Act, an initiative to bring high-tech manufacturing back to American cities and towns.

Though the federal laws were largely pushed by Democrats, folks in red, purple, and blue states also reap the benefits. Increasing broadband access is not an issue of the political left or right but an American issue. The same can be said of safe bridges, access to affordable child care, quality education, and protecting our planet for future generations.

In addition, elected leaders must maintain focus on preserving and strengthening democracy. This means building upon safeguards to ensure that American elections continue to be safe from interference and malfeasance; expanding access to voting, both in-person and by mail; and fighting against anti-democratic and anti-voting legislation.

While Jim Crow-type voter discrimination tactics may appear to be in the rearview mirror, the North Carolina Supreme Court ruled in December 2022 that a GOP-backed voting law “was motivated by a racially discriminatory purpose,” adding that the law was “formulated with an impermissible intent to discriminate against African American voters.” Voting rights underpin all other rights in a functioning democracy. While some may seek to suppress the voices of Black and brown Americans, Democrats must continue to listen and heed the voices of all voters.

Finally, Democrats cannot be distracted by fights that don’t matter to their constituents. Rather than comment on the chaos in the House, state and local leaders should use every opportunity to show constituents what a functioning governing body can deliver in terms of good-paying jobs, affordable child care, and access to fast, reliable internet connections. After all, this is what voters have demanded.

Much success over the past two years came from local elected officials working with state officials, who together work with federal officials to bring positive change to communities. This is what happens when those who believe in government—who believe in democracy—work together for the betterment of us all.

Democrats can—and must—continue that work for the next two years. By being beholden to extreme members of their party, it seems that Republicans in Washington may continue to deliver nothing but turmoil.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 12½ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, is the gentleman prepared to close?

Mr. BURGESS. Yes, I am. Are you prepared to take notes?

Mr. MCGOVERN. Okay. I will give you copies of what I am saying so you can have them.

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

Madam Speaker, at the end of the day, it is not just about the legislation here. It is about two competing visions for America.

Democrats want an economy that lifts all people up. We are fighting for workers. We want opportunities for kids, success for families, and dignity for seniors. We want democracy to be secure at home and around the world. We have a vision of a better future and an idea of how to get there.

The bills today show, once again, that Republicans are more interested in division and taking us backward and turning back the clock on reproductive freedom, on voting rights, on lowering prices, on holding big corporations accountable. On all these things and more, the majority wants to drag us back. That is what their party now stands for. That is why we are wasting time with more misguided MAGA junk instead of working together to get things done for the American people.

I know those who are watching this debate maybe think this is a little bit strange, the topics that we are talking about here today. I think my Republican friends are confused what House they are in.

Again, they are not in Home Depot. They are in the House of Representatives. We ought to be debating big issues. We ought to be moving this country forward. Instead, we are dealing with this garbage. This is a waste of time. It is a waste of time.

I get it. Republicans are beholden to the most extreme elements of their Conference, but we could actually find common ground and get stuff done. We don’t have to agree on everything to agree on something. Surely there are some things we can agree on that we have in common that we can move forward to help move this country in the right direction.

Instead, it is all the same old same old. Every bill that comes to the floor has all these anti-abortion riders, anti-LGBTQ riders, anti-anything-that-is-good riders. This has to stop. This has to stop. We can do better.

Again, I respectfully suggest to the chairman of the Rules Committee that one of the ways we could do better is that the gentleman can open up the debates a little bit more. We have four completely closed rules and no opportunity for any amendments. There is one structured rule, and only Republican amendments are made in order. All of the bipartisan and Democratic amendments, totally rule compliant, were shut out.

That is not the way to find common ground. That is not the way to move legislation forward in the way where it will eventually become law. We can do better. We have to do better. If not, I

will say the American people in November, I think, will make a different choice, and we will be able to get back on the right track.

Madam Speaker, again, I wish we were doing something more substantive here today other than talking about refrigerators and dishwashers. I wish we were doing something more positive other than trying to repress the vote in this country, but it is what it is.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote down this rule, to open up this House, and to reject these awful, awful garbage bills.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I agree with the ranking member. We don’t have to agree on everything to agree on something. In fact, 81 percent of the Rules Committee measures passed in this Congress have garnered bipartisan votes on the underlying measures for final passage.

We do keep hearing the points made on the other side that the legislation on the SAVE Act is not necessary and that noncitizen voting is already illegal. It is also illegal to simply walk across the border into this country without the proper authorization, and yet it happens every single day.

Noncitizens registering to vote is not a hypothetical. In 2019, Pennsylvania admitted that it had inadvertently allowed over 10,000 noncitizens to register to vote. Texas found nearly 100,000 noncitizen registrations. I think 100,000 would cause a significant impact on a Federal election.

In 2020, when Illinois implemented automatic voter registration, more than 500 noncitizens were accidentally registered to vote.

As of May 2023, the Virginia Department of Election Officials have removed over 1,400 registrants from its official voter registration rolls with a reported reason for removal due to noncitizen status. Of those noncitizens who were removed, 335 individuals had cast a ballot in Virginia elections over the previous 4 years. In total, these noncitizens cast over 800 ballots.

To the question as to whether or not these offenses were prosecuted, in response to inquiries, the Virginia Attorney General’s Office said that it had no prosecution records related to this illegal voting even though voting illegally is a class C felony in Virginia. The SAVE Act is really essential to close those loopholes.

I do find it sometimes perplexing when I hear the arguments on the other side that purportedly Democrats are here in defense of democracy and somehow Republicans are opposed to democracy. I will remind my friends on the other side of the House that it is not us who are attempting to undo the

votes of millions of Democrats nationwide to remove the nominee of their party from their ballot.

Madam Speaker, America is in a state of crisis. The southern border is wide open. Americans are paying for it with their lives. The Biden administration has turned its efforts to change protections under Title IX. I reiterate that, with the number of illegal aliens who have entered our country since President Biden took office, we should almost wish for a border czar in a situation like this.

There have been over 7 million encounters with illegal aliens at our southern border, and the number of got-aways has increased by 390 percent. Americans are losing their lives. This is not just theoretical. Americans are losing their lives due to this administration's failure to protect our sovereignty.

I have said it here on the House floor before. Let me repeat it now: Jocelyn Nungaray, Rachel Morin, Laken Riley, Alex Wise, Lizbeth Medina, Melissa Powell, Riordan Powell, and Travis Wolfe are just a few of those names who were taken from their families by this crisis at the southern border. How many more Americans will have to be named before the Biden administration acts?

House Republicans do have a solution. We passed it last May. H.R. 2 would be instrumental in securing the southern border and dissuading the abuse of our immigration system, providing funding to hire and train more Border Patrol agents, and hold Secretary Mayorkas and President Biden accountable for their inability to protect the American people.

Certainly, my colleagues would not oppose Mr. ROY's good-faith measure to ensure that those who come to this country illegally are not able to vote illegally. The right to vote in America is fundamental to what it means to be American. By ensuring that only American citizens are taking part in this tradition, we can safeguard the integrity of our electoral system and guarantee that the right to vote does not lose its importance.

Your vote matters. My vote matters. It is an extension of our voice. It is our participation in this country, our right to speak for what policies we want to see enacted and what leaders we want to see in office. It is important to protect this right as it is important to secure our southern border.

Madam Speaker, I urge my fellow Members to support this rule and support the underlying measures. I yield back the balance of my time and move the previous question on the resolution.

The material previously referred to by Mr. MCGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 1341 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 9. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the

consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 12) to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 10. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 12.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

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 1 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO) at 1 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 1341; and

Adoption of House Resolution 1341, if ordered.

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.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8281, SAFEGUARD AMERICAN VOTER ELIGIBILITY ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 165, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RELATING TO "NON-DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES RECEIVING FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE"; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8772, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7700, STOP UNAFFORDABLE DISHWASHER STANDARDS ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7637, REFRIGERATOR FREEDOM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 1341) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8281) 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; providing for consideration of the resolution (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"; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8772) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7700) to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for dishwashers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7637) to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 194, nays 186, not voting 53, as follows:

[Roll No. 338]

YEAS—194

Aderholt	Armstrong	Banks
Alford	Bacon	Barr
Allen	Baird	Bean (FL)
Amodei	Balderson	Bentz

Manning	Phillips	Stansbury
Matsui	Pingree	Stanton
McBath	Pocan	Stevens
McClellan	Porter	Strickland
McColum	Pressley	Suozi
McGarvey	Quigley	Swalwell
McGovern	Ramirez	Sykes
Meeks	Raskin	Takano
Menendez	Rosendale	Thanedar
Meng	Ross	Thompson (CA)
Mfume	Ruiz	Thompson (MS)
Morelle	Ruppersberger	Titus
Moulton	Ryan	Tlaib
Mrvan	Salinas	Tokuda
Mullin	Sarbanes	Tonko
Nadler	Scanlon	Torres (CA)
Napolitano	Schakowsky	Torres (NY)
Neal	Schiff	Trahan
Neguse	Schneider	Trone
Nickel	Scholten	Underwood
Norcross	Schrier	Vargas
Ocasio-Cortez	Scott (VA)	Vasquez
Omar	Scott, David	Veasey
Pallone	Sewell	Velázquez
Panetta	Sherman	Wasserman
Pappas	Sherrill	Schultz
Pascrell	Slotkin	Waters
Pelosi	Smith (WA)	Watson Coleman
Perez	Sorensen	Wexton
Peters	Soto	Wild
Pettersen	Spanberger	Williams (GA)

NOT VOTING—27

Babin	Jimenez	Massie
Crenshaw	Granger	Mast
Davis (LL)	Griffith	Moore (WI)
Diaz-Balart	Grijalva	Moskowitz
Donalds	Guest	Peltola
Evans	Harder (CA)	Salazar
Gallego	Hunt	Sánchez
Garamendi	Jackson Lee	Weber (TX)
Garcia (TX)	Luttrell	Wilson (FL)

□ 1358

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to travel cancellations and delays relating to Hurricane Beryl that hit the Houston area, I was unable to vote during today's first vote series at 1:30 p.m.

Had I been able to vote, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 338, H. Res. 1341, the motion on ordering the previous question; and NO on Roll Call No. 339, H. Res. 1341, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 7700—Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act; H.R. 7637—Refrigerator Freedom 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 “Non-discrimination on the Basis of Sex in Educational Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance;” H.R. 8281—Safe-guard American Voter Eligibility Act; and H.R. 8772—Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2025.

STOP UNAFFORDABLE DISHWASHER STANDARDS ACT

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1341, I call up the bill (H.R. 7700) to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for dishwashers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER). Pursuant to House Resolution 1341, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7700

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 “Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act”.

SEC. 2. PRESCRIBING AND ENFORCING ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR DISHWASHERS.

(a) TECHNOLOGICALLY FEASIBLE AND ECONOMICALLY JUSTIFIED.—Notwithstanding subsections (m), (n), and (o) of section 325 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295), the Secretary of Energy may not—

(1) prescribe a new or an amended energy conservation standard for a covered product that is a dishwasher under such section unless the Secretary of Energy determines that the prescription and imposition of such energy conservation standard is technologically feasible and economically justified; or

(2) enforce an energy conservation standard prescribed under such section for a covered product that is a dishwasher if the Secretary of Energy determines that enforcement of or compliance with such energy conservation standard is not technologically feasible or economically justified.

(b) PROHIBITION ON INCREASED COSTS TO CONSUMERS.—Notwithstanding subsections (m), (n), and (o) of section 325 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295), the Secretary of Energy may not—

(1) prescribe a new or an amended energy conservation standard for a covered product that is a dishwasher under such section unless the Secretary of Energy determines that the prescription and imposition of such energy conservation standard is not likely to result in additional net costs to the consumer, including any increase in net costs associated with the purchase, installation, maintenance, disposal, and replacement of the covered product; or

(2) enforce an energy conservation standard prescribed under such section for a covered product that is a dishwasher if the Secretary of Energy determines that enforcement of or compliance with such energy conservation standard is likely to result in additional net costs to the consumer, including any increase in net costs associated with the purchase, installation, maintenance, disposal, and replacement of the covered product.

(c) SIGNIFICANT ENERGY SAVINGS REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding subsections (m), (n), and (o) of section 325 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295), the Secretary of Energy may not—

(1) prescribe a new or an amended energy conservation standard for a covered product that is a dishwasher under such section if the Secretary of Energy determines that the prescription and imposition of such energy conservation standard will not result in significant conservation of energy; or

(2) enforce an energy conservation standard prescribed under such section for a covered product that is a dishwasher if the Secretary of Energy determines that enforcement of or compliance with such energy conservation standard will not result in significant conservation of energy.

(d) COVERED PRODUCT; ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARD.—In this section, the terms “covered product” and “energy conservation standard” have the meanings given such terms in section 321 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and insert extraneous material on H.R. 7700.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 7700, Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act, and I thank Congressman LANGWORTHY for leading these efforts.

The Biden administration has lost sight of the original intent behind the Department of Energy conservation standards. Instead, they are contradicting the statutes and doing so at the expense of Americans' quality of life, their pocketbooks, and their energy bills.

Instead of harnessing the abundant resources we are blessed with in this country, the Biden administration wants to lower your standard of living by telling you what appliances you can have in your home, and they want you to pay more for it.

An analysis from the Department of Energy found that their dishwasher efficiency mandates would increase the upfront cost by up to 28 percent. It is estimated that these proposed standards may take consumers over 16 years to pay back the increased cost on a dishwasher that won't even last 12 years.

The Biden administration has abused the Department of Energy's appliance standard program to go beyond the authority granted to them by Congress by proposing these overreaching standards.

Americans will suffer the consequences of the Biden administration's rush-to-green agenda.

The DOE's net zero rush-to-green energy agenda is reaching into your home to impose cost increasing regulations on appliances in every corner of your home.

We have debated gas stoves and other appliances here, and now here we are today debating on dishwashers.

The Biden administration has proposed over 15 regulations that affect appliances, like I mentioned, not only gas stoves but hot water heaters, refrigerators, freezers, and now dishwashers.

They argue these regulations will save money and reduce emissions, but that is just simply not the case. One study found these regulations could increase the cost for the average American family by over \$9,000.

These increased efficiency standards mean Americans need to run their appliances twice as long to get the same effect, and we all know it. You run the dishwasher, you open it up, the dishes aren't clean, and you have got to run it again. It happens to every American family multiple times. You are not saving money. You are not saving water and electricity running your highly efficient appliances when you have to run them two or three times just to get the dishes clean or to get them dry.

This bill would prevent this abuse from the DOE, and it will prevent the Department from enforcing standards on dishwashers unless they are technologically feasible and economically justified, they are not likely to result in additional costs to the customer, and they won't enforce the standards unless they will result in a significant conservation of energy. American families know that is just simply not happening in their homes.

I urge all my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 7700, Stop the Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act, to protect affordability and preserve the quality of life that Americans expect and deserve.

I thank Representative LANGWORTHY for leading this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, today's debate demonstrates why House Republicans simply cannot govern. This bill, H.R. 7700, the Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act, doesn't need to be brought up today because House Republicans already passed it 2 months ago as part of another larger bill.

In other words, today's debate is a waste of our time. It is clearly being brought up because Republicans simply don't have any other bills to bring to the floor. They are fresh out of ideas that can meet the approval of the extreme elements in their party.

Now, at a time, Mr. Speaker, when the American people want us to work together to build on the progress we have made to grow our economy for the future and lower everyday costs for American families, the House Republican majority wants to have another debate about protecting dishwashers even though this legislation will increase home energy bills on the average American family.

This bill would gut popular energy efficiency standards for dishwashers. Energy efficiency standards are popular for three key reasons. First, they save Americans money on their energy bills. Second, they boost innovation by modernizing appliances for the future. Third, they reduce greenhouse gas pollution in our ongoing efforts to combat the climate crisis.

□ 1415

The Biden administration's past and planned energy efficiency actions will save Americans \$1 trillion and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 2.5 billion metric tons over the next 30 years. I will repeat that: They will save Americans \$1 trillion and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 2.5 billion metric tons over the next 30 years. That is why there is so much support for these efficiency standards. This is something we should all support.

This used to be a bipartisan issue, but not anymore. Extreme Republicans have decided that they would rather do the bidding of corporate polluters as they continue to move forward with their polluters-over-people agenda.

H.R. 7700 attacks a popular and effective Department of Energy program that saves Americans money by setting efficiency standards on household appliances. It adds burdensome and duplicative language to the Department of Energy's process without defining any of its vague metrics.

This bill completely ignores the mechanisms and practices that already exist at the Department of Energy. Worst of all, it gravely threatens the Department of Energy's ability to implement and enforce the already-finalized dishwasher standards. In pushing this legislation, Republicans ignore the fact that the Department of Energy already must ensure that the standards are economically justifiable, technically feasible, and result in energy savings. Before the standards are put in place by the Department of Energy, it has to meet those standards.

In fact, the process works so well that the dishwasher standard targeted by this bill was actually the result of a consensus agreement between industry, efficiency advocates, and consumer advocates. Industry supports the standards. I don't know who supports the repeal, essentially, of these standards.

If my colleagues look at the details of the dishwasher efficiency standard, they will understand why there is so much support for it. The standard hasn't been updated in over a decade, and the new rules are expected to save Americans over \$3 billion on utility bills over 30 years. That is real savings, and the standards are attainable.

Dishwashers that meet the new standards are already on the market. People can buy them now. It doesn't even go into effect until 2027, but consumers can already buy these now because people want them.

It is clear that the appliance manufacturing industry doesn't feel burdened by the new standards. They supported them.

Therefore, one has to question, again, why Republicans continue to fight against these commonsense standards. I have no idea other than their corporate and polluter friends.

The bill, along with the next bill we are debating, would not just impact the Department of Energy's ability to im-

plement the recently finalized standards, but it would also effectively overturn them. I want to stress that. These absurd bills include a provision that prohibits DOE from enforcing new or existing standards if they increase costs by even a penny, completely disregarding the massive consumer savings on future monthly home energy bills.

My point is, over a period of time, consumers will save a lot of money. My colleagues are saying if it just costs an extra penny at any point, then it shouldn't be allowed. This simply defies logic.

Again, the bill is designed to protect the interests of Republicans' oil and gas friends. The bill would create market uncertainty and threaten real savings for Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose the bill because it will increase home energy costs for American families and undermine our ongoing efforts to combat the worsening climate crisis. I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, the legislation would prevent the Department from enforcing standards on dishwashers unless they are technologically feasible and economically justified, unless they are not likely to result in additional costs to a consumer, and unless they will result in significant conservation of energy.

Americans know that this new standard and even older standards are not working. They are having to wash their dishes multiple times.

We have seen over and over agencies overreaching the constitutional mandate they were given. Thank goodness the Supreme Court last week overturned the Chevron deference, and now Congress can use other tools like pieces of legislation to direct agencies on what they should do and the limits they can do it under.

Sure, there is other legislation we ought to take up, but we have had to use Congressional Review Act legislation. We have had to use legislation like this to push back against these agencies and their overreach.

Thankfully, Mr. LANGWORTHY knows a lot about this. He filed the bill.

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act, which will put the brakes on the Biden administration's relentless assault on efficient, affordable, and reliable appliances for everyday Americans through overbearing regulations.

When Congress enacted the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975, the goal was straightforward: encourage a more efficient use of energy that is both practical and cost-efficient. Yet, the Biden administration has

abused and twisted this law beyond recognition to serve the radical, woke environmentalist agenda of the far left.

They are not just out of touch. They are making life more expensive for hardworking Americans. In fact, the Biden administration's own analysis of the proposed rule for the new efficiency standards admits that it would take more than 12 years for an American family to see \$17 in savings—\$17 over 12 years, and that is if their dishwasher lasts that long, which is really doubtful. This is a textbook example of Big Government overreach.

Here is the bottom line: Our country is in the midst of a historic affordability crisis. Millions of Americans cannot afford to buy their first home or even save for a rainy day. What does this Biden administration do? They pile on more regulations, more requirements, and higher standards onto the most basic household appliances.

To my friends across the aisle who disparage this legislation here today as trivial and unimportant, I encourage them to go explain right now to the average American family, already crushed by this Biden economy, that their daily struggles with skyrocketing costs don't matter. Go explain to seniors in my district living on fixed incomes why they should shell out thousands more to replace their basic home appliances to satisfy some radical environmentalist pipe dream. Go tell them that they should take a back seat to the Green New Deal agenda. Go tell them that the Biden administration knows better about what is best for them.

Why should Americans who are putting their groceries on credit cards be forced to deal with more out-of-touch, expensive regulations? The hardworking families, seniors, and constituents in my district might not matter to the Biden administration, but they matter to me.

That is why I introduced this legislation. By stripping away consumer choice and imposing draconian new regulations and standards that make absolutely no sense from an affordability and efficiency standpoint, this administration is making life harder for the American people, pure and simple.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. We cannot tackle this affordability crisis facing our country today if we don't stop the Biden administration's regulatory agenda dead in its tracks. I urge my colleagues to support my bill, H.R. 7700.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on the Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 7637 and H.R. 7700, both of which are being considered this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that Republicans went home for Independence

Day, reflected upon all that great holiday means, and, as their first order of business back in D.C., brought up these redundant, anticonsumer bills.

Let it not be said that House Republicans don't care about people's rights. These bills support the rights of Chinese manufacturers to dump cheap, inferior products into the U.S. market. These bills support the right for utilities to bill Americans more just for keeping their refrigerators plugged in or running their dishwashers.

Strong efficiency standards reduce energy use and are proven to save Americans hundreds of dollars each and every year. These bills support the right of landlords to stick their renters with low-performing appliances.

Strong efficiency standards raise the bar for everyone. DOE's efficiency standards are required by law to be cost-effective, and they result in major savings for every American household. They also reduce energy demand, which makes our electric grid more reliable.

The refrigerator and dishwasher standards, which would be undone by the bills before us today, reflect the consensus of energy efficiency advocates, consumer advocates, and American home appliance manufacturers. That is right: Our own domestic manufacturers recognize the benefits of these standards and truly support DOE's rules.

We have wasted enough time. We have wasted enough energy already. Let's not stand in the way of the Department of Energy and American manufacturers that want to support the development of the next generation of innovative, cost-effective, and energy efficient appliances.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage Members to do the proconsumer and patriotic thing by rejecting these bills today.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN), a valuable member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7700, the Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act or the SUDS Act.

Time and again, we have seen the Biden administration's radical rush-to-green agenda negatively impact the lives of hardworking Americans, including their freedom to choose what household appliances meet their needs—first, gas stoves, and now, dishwashers and refrigerators. It is hard to believe that under this administration, the most regulated space in America is the kitchen and laundry room.

Under the guise of energy efficiency, this administration is issuing new standards that will significantly drive up costs, reduce reliability, and jeopardize the availability of numerous home appliances.

House Republicans will continue to lead on legislative solutions that protect American families from out-of-touch, top-down rules. The American people want choice.

When I talk to my constituents in Georgia's 12th District, they want relief from record inflation and rising prices. Yet, the Biden administration is moving forward with issuing standards that could increase the upfront cost of dishwashers by 28 percent and the upfront cost of refrigerators by 25 percent, according to the DOE's own analysis.

President Biden's war on American energy is crushing families' budgets nationwide, which is why I am proud to support the SUDS Act, as well as legislation being debated later today that will protect affordability, quality, and choice for residential dishwashers, refrigerators, and freezers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on these bills.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce's Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 7700. It is a bill that will saddle American families with higher costs.

This is not a serious bill, but it is rather emblematic of the least protective Congress in modern times. Rather than focus on improving the lives of our neighbors back home and lowering costs, Republicans, as my colleague from New York said, went home for the Fourth of July recess and talked to their neighbors about what the Congress could do to improve their lives, and the first bill that they bring up on the floor is one to gut energy efficient dishwashers.

Let's talk about energy efficiency because it is popular. Where does it come from? Years ago, the Congress acted in a bipartisan way and directed the Department of Energy to every few years update efficiency standards for the appliances that power our lives: our air conditioners, dishwashers, refrigerators. American manufacturers have responded.

Americans know this. Our appliances have gotten better and better over time. They save us money. They save us water. That is really important right now, that we can put a little bit more money back into our pockets. It is a win-win-win for us.

I have already heard some misleading statements on the floor today, and I think we need to clear those up.

When the Department of Energy creates new efficiency standards, whether it is for dishwashers or other appliances, it does so in collaboration with industry, with the support of industry and appliance manufacturers. The final standards for dishwashers were adopted in April, and they reflect the recommendations from the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers. That is a trade association of 30 leading appliance makers.

□ 1430

Second, they have said that this is a mandate and that all Americans have to go buy these dishwashers.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are smart. They know that is not true. If you want an inefficient dishwasher or if you want to return to the days of hand-washing your dishes, then that is your right to do so. However, it is important that we prod appliance makers to be more innovative and to be more efficient. The guiding star—in fact, it is called Energy Star—is to save consumers money, to cut pollution, and to help put a little more money back in their pockets.

In creating new energy efficiency standards, DOE does so with consumer savings as its guiding force. According to the agency calculations, consumers will save \$3.2 billion on utility bills over 30 years from the dishwasher standards alone.

For my neighbors back home in Florida who are paying exorbitant electric bills right now because they don't use the power of the sunshine, they are mostly on gas, boy, this is a godsend for them to be able to put some money back into their pockets.

Since we have so much time to debate dishwashers today, I will spend a little time on a public service announcement.

Mr. Speaker, if you go to energy.gov/save, there are additional savings for you and your family. There are rebates on appliances and new heat pumps. There are tax credits for various appliances and upgrading your home. Many of these were adopted by Democrats in a Democratic-led Congress in the Inflation Reduction Act. That is our historic clean energy and climate resilience law. It has been difficult to get through the noise of this chaotic Congress to make sure that families understand the cost savings that are available to them, but that is at energy.gov/save. There are enormous rebates and tax credits to help you with the cost of living.

The Consumer Federation of America, a consumer advocacy group, said about the new dishwasher efficiency standard: The Department of Energy's new efficiency standards for dishwashers are a significant victory for both consumers and the environment. The standards require simple changes that will positively impact most households.

If the appliance makers, consumer advocacy groups, and environmental organizations all support the Department of Energy's energy efficiency standards, I know many of you are wondering, then why do House Republicans oppose them?

Another common theme in this chaotic Congress has been the Republicans' allegiance to polluters and utility companies.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. I was about to answer the question on everyone's mind: Why would anyone oppose put-

ting money back into the pockets of hardworking American families?

It is because the GOP is so aligned with oil and gas companies that they want you to use as much energy as possible. The utility companies want you to use as much energy as possible, Mr. Speaker, because that benefits their bottom line and not yours.

Rather than do the dirty work for polluters and electric utilities, I would say: Let's stand up for the families we represent and put money back into their pockets. Whether it is a dishwasher, a refrigerator, an AC, or whatever it is, they need a little bit of relief. We are here to serve them and not the special interest groups.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN).

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, we often talk about kitchen table issues, and what better time to elevate those issues than this week, which you all have declared in honor of refrigerator freedom.

Specifically, as I was walking around July Fourth, I heard a lot of issues from my constituents about refrigerators.

Some of them asked: Who put the meat in the crisper drawer?

That was a big fight.

Why aren't you using the egg holder for your eggs?

If you use the last of the mustard, don't just put it back in the fridge; go to the store and get some more mustard.

That is a fight.

There is the always controversial: Should we or should we not replace a perfectly good refrigerator just because it doesn't match our cabinets?

These are the real issues that are bothering Americans around their kitchen table when they talk about refrigerators. If those sound silly, I will only point out that those issues are vastly more important, more substantive, and are legitimate points of debate. You can argue both sides of any of those issues more than anything in this bill because this bill doesn't address those issues. All it does is gut efficiency standards that if left in place will save American consumers more than \$3 billion on their utility bills over the next three decades.

I am going to say this very slowly so everybody across the aisle can understand: If you save energy, then you don't have to pay for energy.

I think you all know this, Mr. Speaker, because some of you have probably at some point said to your kids: Shut the window. I have got the AC on. I don't want to waste energy. I don't want to waste money when I cool my house.

That is the same thing here in these standards.

Also, I think, as anybody who has ever sat around a kitchen table knows, Americans kind of like to save money on their energy bills. Here we find ourselves with efficiency standards in place that lower Americans' utility bills, and Republicans are proposing legislation to block Americans from access to cheaper energy in the name of refrigerator freedom. God bless refrigerators.

I oppose this bill because it is bad for consumers, it is bad for the environment, and, quite honestly, it is bad for this institution because it is a waste of our time.

Furthermore, at the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If House rules permitted, I would have offered this motion with an important amendment to this bill, and my amendment would require that the act not take effect until the Secretary of Energy submits to Congress a certification that this act, including amendments made by this act, will not result in higher energy costs for American consumers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment into the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for this motion to recommit.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration's own Department of Energy in their analysis finds that efficiency mandates could increase the upfront costs by 28 percent and it could take consumers 12 years to pay back the increased cost on a product like a dishwasher that may only last 7 to 12 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is going to take you 12 years to pay for something that may wear out in 7 years based on DOE's own analysis. That makes no sense.

The gentlewoman mentioned earlier that Republicans were not wanting to help American consumers, that they want to take money out of their pocket. This is actually the opposite of that. We are wanting to help save the American public money over time by stopping these reckless rush-to-green regulations like we are voting on today dealing with both refrigerators and dishwashers and then gas stoves but only because they have a green agenda that really wants to do away with fossil fuels. Let's just call it what it is. That is their agenda, to end the use of fossil fuels in the United States of America at a time when we, as a growing nation, growing population, and growing metropolitan centers, need more energy. The demand for energy is only going up. It is not going down. The continued war against American-

produced fossil fuels is costing Americans' ability to improve their quality of life and their standard of living.

We need to continue debating the need for efficient, reliable, affordable, and dispatchable energy resources, something that is 24/7/365 always on, always ready, always available, not weather-dependent, and not sunlight-dependent, intermittent energy sources. We need to continue debating that. Instead, we are having to push back against an administration that, under broad legislation passed by the United States Congress, has given them the ability to write rules and make regulations without the necessary congressional oversight in many cases. That is why, I believe, the Supreme Court overturned the Chevron deference to say that these agencies don't just have *carte blanche* to do whatever political agenda pushes them in the mindset to do.

I think Congress needs to focus on really defining what those rules are in the legislation we pass here, and I think that is what the Supreme Court is ultimately going to force us to do. They made very clear with no ambivalence and no ambiguity.

We have a Nation that is hurting because of the Biden economic factors that are causing inflation. It started with energy on day one by stopping the Keystone pipeline, ending lease sales on the Outer Continental Shelf, destroying the American energy base.

The Democrats will say: Well, energy production is up.

It is, but it is up because of past administration policies that expanded oil and gas leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf and on Federal land. These things don't pop up out of the ground overnight. It takes decades sometimes to get an energy product to producing. The permitting process alone takes years. Then you have to find the resource and produce the resource and get it online where Americans can benefit from it.

Guess who else can benefit from it, Mr. Speaker. The world can. With the abundance of natural gas we have in this country, we could be a tremendous exporter. We export a lot, but we could do a lot more because of the abundance of natural gas we have here to help the quality of life and standard of living of people all over the globe. Yet this administration says we are going to put this pause, which was basically a ban, on LNG exports.

That hurts our allies in Europe who are facing Vladimir Putin's cutting on and off the spigot of natural gas. It hurts folks around the world who are in energy poverty, and America could help raise them out of that poverty.

Americans know they are hurting because it started with energy. We talk a lot about that. Americans also see a border that is wide open and 16-plus million people who have crossed our southern border who are raping and killing American citizens. The crime rates are going up in cities. They are

straining our social services at the State level and in our own communities causing our property taxes to go up and our State income taxes to go up to pay for folks who aren't even legally in the United States of America. That is because of Joe Biden's open-border policies.

Sure, we ought to debate a lot of things in this Congress instead of debating regulations on efficiency standards on dishwashers, gas stoves, refrigerators, freezers, and all these things, but the Biden administration has definitely overreached in these areas. It is because they have a green agenda that they are pushing.

Republicans want to help Americans maintain their standard of living, improve their standard of living, and improve their quality of life. We can do that by lowering taxes. We can do that by improving the economy which the Biden economic policies have not done. We saw tremendous spending in the IRA and other things. More government spending equates to higher inflation. That is not me saying it. That is economists all over the globe who understand that simple concept.

We want to improve the quality of life of people and not make their appliances that they rely on every day be less efficient, cost more, and in the case of dishwashers, having to pay for something that wore out 3 or 4 years ago and they are still paying on it. If you factor in the cost savings, it is pennies a day. In fact, it is probably pennies a year. It gets into less than a \$20 savings over the life of the appliance. That is not saving the American people money.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7700, the Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act. Let's protect affordability, and let's preserve the quality of life for Americans.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER).

Ms. PORTER. I think it is important before we legislate on something to know something about it. I know a lot about dishwashers because I am a single mom, and I load, unload, load, unload, rinse, and buy detergent.

So I wonder if the gentleman who is supporting this legislation about dishwashers and proposing to be an expert in what the American people want in their dishwashers would be willing to engage in a little colloquy with me about dishwashers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina.

Are you willing to engage in this?

Representative DUNCAN, I would like to know if you know what the average utility cost is per month to run a dishwasher?

No. He doesn't know. It is \$2 to \$4 a month.

In other words, about one-third of a frappuccino: \$2 to \$4 a month.

□ 1445

Mr. DUNCAN, do you know about how much a dishwasher costs, Representative DUNCAN, like a mid-range dishwasher?

Nope, he doesn't know. About \$800, \$900. If you want to get fancier, like a thousand.

Representative DUNCAN, do you know the best ways and the most important things you can do to make your dishwasher get the dishes clean?

Nope. The gentleman is not a dishwasher expert. Loading it correctly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Member will be reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, do you know what the most important technique is to load a dishwasher correctly? It is loading it correctly.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard a lot about the Biden so-called border crisis. What I haven't heard about is anything about dishwashers. As somebody who saved and scrimped and was so proud to get a new dishwasher and can tell you a lot about them, what they cost, what kinds of features they have, how to load it properly, which I wish every person, every man and child in America, would listen to their wife—

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. PORTER. I wish everyone would listen to their spouse about how to load the dishwasher correctly. Those are the most important things that make your dishes get clean.

This bill is ridiculous. It is Congress at its worst, a bunch of people who haven't unloaded a dishwasher ever telling the American people with legislation what kind of dishwashers they should or should not be able to buy.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina has 14 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. Speaker, to address the gentlewoman, I wasn't going to engage in a colloquy on the floor during a debate on this issue, but I do load and unload the dishwasher.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that, many times, I have opened the dishwasher, loaded properly, with the right amount of dishwashing liquid or pod put in, that all the dishes aren't clean. They were rinsed off before they were put in, to the gentlewoman.

I would run it again. Americans know this. This isn't just me and my household. Americans know they have to run the dishwasher oftentimes more than once.

How is that a cost savings? How is it a cost savings when you have to run it more than once?

Americans know you open that dishwasher after its cycle, and apparently the heating component of the efficiency standards didn't dry the dishes, so they get them out before they put them in the cabinet because you don't want to put wet dishes up. You get a towel down, and you dry every one of them off. Cup, knife, fork, plate, pan, you dry it off before you put it up.

Mr. Speaker, you might as well have just washed it in the sink versus using an inefficient dishwasher that is becoming more and more inefficient based on these standards. I am not going to stand here and be lectured by someone who seemed very pious about dishwashers or washing laundry or loading a refrigerator properly to stay away from the hotspots because we are going to go to refrigerators next.

I am sure some of these same comments are going to be brought up. Guess what, I don't have to because the American people know. The American people know what they deal with every day, and they know they are going to pay more for an appliance that is less efficient, and they may still be paying for it when the thing is worn out. That is unfair to the American people. We should be about improving the standard of living and quality of life of Americans.

I will address one other thing that the gentlewoman said: the so-called border crisis. Every American knows we have a border crisis. We have had over 16 million people in our country not with a visa, not with a permission slip, to come here illegally. They reside in our communities because guess what? Every State is a border State now, even California and even South Carolina, where I come from because these migrants have been bussed or flown at taxpayer expense into our communities.

I won't stand here and hear it be called a so-called border crisis because Americans know it is a border crisis when 16 million people illegally enter. We are not talking about 6, but 16 million or more. Those are just the ones we know about.

What about the ones that the Border Patrol see cross the border, who go into the bushes, and they go after them? They can't find them, and they are not counted in the got-away numbers because they have been told that those migrants may have gone back across the border, so they are not counting those numbers.

What about the ones who cross the border in areas that aren't patrolled currently, those people who come through who have no encounter with law enforcement at all, who are never counted. They may have nefarious goals in mind because all of these illegal aliens that have crossed our border aren't just from Mexico or Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Latin-American countries. A lot of them are com-

ing from China and Russia and the Middle East. America knows we have no idea who is in our country.

Let me say that again: Americans, we have no idea who is in our country.

When I got into this conversation about energy prices and the border and economics and inflation, high interest rates, cost of goods costing more now than they did 4 years ago, oftentimes 28, 30, 35 percent more, Americans know. They don't want to pay more for an appliance that is inefficient. That is the gist of this debate.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers. I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Mr. Speaker, I go back to the dishwashers and clarify some of the facts here. Republicans are throwing around a lot of numbers that I believe are not true. Yesterday, at the Rules Committee, we heard from Republicans that the new dishwasher standards will take 12 years for consumers to break even, and Members cited Department of Energy as a source for this number.

However, the 12-year payback period is in reference to a DOE evaluation of a proposed standard from May of last year. Department of Energy didn't actually adopt that rule. The actual payback period for the rule that was finalized is 3.9 years, and the estimated average lifetime of the dishwasher is way longer.

DOE estimates that the price increase for dishwashers going from the lowest efficiency to the new minimum efficiency standard required will be \$26, and these \$26 will be paid back in less than 4 years.

Additionally, the price of most dishwashers is not expected to increase at all. Many models already meet the standards or only require small adjustments.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are using old data to trivialize the savings from the standards and exaggerate the costs. As we have said over and over, the Department of Energy considers the technology, the costs, and the savings in this process. This bill is about gutting agencies and deregulating everything and trying to sell it to the American people as a consumer protection, which it is not.

I clear up a few other misconceptions which seemed to be circulating on the Republican side. At yesterday's Rules meeting, my Republican colleagues expressed outrage that the Department of Energy employees are setting appliance efficiency standards, implying that this isn't their job and that this is just another example of the Biden administration overreach, but the truth is this is their job.

These efficiency standards are congressionally mandated. The Energy Policy and Conservation Act requires that the Department of Energy evaluate and finalize appliance energy conservation standards and the appliance energy conservation program at the

Department of Energy was created in 1987. Who was President in 1987? Ronald Reagan. This program was created under a Republican President with a Republican-controlled Senate and a Democratic House.

Republicans are not upset about the specifics of the conservation standards, believe me. The majority is upset about the existence of standards at all. If one looks at Project 2025, their policy proposals for a second Trump administration, the excessive gutting of critical Federal programs that help all Americans will be seen all over the place.

Let me give an example. Not many Americans have heard of Project 2025, which is this shadowy effort led by former Trump administration officials and those who would staff a second Trump administration to implement far-right policies. It calls for radical ideas, such as banning abortion nationwide, cutting taxes for the rich, and ending the independence of the Department of Justice.

Front and center in Project 2025's plans for the Department of Energy is an idea "to eliminate energy efficiency standards for appliances." The war Republicans have declared on energy efficiency is not organic. It is a small part of a larger effort to attack American institutions and dismantle the parts of the government that keep us safe and save consumers money.

I want everyone to understand that what we are talking about here with energy efficiency standards is just part of a larger effort to basically eliminate all consumer protections.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to please not fall for the Republican framing of these issues. Energy efficiency used to be bipartisan, and it helps all Americans. It helps all Americans. Nobody is opposed to it other than this ideological crusade on the part of the Republicans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that our Members vote against the bill, this bill and the next one that follows on refrigerators, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, enacted in 1975, the Energy Policy and Conservation Act provides specific criteria for the DOE to follow in order to propose a new appliance efficiency standard. I went over those standards earlier. The Biden administration has consistently ignored these requirements by proposing and finalizing standards that violate the statute.

Mr. Speaker, I owe the gentleman from New Jersey an apology because I misspoke earlier when I said the payback period was 12 years.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a link to the Federal Register, Wednesday, April 24, 2024. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-04-24/pdf/2024-08211.pdf>.

This is a table in the Federal Register, and it says it is a 16-year payback for dishwashers. I said 12. I apologize for misspeaking because it is really 16 years. This is not just words. These are in the Federal Register.

Americans know that these standards will lessen the efficiency of appliances, will cost them more in upfront costs, and ultimately cost them more in inconvenience, in multiple run cycles, in cost over the lifetime when you have a 16-year payback.

Mr. Speaker, this is the right piece of legislation to push back against the administrative overreach, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7700, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1341, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Casten of Illinois moves to recommit the bill H.R. 7700 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The material previously referred to by Mr. CASTEN is as follows:

Mr. Casten moves to recommit the bill H.R. 7700 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall not take effect until the date on which the Secretary of Energy submits to Congress a certification that the implementation of this Act will not result in increasing energy costs for consumers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

□ 1500

REFRIGERATOR FREEDOM ACT

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1341, I call up the bill (H.R. 7637) to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers that are not cost-

effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1341, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7637

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 "Refrigerator Freedom Act".

SEC. 2. PRESCRIBING AND ENFORCING ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR REFRIGERATORS, REFRIGERATOR-FREEZERS, AND FREEZERS.

(a) TECHNOLOGICALLY FEASIBLE AND ECONOMICALLY JUSTIFIED.—Notwithstanding subsections (m), (n), and (o) of section 325 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295), the Secretary of Energy may not—

(1) prescribe a new or an amended energy conservation standard for a covered product that is a refrigerator, a refrigerator-freezer, or a freezer under such section unless the Secretary of Energy determines that the prescription and imposition of such energy conservation standard is technologically feasible and economically justified; or

(2) enforce an energy conservation standard prescribed under such section for a covered product that is a refrigerator, a refrigerator-freezer, or a freezer if the Secretary of Energy determines that enforcement of or compliance with such energy conservation standard is not technologically feasible or economically justified.

(b) PROHIBITION ON INCREASED COSTS TO CONSUMERS.—Notwithstanding subsections (m), (n), and (o) of section 325 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295), the Secretary of Energy may not—

(1) prescribe a new or an amended energy conservation standard for a covered product that is a refrigerator, a refrigerator-freezer, or a freezer under such section unless the Secretary of Energy determines that the prescription and imposition of such energy conservation standard is not likely to result in additional net costs to the consumer, including any increase in net costs associated with the purchase, installation, maintenance, disposal, and replacement of the covered product; or

(2) enforce an energy conservation standard prescribed under such section for a covered product that is a refrigerator, a refrigerator-freezer, or a freezer if the Secretary of Energy determines that enforcement of or compliance with such energy conservation standard is likely to result in additional net costs to the consumer, including any increase in net costs associated with the purchase, installation, maintenance, disposal, and replacement of the covered product.

(c) SIGNIFICANT ENERGY SAVINGS REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding subsections (m), (n), and (o) of section 325 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295), the Secretary of Energy may not—

(1) prescribe a new or an amended energy conservation standard for a covered product that is a refrigerator, a refrigerator-freezer, or a freezer under such section if the Secretary of Energy determines that the prescription and imposition of such energy conservation standard will not result in significant conservation of energy; or

(2) enforce an energy conservation standard prescribed under such section for a covered product that is a refrigerator, a refrigerator-freezer, or a freezer if the Secretary of

Energy determines that enforcement of or compliance with such energy conservation standard will not result in significant conservation of energy.

(d) COVERED PRODUCT; ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARD.—In this section, the terms "covered product" and "energy conservation standard" have the meanings given such terms in section 321 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, or their respective designees.

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 7637.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 7637, the Refrigerator Freedom Act, and I thank Congresswoman MILLER-MEEKS for leading these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, throughout this Congress, the Energy and Commerce Committee has heard time after time how this administration has prioritized a radical climate agenda over the needs of everyday Americans.

If you listen to the last debate, you will see a lot of that. The fact is, the American people cannot afford President Biden's energy policies. They are expensive, they are unreliable, and they are diminishing the quality of life for folks across the country.

House Republicans are tired of this administration trying to pull the wool over the eyes of the American people. We are tired of them putting the interests of the climate lobby over those of hardworking Americans.

The Biden administration's obsession with rationing our abundant energy is reducing the quality of life for Americans. They are making it more difficult and more expensive for you to cook your food, heat your homes, and all the other things that we talked about over the last number of debates on these issues.

With record-high inflation, out-of-control utility bills, and unaffordable home prices, the Biden administration's efficiency regulations will make household appliances more expensive. That is just the bottom line.

The Department of Energy's proposed standards for refrigerators and freezers yield nearly nonexistent savings. The life cycle cost savings for these products is only 3 cents over the course of 9.3 years.

Thanks to the Biden administration, Americans will spend 34 percent more

on appliances today than they did just a decade ago. These appliances are not only more expensive, they are of lesser quality and include fewer features that Americans rely on, and they have a shorter lifespan.

These efficiency standards reflect just how out of touch the Biden administration is with everyday Americans who are struggling to make ends meet.

This legislation will prevent the DOE from enforcing standards for refrigerators and freezers unless they are: technologically feasible and economically justified; are not likely to result in additional cost to the consumer; and will result in a significant conservation of energy.

This bill will protect affordability, quality, and choice for Americans, for the refrigerators and freezers they buy. It puts the interests of Americans first.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7637, the Refrigerator Freedom Act, and I thank Representative MILLER-MEEKS for leading this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, just like our debate on the last bill, there is no reason for the House to be debating this bill today.

It already passed as part of the Hands Off Our Home Appliances Act in May, and yet House Republicans are wasting all of our time by bringing it up again, and it is just another example of why they can't govern.

We are here now to debate H.R. 7637, the Refrigerator Freedom Act. That is right. Republicans are fighting to give refrigerators freedom. You don't hear them fighting for the same thing for American women. In fact, Republicans are trying to strip away a woman's freedom when it comes to reproductive healthcare, pushing nationwide abortion bans.

Talk about misplaced priorities. I can't imagine a more misplaced priority than this bill today.

This bill, along with the other anti-efficiency bills pushed by Republicans, are bad for Americans. It robs Americans of savings on the monthly home energy bills and ignores that even the appliance manufacturing industry supports these efficiency standards.

I am going to repeat that. The industry supports these efficiency standards, so why are you trying to repeal them?

This bill will increase energy bills for American families. H.R. 7637 targets DOE's recently finalized refrigerator efficiency standards. The bill adds burdensome and vague language to the standard setting process and creates unattainable metrics for the enforcement of standards.

If this bill becomes law, the Department of Energy will be unable to enforce its recently finalized consensus-based efficiency standards.

When setting appliance standards, DOE already has to ensure that the standards are economically justifiable, technologically feasible, and result in

energy savings. That is required under the existing bipartisan law. Just like the last standard that Republicans targeted with dishwashers, the refrigerator standard is a result of a consensus agreement between the appliance manufacturing industry, efficiency advocates, and consumer advocates, meaning that everyone supports the standard except for the Republicans here today.

It is easy to understand why. Refrigerator standards haven't been updated in over a decade, so it was time to revisit them, and this new standard is projected to save Americans more than \$36 million over 30 years. That is a significant savings to American families, and yet House Republicans are so comfortable of robbing them of these savings.

Models that meet the new standards are already on the market, so the standards are certainly achievable. The problem with this bill is that it threatens the Department of Energy's ability to do its job. It enables future administrations to chip away at efficiency standards and muddies the process so much that implementation of new standards is threatened.

This bill includes the same harmful provision that prohibits DOE from enforcing new or existing standards if they increase upfront costs even marginally.

It totally disregards a significant savings associated with energy efficient appliances that Americans see firsthand on their monthly energy bills in the months and years after they purchase the new appliance. It also ignores the fact that the Department of Energy already has a robust process to evaluate cost and savings.

In the last debate, I mentioned Project 2025, this shadowy effort by Trump administration officials and those who would staff a second Trump administration to implement far-right policies.

A lot of Republicans claim that they don't know anything about Project 2025. I think even President Trump said that. They don't want to implement some of its ideas, they claim, but this bill on the floor today just shows how phony that claim is.

The fact of the matter is, these bills, along with the other energy bills that Republicans have passed this Congress, are Project 2025. House Republicans and their leader, Donald Trump, don't just know about Project 2025, they love it. They want to pass it. They have passed it already in many aspects. They are actively working right now as we debate this bill on this floor to make Project 2025 the law of the land.

This bill is part of an orchestrated campaign not just to make you pay more at the pump and on your electric bills, but to bring America back to not just the 20th century, but the 1800s, and I oppose that.

For that reason, I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I have a company in my district that makes refrigerators. The R&D, research and development, that go into designing a refrigerator is mind-boggling to me.

I thought refrigeration was pretty simple, but they optimize where the milk is stored and where the meat goes and hot spots in the refrigerator to make sure that temperatures are consistent and foods remain fresh for a longer period of time, not because some government mandate said that that refrigerators need to be more efficient but because the market demands it.

If the market demands it and they can provide that to meet the market challenge, then they will end up with more market share. That means more units sold, and this company rolls a new refrigerator off the line every 4 seconds. It is crazy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), who is a valuable member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and also chair of the Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials Subcommittee.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I rise today in support of the Representative from Iowa's bill, H.R. 7637. The Refrigerator Freedom Act will protect American consumers from unaffordable and unrealistic standards from the Department of Energy.

The Department of Energy efficiency standards for home appliances have long reached the point of overregulation and now cause more harm than good for consumers.

According to testimony before the Energy and Commerce Committee, most major home appliances have been subjected to four, five, or even six rounds of successively tighter DOE efficiency standards over the decades.

We have long reached the point of diminishing our negative returns for consumers, yet DOE continues to wage a war against the American consumer. Instead of doubling down on failing climate policy pursuits, we should reexamine the existing standards that are not in the best interest of consumers with little to no so-called climate benefits.

The Refrigerator Freedom Act will stop DOE from prescribing or enforcing these arbitrary standards that are not helping consumers at all, and worse, increasing costs without added benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill on behalf of the American consumer and true efficiency.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GOLDMAN).

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for the time and for his leadership and clarity on what is truly important and what is not.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Republican's national appliance

protection day and this specific bill, the Refrigerator Freedom Act.

That is right. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are using their majority and our precious floor time to protect kitchen appliances.

They are not trying to protect women's reproductive freedom. No. They are actually trying to take away a woman's freedom to control her own body.

They are not trying to protect voting rights so that every eligible voter can vote. No. This week we actually will also be voting on a bill that is trying to make it more difficult for poor and rural Americans to vote.

They are not trying to protect Americans' freedom to be who they want to be and marry whomever they want. No. Their Project 2025 platform intends to erase marriage equality for all Americans.

They are not trying to protect our children from their new leading cause of death in this country, guns. Nope. They are trying to protect every Americans' right to turn a semiautomatic weapon of war into an even deadlier automatic weapon of war.

That is right. Instead of reproductive freedom, Republicans are focused on refrigerator freedom.

In closing, I do want to give my friends on the other side of the aisle credit for one thing: They are certainly consistent. Just as they want to take our country back to the 1950s where White Christian men were in complete control, they also want to take our appliance technology back to the 1950s, as well.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW).

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, some things never change.

I woke up today and thanked God the sky was blue. There was traffic, lots of traffic, in Washington, D.C., and once again, Democrats are trying to take away appliances from hardworking Americans.

They want to take away the things that hardworking Americans do want and shove on hardworking Americans the things they don't want.

This government's out-of-control spending by Democrats has already made everyone's life hell. Americans can hardly afford to stock their refrigerators with food, and now Democrats want to take the damn refrigerator away, as well.

The state of this country's energy infrastructure is already alarming. Gas prices are above \$3.50 a gallon. Our electrical grid, sorry to say, still remains vulnerable to cyberattacks. We are draining our strategic stockpiles and relying on foreign sources for energy.

These are serious national concerns. Yet, what is President Biden and the Department of Energy focused on? Taking away the basic appliances that Americans want.

Terrorists are crossing our borders daily, China continues to grow more

emboldened, and violent crime continues to plague our streets, but if you didn't know any better, if you thought about it, you would think that refrigerators and dishwashers and stoves were the greatest enemies of the United States of America. Maybe they are in the eyes of our Democratic colleagues.

□ 1515

Let's focus on the real threats this country faces. Democrats continue their war on the American consumer in the name of some Green New Deal agenda. If enacted, these supposed energy efficiency standards by the DOE would increase costs for every single American and would take more than a decade to pay back those costs.

It is not going to stop climate change. If the left were serious about climate change, they would be better served focusing on nuclear energy and modular power plants. They would be better focusing on any other means to save energy other than taking it away from the American public, sort of like solar panels. They make sense.

The kitchen is for the family, for memories, for gatherings, for good times. It is not time to have these folks meddling in your lives to further micromanage their families. Let's leave the appliance decisions, the appliances that men and women want to buy in this country—it is a basic principle—to those who use them, not to those who wish once again to overregulate them and force things down their throats they just don't want.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support these bills.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 7637. It is a Republican bill that is going to raise costs for hardworking American families. It is very emblematic of what they call this unfortunate session of Congress, the do-nothing Congress, the least productive Congress in modern times.

Like the dishwasher bill we debated before the refrigerator bill, Republicans seek to throw a wrench into the cost savings for American families. In doing so, they are not siding with the people, with the folks we represent back home, but siding with corporate special interests, the big utility companies, and the big oil companies because they make more money when you use more energy, when your refrigerator isn't as efficient, when your air-conditioner isn't as efficient.

Part of the focus of Democrats in the last Congress was putting money back into your pocket to provide new incentives for cost-saving, energy efficient upgrades to homes, more insulation for homes.

I used my time in the last debate for a public service announcement. If you

go to energy.gov/save, there is a whole host of ways to put money back into your pockets at a time when you need it.

We are about 2 years from passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, and I know a lot of folks said that they are still getting pinched by the affordability crisis, but that is the historic bill passed by a Democratic-led Congress and signed by President Biden that finally put a cap on insulin at \$35 per month. It was the first time that we beat Big Pharma by directing Medicare to negotiate drug prices. It puts a \$2,000 cap on out-of-pocket expenses for seniors who rely on prescription drugs.

It also was the law that provided these important cost savings to American families for energy efficient appliances. I know that Big Oil and the utility companies don't like it, and I know that the Republicans are closely aligned with them, but this is very important in this day and age when we have to use cleaner, cheaper appliances and cut pollution.

American families want these innovative, efficient appliances for one reason. They save money.

Take the refrigerator. Compared to refrigerators of the 1970s when the first efficiency standards were proposed, refrigerators today are cheaper. They are cheaper upfront, and they do a better job of keeping our groceries cold. Critically, they use about 75 percent less energy, and they save American families hundreds of dollars a year on their electricity bills.

This is all thanks to industry innovation that was spurred by direction of Congress to appliance manufacturers to do better over time. In fact, when the Department of Energy announced at the end of last year the updated standards for our refrigerators and freezers, they said the efficiency standards being adopted today have not been updated in over a decade.

They align with the recommendations from a diverse set of stakeholders, including manufacturers, the manufacturer trade association, environmental groups, energy groups, and consumer advocates. Compliance will be required by 2029 or 2030, depending on the year, make, and model.

DOE and the Biden administration have been laser focused in developing these strong energy efficiency standards to build on the historical success and capture even more cost savings for American families who need it right now.

As has been discussed by Ranking Member PALLONE, the Department of Energy works very closely with manufacturers. They develop a consensus during this rulemaking process on what is technically feasible and what can help save folks money. They actually estimate that these new standards will save Americans over a trillion dollars on household energy bills over the next 30 years.

Americans deserve a Congress that is going to stand up for them and their

cost savings and serve the people, not serve the bottom line of electricity companies and Big Oil and Gas companies.

This is quite a contrast. They call it the do-nothing Congress. It started out in a session where they decided the Speaker of the House should not continue to serve. There were shutdowns and showdowns here where they doubled down on some very extremist policies.

This is such a stark contrast to when Democrats controlled the House of Representatives. We didn't squander time debating dishwashers and refrigerators.

We passed the historic PACT Act to make sure that veterans who were exposed to toxic burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances would get the care and the benefits they earned. The historic PACT Act was passed by Democrats and signed by President Biden.

We passed a historic infrastructure law that is repairing our roads and bridges, delivering clean and safe water to communities across the country, cleaning up pollution, and expanding access to high-speed internet.

Two weeks ago, I was able to announce a \$25 million grant for a neighborhood in the city of Tampa that has not gotten the investment it has deserved for decades. Thanks to the infrastructure law, we are going to make ADA-compliant sidewalks, make the streets—

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for the additional time.

That neighborhood needs this investment. Have we debated any way to help the neighborhoods during this Republican-led Congress? No, we haven't.

Today, we are able to announce a \$24 million grant for my local transit agency back in St. Petersburg and Pinellas County that is going to upgrade their buses, expand service, and create workforce development initiatives to train people who are interested in these good-paying jobs.

The Democratic-led Congress passed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act in a country now where death by firearm is the leading cause of death for children aged 0–18.

We also passed the historic Inflation Reduction Act, the historic law that, yes, capped the price of insulin at \$35 if you are on Medicare and finally directed Medicare to negotiate drug prices, standing up to Big Pharma for a change.

It is estimated that over 106,000 of my neighbors will save over \$500 if they rely on the Affordable Care Act for their health insurance. That was also a part of the Inflation Reduction Act.

I wanted to call out the contrasts of refrigerators and dishwashers, squan-

dering time, and wasting time with my colleagues who are really here for the people, to fight for lower costs, and to put money back into our families.

I think Mr. GOLDMAN had it right when he said it is time for this House to get serious. Instead of refrigerator freedom, how about the freedom for women to make their own healthcare decisions rather than our bodies being controlled by politicians here in Washington, D.C., or back home? These are decisions that should be between a woman, her doctor, and her family.

Refrigerator freedom? How about we get back to working on reproductive freedom, lowering costs for families, working on safer communities, good-paying jobs, and delivering for people rather than the special interests that have all too much influence here in Washington, D.C. Please vote "no" on this bill.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the funny thing is, if manufacturers wanted to make a more efficient appliance, they could, and I would tell them to go for it. The manufacturing alliance and all the trade groups that were mentioned don't need something from the government to tell them to do something more efficient. If they think there is a market for it or they think that they have some desire to be more efficient, they can do it. They don't need the government to tell them to do it.

The way government operates around here, especially under a Democratic administration, is that they are coming up with a solution that is looking for a problem. If a problem doesn't exist, they create one, and they create a regulation to manage it and grow government.

Ronald Reagan, talking about Democratic government, said that their solution is: "I am from the government, and I am here to help."

Democrats continue to want to throw more money at problems that they see. The gentlewoman from Florida went through a whole litany of things the Democrats would focus on, but do you know what, America? She left the border out of that. Over 16 million people have crossed the border. That wasn't on her list.

She wasn't talking about lowering interest rates on mortgages so people can actually buy their first home. Right now, they can't because it is out of reach. It is unaffordable.

She didn't talk about lowering prices at the grocery store or Walmart or anywhere else you shop because the Biden administration's inflationary practices have driven up costs everywhere on everything since day one of the administration, from energy costs to food and other items that you purchase.

I kind of chuckled at her little sign there, but I am reminded of Will Rogers. He was talking about government spending, I think, but he said that really the only time the taxpayer is safe is when Congress isn't in session because Congress seems to muck it up by grow-

ing government and wanting to tax to get money to feed that growing government. Will Rogers was probably right.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS), the author of this legislation.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from South Carolina for yielding me time.

As I am listening to this debate, it is astounding to hear about the \$17 a year that I may save so that I can perhaps stop at the local convenience store to get a coffee once a month when the reason why prices are high right now is the Biden-Harris administration and the last Congress have made prices higher. Inflation is over 20 percent.

First, it was tackling America's energy independence and restricting consumer choice. They started imposing draconian rules such as the tailpipe emission rule, not leasing for oil and gas drilling on Federal lands or public lands, and forcing automakers to have less efficient vehicles that Americans do not want and even vehicles that can't hold a charge in the winter such as in a State like Iowa.

Prices are up everywhere in the United States. Energy prices are up. They are up at the gas pump. Electricity prices are up. That relates to food prices, which are also up.

At a time when record-high inflation and gas prices are hurting families, the Biden-Harris administration again pushes policies that restrict imports of liquefied natural gas that would have provided a much-needed boost to the economy and helped our allies around the world.

Now, because of dismantling American energy production, undermining our national security, and restricting what cars people can drive wasn't enough, this administration has decided to dictate what home appliances Americans can have in their homes.

When I go to look for an appliance, I look at the little sticker, and I determine if saving \$12 a month or \$30 a month is worth the increased cost for an appliance that doesn't have the life of the refrigerator or the appliance that I have now. In addition, are any efficiencies based on the energy prices that we are now paying? The Biden-Harris administration has increased energy prices across the board, and they will continue to increase them because of their ill-founded policies that are benefiting their allies as well, their special interest groups.

□ 1530

On January 17, the Biden-Harris administration issued a final rule to regulate refrigerators and freezers. It is interesting that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have said this is already in the rule. Why on Earth would you be here arguing about a bill if it is already implemented in a rule, if the agency is already following it?

We want to codify what it is that they are doing. If it truly is feasible, if it is economically justified, if it is

technologically feasible, and if it helps to lower emissions and lead to a better environment, they already have the authority to do that. Why would you oppose codifying it into law if the agency is already doing it?

The reality is they are not doing it. Their practices are egregious and overreaching, and they want to force themselves into every aspect of our lives and dictate.

It is interesting. I thought about this as I was sitting here listening to this debate. One of the things that would help the energy efficiency of refrigerators is not to open and close the door so much. Maybe the EPA and the DOE should issue a rule mandating how often you—oh, I better not say that because they may, in fact, do it.

The Department of Energy argues that these energy mandates will save consumers money, but according to DOE's own supporting documentation, the payback period could take over 10 years.

Refrigerator and freezer appliances have an average 14- to 15-year lifespan, and those numbers are drawn from existing appliances, not hypothetical future appliances that meet the Department's new standards.

Further, any cost savings realized to consumers over time are likely to be offset, as we have already said, by rising electric bills that are facing households across the country.

This rule marks another way of manipulating the market to push an environmental agenda and eliminate consumer choice. My bill, the Refrigerator Freedom Act, prohibits the Department of Energy from enforcing unrealistic energy standards for refrigerators that are not energy efficient.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLOOD). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, which I enthusiastically support.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington State (Ms. STRICKLAND).

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, today, the majority has decided to protect household appliances. That is the most important thing we can focus on in this House in 2024, the year of our Lord, with so much happening. Instead of doing the work that the American people sent us here to do, we are protecting household appliances.

In 2022, we saw the Supreme Court end a woman's right to reproductive choice, and 21 States have followed suit with even greater attempts to limit women's reproductive healthcare.

This bill, which I introduced with my colleagues, Representatives Fletcher and Raskin, would make sure that individuals crossing State lines are constitutionally protected when seeking

safe and legal reproductive healthcare, or those traveling with them are protected from receiving criminal punishment.

Impeding a woman's right to travel for healthcare is an assault on her freedom. Criminalizing women for crossing State lines to get reproductive care is a violation of the 14th Amendment.

Being denied an abortion disproportionately affects women of color, especially Black women. Black women in the U.S. are more likely to die from pregnancy or childbirth than women in any other racial group. Women deserve to be prioritized over household appliances.

It is well past time for Congress to pass real legislation to protect real people, not household appliances.

I urge you to pass my motion to recommit and do the real work that the American people sent us here to do.

For this reason, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill. My amendment would bring up H.R. 782, the Ensuring Women's Right to Reproductive Freedom Act.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of this amendment into the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional Members on our side of the aisle, and I am ready to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, in closing, we have had a number of arguments that have been made today on the other side of the aisle, but one that is really infuriating to me, and it should be to everyone, in my opinion, is this Republican argument for freedom of appliance choice.

Let the people choose. This is what the Republicans say. They want choice when it comes to refrigerators and dishwashers. Let the people choose what goes into their homes and keep the government's hands off it.

That Republican argument of freedom of choice with refrigerators and dishwashers doesn't hold when it comes to more important issues, life or death issues, like women's reproductive rights.

Choice goes out the window for them when we talk about women's reproductive rights. Small government goes out the window. The right to decide and do what is best for you simply goes out the window.

With the repeal of Roe v. Wade, the systematic dismantling of women's reproductive rights across the country and the attacks on IVF show that Re-

publicans are only serious about choice when it comes to things like appliances. This bill shows us where Republican priorities really are.

I mentioned several times today Project 2025. President Trump says it is not his idea, it is The Heritage Foundation, but the reality is that what the Republicans are trying to do today is implement Project 2025 when it comes to efficiency standards for appliances, which is in Project 2025.

Let me tell you some of the other things that are in Project 2025: A complete ban on abortions without exceptions, a ban on contraceptives, additional tax breaks for corporations, elimination of unions and worker protections, raise the retirement age, cut Social Security, cut Medicare, end the Affordable Care Act, raise prescription drug prices, eliminate the Department of Education, end climate protection, end marriage equality, defund the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security, and most importantly, because it relates to what they are doing today, eliminate Federal agencies like the FDA, the EPA, NOAA, and many, many more.

Now, one of the most important aspects of Project 2025 is to gut any consumer protections and let the large corporations do whatever they want. I said that Project 2025 takes us back to the 1800s. If you go back to the 1800s, there were no protections for food or for drugs. Consumer be damned. We don't care. We will sell whatever, fake medicine, fake food that is going to kill you. It doesn't matter. That is not the Federal Government's role.

That is what the advocates of Project 2025 believe. They don't believe there should be any standards, any regulation for anything, for that matter. Consumer be damned.

Now, there are a lot of misleading statements that were made today about the refrigerator efficiency standards just as there were about the dishwasher standards earlier.

I just want to set the record straight before I conclude. DOE finalized refrigerator standards. The ones that they finalized will result in life cycle savings ranging from \$50 to \$140, depending on the product.

The payback periods for these savings range from 1.6 years to 5.6 years, again, depending on the actual product. The average lifetime of a refrigerator is about 14½ years. That means that those who buy new models will save significantly more on utility bills than any increase in purchase price.

I think the Republicans are clearly distorting the facts in order to make it sound like the new standards will result in increased costs and limited savings when in reality, the opposite is true.

I can't say I am surprised by this tactic. This bill is about gutting agencies and deregulating everything. It is just an example of the larger Project 2025 that would just gut agencies, deregulate everything, and let corporations

do whatever they want. Adulterated food, bad drugs, doesn't matter. We don't need an FDA. We don't need an EPA. We don't need any kind of consumer protection agency.

I want my colleagues to understand what this is really about. This isn't just about refrigerators and dishwashers. This is about letting large corporations do whatever they want and not caring at all about the consumer and whether they drink clean water or they breathe clean air or they eat food that they can depend on or drugs that they can depend on that will actually help them.

For all those reasons, I reject this bill, and I urge my colleagues to reject it.

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

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

I will say it again. Enacted in 1975, the Energy Policy and Conservation Act provides specific criteria for DOE to follow in order to propose a new appliance efficiency standard. They may only propose a new standard if it results in a significant conservation of energy, is technologically feasible, and is economically justified.

The new regulations are not economically justified, they are not necessarily technologically feasible, and there is not a significant conservation of energy.

The Biden administration has consistently ignored these requirements by proposing and finalizing standards that violate this statute.

The gentleman from New Jersey is younger than I am, but I grew up during the seventies' energy crisis. I was being flattering. I don't know how old Frank is, but we both grew up during the seventies' energy crisis, and we did some things around the house that my dad mandated. They weren't government mandates.

When you left the house in the summertime, you turned the thermostat up so the air wouldn't run at whatever temperature you wanted it, 72, 70, whatever, when nobody was home.

We combined trips to the store so that you would go by the gas station and by the grocery store and other stops and make one trip versus going in and out.

He ingrained in me to cut the lights off, much to the chagrin of my children and what I have tried to teach them. When you leave the room, you flip the switch off, so the lights weren't on when you weren't there.

I will say this: The agencies in Washington, D.C., could learn a lesson from that. When I ride down Independence Avenue at night, all the lights are on at the Department of Energy, and I know most of the employees are gone.

In the wintertime, we turned the thermostat down, and we put something warmer on.

I grew up poor. Not poor poor; we lived on a mill hill, a textile community, when I was little. These were dad

mandates. These weren't government mandates.

Now we see the government really becoming Big Brother. There are State governments, in most instances, which tell you where you can set your thermostat, when you can water your yard, and when you can charge your EV.

Big Brother is telling you to do more and more things, telling you what kind of car you can drive by really pushing EV mandates down on America when the consumer choice isn't that. We are seeing that kind of reverse trend in this country and the demand rise for traditional gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles.

Here again, we see a government mandate telling manufacturers you have to create an appliance that is inefficient. It is going to cost the consumer more money on the front end, and it will take them a lot longer to pay it back for an appliance that is usually worn out before they have gotten the repayment back.

My dad taught us not to stand there with the refrigerator door open. In fact, smart refrigerators, I think, ding now if you hold the door open too long because it loses that coolness. It creates inefficiency. I don't think that was a government mandate either. I think that was technology the industry came up with.

We don't need more Big Government. We don't need more government regulation like this. It is going to cost the consumers more money and affect their quality of life.

This is simple legislation just to push back against this administration and the mandates that the American public does not need and will lower their quality of life, their standard of living, cost them more money, and will not yield the cost savings that will be mandated.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1341, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Strickland of Washington moves to recommit the bill H.R. 7637 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The material previously referred to by Ms. STRICKLAND is as follows:

Ms. Strickland moves to recommit the bill H.R. 7637 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Strike sections 1 and 2 and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Ensuring Women's Right to Reproductive Freedom Act".

SEC. 2. INTERFERENCE WITH INTERSTATE ABORTION SERVICES PROHIBITED.

(a) INTERFERENCE PROHIBITED.—No person acting under color of State law, including any person who, by operation of a provision of State law, is permitted to implement or enforce State law, may prevent, restrict, or impede, or retaliate against, in any manner—

(1) a health care provider's ability to provide, initiate, or otherwise enable an abortion service that is lawful in the State in which the service is to be provided to a patient who does not reside in that State;

(2) any person or entity's ability to assist a health care provider to provide, initiate, or otherwise enable an abortion service that is lawful in the State in which the service is to be provided to a patient who does not reside in that State, if such assistance does not violate the law of that State;

(3) any person's ability to travel across a State line for the purpose of obtaining an abortion service that is lawful in the State in which the service is to be provided;

(4) any person's or entity's ability to assist another person traveling across a State line for the purpose of obtaining an abortion service that is lawful in the State in which the service is to be provided; or

(5) the movement in interstate commerce, in accordance with Federal law or regulation, of any drug approved or licensed by the Food and Drug Administration for the termination of a pregnancy.

(b) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General may bring a civil action in the appropriate United States district court against any person who violates subsection (a) for declaratory and injunctive relief.

(c) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—Any person who is harmed by a violation of subsection (a) may bring a civil action in the appropriate United States district court against the person who violated such subsection for declaratory and injunctive relief, and for such compensatory damages as the court determines appropriate, including for economic losses and for emotional pain and suffering. The court may, in addition, award reasonable attorney's fees and costs of the action to a prevailing plaintiff.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term "abortion service" means—

(A) an abortion, including the use of any drug approved or licensed by the Food and Drug Administration for the termination of a pregnancy; and

(B) any health care service related to or provided in conjunction with an abortion (whether or not provided at the same time or on the same day as the abortion).

(2) The term "health care provider" means any entity or individual (including any practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, or pharmacist) that is—

(A) engaged or seeks to engage in the delivery of health care services, including abortion services; and

(B) licensed or certified to perform such service under applicable State law.

(3) The term "drug" has the meaning given such term in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

(4) The term "State" includes the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, each Indian tribe,

and each territory or possession of the United States.

(e) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this Act, or the application of such provision to any person, entity, government, or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act, or the application of such provision to all other persons, entities, governments, or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the fundamental right to travel within the United States, including the District of Columbia, Tribal lands, and the territories of the United States, nor to limit any existing enforcement authority of the Attorney General or any existing remedies available to address a violation of such right.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Ms. STRICKLAND. 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 question are postponed.

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 3 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1620

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Alabama) at 4 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

- Motion to recommit H.R. 7637;
- Passage of H.R. 7637, if ordered;
- Motion to recommit H.R. 7700; and
- Passage of H.R. 7700, if ordered.

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

REFRIGERATOR FREEDOM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 7637) to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy

conservation standards for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes, offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. STRICKLAND), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 186, nays 188, not voting 59, as follows:

[Roll No. 340]

YEAS—186

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Adams | Golden (ME) | Pascrell |
| Allred | Goldman (NY) | Pelosi |
| Amo | Gomez | Perez |
| Auchincloss | Gonzalez, | Peters |
| Balint | Vicente | Pettersen |
| Barragan | Gottheimer | Phillips |
| Beatty | Green, Al (TX) | Pingree |
| Bera | Hays | Porter |
| Beyer | Himes | Pressley |
| Blumenauer | Horsford | Ramirez |
| Blunt Rochester | Houlahan | Raskin |
| Bonamici | Hoyle (OR) | Ross |
| Bowman | Huffman | Ruiz |
| Boyle (PA) | Ivey | Ruppersberger |
| Brown | Jackson (IL) | Ryan |
| Brownley | Jackson (NC) | Salinas |
| Budzinski | Jacobs | Sarbanes |
| Bush | Jayapal | Scanlon |
| Caraveo | Jeffries | Schakowsky |
| Carbajal | Johnson (GA) | Schiff |
| Cárdenas | Kamlager-Dove | Schneider |
| Carl | Kelly (IL) | Scholten |
| Carson | Kennedy | Schrier |
| Carter (LA) | Khanna | Scott (VA) |
| Cartwright | Kildee | Scott, David |
| Casar | Kilmer | Sewell |
| Casten | Kim (NJ) | Sherman |
| Castor (FL) | Krishnamoorthi | Sherrill |
| Castro (TX) | Kuster | Simpson |
| Chu | Landsman | Slotkin |
| Clark (MA) | Larsen (WA) | Smith (WA) |
| Clarke (NY) | Larson (CT) | Sorensen |
| Cleaver | Lee (PA) | Soto |
| Clyburn | Leger Fernandez | Spanberger |
| Cohen | Levin | Stansbury |
| Correa | Lieu | Stanton |
| Costa | Lofgren | Stevens |
| Courtney | Lynch | Strickland |
| Craig | Magaziner | Suozzi |
| Crockett | Manning | Swalwell |
| Crow | Matsui | Sykes |
| Cuellar | McBath | Takano |
| Davids (KS) | McClellan | Thanedar |
| Davis (NC) | McCollum | Thompson (CA) |
| Dean (PA) | McGarvey | Thompson (MS) |
| DeGette | McGovern | Titus |
| DelBene | Meeks | Tlaib |
| Deluzio | Menendez | Tokuda |
| DeSaulnier | Meng | Tonko |
| Dingell | Mfume | Torres (CA) |
| Doggett | Moulton | Torres (NY) |
| Escobar | Mrvan | Torres |
| Eshoo | Mullin | Trahan |
| Espallat | Nadler | Trone |
| Fletcher | Napolitano | Vargas |
| Foster | Neal | Vasquez |
| Foushee | Neguse | Veasey |
| Frankel, Lois | Nickel | Velázquez |
| Frost | Ocasio-Cortez | Waters |
| Gallego | Omar | Wild |
| Garcia (IL) | Pallone | Williams (GA) |
| Garcia (TX) | Panetta | Wilson (FL) |
| Garcia, Robert | Pappas | |

NAYS—188

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------------|
| Aderholt | Bean (FL) | Burlison |
| Alford | Bentz | Calvert |
| Allen | Bergman | Cammack |
| Amodei | Biggs | Carey |
| Armstrong | Bilirakis | Carter (GA) |
| Arrington | Bishop (NC) | Carter (TX) |
| Babin | Boebert | Chavez-DeRemer |
| Bacon | Bost | Cline |
| Baird | Buchanan | Comer |
| Balderson | Bucshon | Crane |
| Banks | Burchett | Crawford |
| Barr | Burgess | Curtis |

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| D'Esposito | Kean (NJ) | Pence |
| De La Cruz | Keating | Perry |
| DesJarlais | Kelly (MS) | Pluger |
| Duarte | Kelly (PA) | Posey |
| Duncan | Kiggans (VA) | Reschenthaler |
| Dunn (FL) | Kiley | Rodgers (WA) |
| Edwards | Kim (CA) | Rogers (AL) |
| Emmer | Kustoff | Rose |
| Estes | LaHood | Rosendale |
| Ezell | LaLota | Rouzer |
| Fallon | LaMalfa | Roy |
| Feenstra | Lamborn | Rulli |
| Ferguson | Langworthy | Scalise |
| Finstad | Latta | Schweikert |
| Fischbach | Lawler | Scott, Austin |
| Fitzgerald | Lee (FL) | Self |
| Fitzpatrick | Lesko | Sessions |
| Fleischmann | Lopez | Smith (MO) |
| Flood | Loudermilk | Smith (NE) |
| Fong | Lucas | Smith (NJ) |
| Fox | Luetkemeyer | Smucker |
| Franklin, Scott | Luna | Spartz |
| Fry | Luttrell | Staubert |
| Fulcher | Mace | Steel |
| Gaetz | Malliotakis | Stefanik |
| Gomez | Maloy | Steil |
| Garcia, Mike | Mann | Steube |
| Good (VA) | McCaul | Strong |
| Gooden (TX) | McClain | Tenney |
| Gosar | McClintock | Thompson (PA) |
| Graves (LA) | McCormick | Tiffany |
| Graves (MO) | Meuser | Timmons |
| Green (TN) | Miller (IL) | Valadao |
| Greene (GA) | Miller (OH) | Van Drew |
| Grothman | Miller (WV) | Van Dyne |
| Guthrie | Miller-Meeks | Van Orden |
| Hageman | Mills | Wagner |
| Harshbarger | Molinaro | Walberg |
| Hern | Moolenaar | Waltz |
| Higgins (LA) | Mooney | Weber (TX) |
| Hill | Moore (AL) | Webster (FL) |
| Hinson | Moore (UT) | Wenstrup |
| Houchin | Moran | Westerman |
| Huachuca | Murphy | Williams (NY) |
| Huizenga | Nehls | Williams (TX) |
| Issa | Norman | Wilson (SC) |
| Jackson (TX) | Nunn (IA) | Wittman |
| James | Obernolte | Womack |
| Johnson (LA) | Ogles | Yakym |
| Johnson (SD) | Owens | Zinke |
| Jordan | Palmer | |
| Joyce (PA) | | |

NOT VOTING—59

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| Aguilar | Garamendi | McHenry |
| Bice | Garbarino | Moore (WI) |
| Bishop (GA) | Gimenez | Morelle |
| Brecheen | Gonzales, Tony | Moskowitz |
| Case | Granger | Newhouse |
| Cherfilus- | Griffith | Norcross |
| McCormick | Grijalva | Peltola |
| Ciscomani | Guest | Pocan |
| Cloud | Harder (CA) | Quigley |
| Clyde | Harris | Rogers (KY) |
| Cole | Hoyer | Rutherford |
| Collins | Hunt | Salazar |
| Connolly | Jackson Lee | Sánchez |
| Crenshaw | Joyce (OH) | Turner |
| Davidson | Kaptur | Underwood |
| Davis (IL) | LaTurner | Wasserman |
| DeLauro | Lee (CA) | Schultz |
| Diaz-Balart | Lee (NV) | Watson Coleman |
| Donalds | Letlow | Wexton |
| Ellzey | Massie | |
| Evans | Mast | |

□ 1644

Messrs. LOPEZ, CARTER of Georgia, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Messrs. NEHLS, LAHOOD, LANGWORTHY, NUNN of Iowa, McCLINTOCK, and WITTMAN changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mses. BLUNT ROCHESTER, TLAIB, Messrs. TAKANO, and VARGAS changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, due to official committee business, I was unable to vote at the start of the series. Had I

been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 340.

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I missed the vote on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 7637, as I was en route from the Appropriations Committee Markup of the FY 2025 Energy and Water, and Related Agencies bill. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 340.

Stated against:

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during the vote on the motion to recommit H.R. 7637. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 340.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 212, nays 192, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 341]

YEAS—212

Aderholt	Finstad	Lee (FL)
Alford	Fischbach	Lesko
Allen	Fitzgerald	Letlow
Amodei	Fitzpatrick	Lopez
Armstrong	Fleischmann	Loudermilk
Arrington	Flood	Lucas
Babin	Fong	Luetkemeyer
Bacon	Fox	Luttrell
Baird	Franklin, Scott	Mace
Balderson	Fry	Malliotakis
Banks	Fulcher	Maloy
Barr	Gaetz	Mann
Bean (FL)	Gallego	McCaul
Bentz	Garbarino	McClain
Bergman	Garcia, Mike	McClintock
Bice	Golden (ME)	McCormick
Biggs	Gonzales, Tony	McHenry
Bilirakis	Gonzalez,	Meuser
Bishop (NC)	Vicente	Miller (IL)
Boebert	Good (VA)	Miller (OH)
Bost	Gooden (TX)	Miller (WV)
Brecheen	Gosar	Miller-Meeke
Buchanan	Graves (LA)	Mills
Bueshon	Graves (MO)	Molinaro
Burchett	Green (TN)	Mooney
Burgess	Greene (GA)	Moore (AL)
Burlison	Grothman	Moore (UT)
Calvert	Guthrie	Moran
Cammack	Hageman	Murphy
Caraveo	Harris	Nehls
Carey	Harshbarger	Newhouse
Carl	Hern	Norman
Carter (GA)	Higgins (LA)	Nunn (IA)
Carter (TX)	Hill	Oberholte
Chavez-DeRemer	Hinson	Ogles
Ciscomani	Houchin	Owens
Cline	Hudson	Palmer
Cloud	Huizenga	Pence
Clyde	Issa	Perez
Cole	Jackson (TX)	Pfluger
Collins	James	Posey
Comer	Johnson (LA)	Reschenthaler
Crane	Johnson (SD)	Rodgers (WA)
Crawford	Jordan	Rodgers (AL)
Cuellar	Joyce (OH)	Rodgers (KY)
Curtis	Joyce (PA)	Rose
D'Esposito	Kean (NJ)	Rosendale
Davis (NC)	Kelly (MS)	Rouzer
De La Cruz	Kelly (PA)	Roy
DesJarlais	Kiggans (VA)	Rulli
Duarte	Kiley	Rutherford
Duncan	Kim (CA)	Scalise
Dunn (FL)	Kustoff	Schweikert
Edwards	LaHood	Scott, Austin
Ellzey	LaLota	Self
Emmer	LaMalfa	Sessions
Estes	Lamborn	Simpson
Ezell	Langworthy	Smith (MO)
Fallon	Latta	Smith (NE)
Feenstra	LaTurner	Smith (NJ)
Ferguson	Lawler	

Smucker	Tiffany	Webster (FL)
Spartz	Timmons	Wenstrup
Stauber	Valadao	Westerman
Steel	Van Drew	Williams (NY)
Stefanik	Van Duyne	Williams (TX)
Steil	Van Orden	Wilson (SC)
Steube	Wagner	Wittman
Strong	Walberg	Womack
Tenney	Waltz	Yakym
Thompson (PA)	Weber (TX)	Zinke

NAYS—192

Adams	Hayes	Peters
Aguilar	Himes	Pettersen
Allred	Horsford	Phillips
Amo	Houlahan	Pingree
Auchincloss	Hoyer	Pocan
Balint	Hoyle (OR)	Porter
Barragan	Huffman	Pressley
Beatty	Ivey	Quigley
Bera	Jackson (IL)	Ramirez
Beyer	Jackson (NC)	Raskin
Bishop (GA)	Jacobs	Ross
Blumenauer	Jayapal	Ruiz
Blunt Rochester	Jeffries	Ruppersberger
Bonamici	Johnson (GA)	Ryan
Bowman	Kamllager-Dove	Salinas
Boyle (PA)	Kaptur	Sarbanes
Brown	Keating	Scanlon
Brownley	Kelly (IL)	Schakowsky
Budzinski	Kennedy	Schiff
Bush	Khanna	Schneider
Carbajal	Kildee	Scholten
Cárdenas	Kilmer	Schrier
Carson	Kim (NJ)	Scott (VA)
Carter (LA)	Krishnamoorthi	Scott, David
Cartwright	Kuster	Sewell
Caspar	Landsman	Sherman
Case	Larsen (WA)	Sherrill
Casten	Larson (CT)	Slotkin
Castor (FL)	Lee (CA)	Smith (WA)
Castro (TX)	Lee (NV)	Sorensen
Clark (MA)	Lee (PA)	Soto
Clarke (NY)	Leger Fernandez	Spanberger
Cleaver	Levin	Stansbury
Clyburn	Lieu	Stanton
Cohen	Lofgren	Stevens
Correa	Lynch	Strickland
Costa	Magaziner	Suozzi
Courtney	Manning	Swalwell
Craig	Matsui	Sykes
Crockett	McBath	Takano
Crow	McClellan	Thanedar
Dauids (KS)	McCollum	Thompson (CA)
Dean (PA)	McGarvey	Thompson (MS)
DeGette	McGovern	Titus
DeLauro	Meeke	Tlaib
Deluzio	Menendez	Tokuda
DeSaulnier	Meng	Tonko
Dingell	Mfume	Torres (CA)
Doggett	Moolenaar	Torres (NY)
Escobar	Morelle	Trahan
Eshoo	Moulton	Trone
Espallat	Mrvan	Underwood
Fletcher	Mullin	Vargas
Foster	Nadler	Vasquez
Foushee	Napolitano	Veasey
Frankel, Lois	Neal	Velazquez
Frost	Neguse	Wasserman
Garcia (IL)	Nickel	Schultz
Garcia (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez	Omar
Garcia, Robert	Pallone	Pallone
Goldman (NY)	Panetta	Panetta
Gomez	Pappas	Pappas
Gottheimer	Pascrell	Pascrell
Green, Al (TX)	Pelosi	Pelosi

NOT VOTING—29

Cherfilus-	Garamendi	Massie
McCormick	Gimenez	Mast
Chu	Granger	Moore (WI)
Connolly	Griffith	Moskowitz
Crenshaw	Grijalva	Norcross
Davidson	Guest	Peltola
Davis (IL)	Harder (CA)	Salazar
Diaz-Balart	Hunt	Sanchez
Donalds	Jackson Lee	Turner
Evans	Luna	Wexton

□ 1651

So 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. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I was recorded as NAY but I intended to vote YEA on Roll Call No. 341.

STOP UNAFFORDABLE
DISHWASHER STANDARDS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 7700) to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for dishwashers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes, offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 199, nays 207, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 342]

YEAS—199

Adams	Frankel, Lois	Mfume
Aguilar	Frost	Morelle
Allred	Gallego	Moulton
Amo	Garcia (IL)	Mrvan
Auchincloss	Garcia (TX)	Mullin
Balint	Garcia, Robert	Nadler
Barragan	Golden (ME)	Napolitano
Beatty	Goldman (NY)	Neal
Bera	Gomez	Neguse
Beyer	Gonzalez,	Nickel
Bishop (GA)	Vicente	Ocasio-Cortez
Blumenauer	Gottheimer	Omar
Blunt Rochester	Green, Al (TX)	Pallone
Bonamici	Hayes	Panetta
Bowman	Himes	Pappas
Boyle (PA)	Horsford	Pascrell
Brown	Houlahan	Pelosi
Brownley	Hoyer	Perez
Budzinski	Hoyle (OR)	Peters
Bush	Huffman	Pettersen
Caraveo	Ivey	Phillips
Carbajal	Jackson (IL)	Pingree
Cárdenas	Jackson (NC)	Pocan
Carson	Jacobs	Porter
Carter (LA)	Jayapal	Pressley
Cartwright	Jeffries	Quigley
Caspar	Johnson (GA)	Ramirez
Case	Kamllager-Dove	Raskin
Casten	Kaptur	Ross
Castor (FL)	Keating	Ruiz
Castro (TX)	Kelly (IL)	Ruppersberger
Chu	Kennedy	Ryan
Clark (MA)	Khanna	Salinas
Clarke (NY)	Kildee	Sarbanes
Cleaver	Kilmer	Scanlon
Clyburn	Kim (NJ)	Schakowsky
Cohen	Krishnamoorthi	Schiff
Correa	Kuster	Schneider
Costa	Landsman	Scholten
Courtney	Larsen (WA)	Schrier
Craig	Larson (CT)	Scott (VA)
Crockett	Lee (CA)	Scott, David
Crow	Lee (NV)	Sewell
Cuellar	Lee (PA)	Sherman
Davids (KS)	Leger Fernandez	Sherrill
Davis (NC)	Levin	Slotkin
Dean (PA)	Lieu	Smith (WA)
DeGette	Lofgren	Sorensen
DeLauro	Lynch	Soto
DelBene	Magaziner	Spanberger
Deluzio	Manning	Stansbury
DeSaulnier	Matsui	Stanton
Dingell	McBath	Stevens
Doggett	McClellan	Strickland
Escobar	McCollum	Suozzi
Eshoo	McGarvey	Swalwell
Espallat	McGovern	Sykes
Fletcher	Meeke	Takano
Foster	Menendez	Thanedar
Foushee	Meng	Thompson (CA)

Thompson (MS) Trahan
Titus Trone
Tlaib Underwood
Tokuda Vargas
Tonko Vasquez
Torres (CA) Veasey
Torres (NY) Velázquez

NAYS—207

Aderholt Gaetz
Alford Garbarino
Allen Garcia, Mike
Amodei Gonzales, Tony
Armstrong Good (VA)
Arrington Gooden (TX)
Babin Gosar
Bacon Graves (LA)
Baird Graves (MO)
Balderson Green (TN)
Banks Greene (GA)
Barr Grothman
Bean (FL) Guthrie
Bentz Hageman
Bergman Harris
Bice Harshbarger
Biggs Hern
Bilirakis Higgins (LA)
Bishop (NC) Hill
Boebert Hinson
Bost Houchin
Brecheen Hudson
Buchanan Huizenga
Buchson Issa
Burchett Jackson (TX)
Burgess James
Burlison Johnson (LA)
Calvert Johnson (SD)
Cammack Jordan
Carey Joyce (OH)
Carl Joyce (PA)
Carter (GA) Kean (NJ)
Carter (TX) Kelly (MS)
Chavez-DeRemer Kelly (PA)
Ciscomani Kiggans (VA)
Cline Kiley
Cloud Kim (CA)
Clyde Kustoff
Cole LaHood
Collins LaLota
Comer LaMalfa
Crane Lamborn
Crawford Langworthy
Curtis Latta
D'Esposito LaTurner
De La Cruz Lawler
DesJarlais Lee (FL)
Duarte Lesko
Duncan Letlow
Dunn (FL) Lopez
Edwards Loudermilk
Ellzey Lucas
Emmer Luetkemeyer
Estes Luna
Ezell Luttrell
Fallon Mace
Feenstra Malliotakis
Ferguson Maloy
Finstad Mann
Fischbach McCaul
Fitzgerald McClain
Fitzpatrick McClintock
Fleischmann McCormick
Flood McHenry
Fong Meuser
Foxx Miller (IL)
Franklin, Scott Miller (OH)
Fry Miller (WV)
Fulcher Miller-Meeks

NOT VOTING—27

Cherfilus- Moore (WI)
McCormick Granger
Connolly Griffith
Crenshaw Grijalva
Davidson Guest
Davis (IL) Harder (CA)
Diaz-Balart Hunt
Donalds Jackson Lee
Evans Massie
Garamendi Mast

□ 1657

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered. The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 214, nays 192, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 343]

YEAS—214

Aderholt Gaetz
Alford Gallego
Allen Garbarino
Amodei Garcia, Mike
Armstrong Golden (ME)
Arrington Gonzales, Tony
Babin Gonzalez,
Bacon Vicente
Baird Good (VA)
Balderson Gooden (TX)
Banks Gosar
Barr Graves (LA)
Bean (FL) Graves (MO)
Bentz Green (TN)
Bergman Greene (GA)
Bice Grothman
Biggs Guthrie
Bilirakis Hageman
Bishop (NC) Harris
Boebert Harshbarger
Bost Hern
Brecheen Higgins (LA)
Buchanan Hill
Buchson Hinson
Burchett Houchin
Burgess Hudson
Burlison Huizenga
Calvert Issa
Cammack Jackson (TX)
Caraveo James
Carey Johnson (LA)
Carl Johnson (SD)
Carter (GA) Jordan
Carter (TX) Joyce (OH)
Chavez-DeRemer Joyce (PA)
Ciscomani Kean (NJ)
Cline Kelly (MS)
Cloud Kelly (PA)
Clyde Kiggans (VA)
Cole Kiley
Collins Kim (CA)
Comer Kustoff
Crane LaHood
Crawford LaLota
Cuellar LaMalfa
Curtis Lamborn
D'Esposito Langworthy
Davis (NC) Latta
De La Cruz LaTurner
DesJarlais Lawler
Duarte Lee (FL)
Duncan Lesko
Dunn (FL) Letlow
Edwards Lopez
Ellzey Loudermilk
Emmer Lucas
Estes Luetkemeyer
Ezell Luna
Fallon Luttrell
Feenstra Mace
Ferguson Malliotakis
Finstad Maloy
Fischbach Mann
Fitzgerald McCaul
Fitzpatrick McClain
Fleischmann McClintock
Flood McCormick
Fong McHenry
Foxx Meuser
Franklin, Scott Miller (IL)
Fry Miller (OH)
Fulcher Miller (WV)

NAYS—192

Adams Brown
Aguilar Brownley
Allred Budzinski
Amo Blumenauer
Auchincloss Blunt Rochester
Balint Bonamici
Bowman Bowman
Berra Boyle (PA)

Cartwright Kaptur
Casar Keating
Case Kelly (IL)
Casten Kennedy
Castor (FL) Khanna
Castro (TX) Kildee
Chu Kilmer
Clark (MA) Kim (NJ)
Clarke (NY) Krishnamoorthi
Cleaver Kuster
Clyburn Landsman
Cohen Larsen (WA)
Correa Larson (CT)
Costa Lee (CA)
Courtney Lee (NV)
Craig Lee (PA)
Crockett Leger Fernandez
Crow Levin
Davids (KS) Lieu
Dean (PA) Lofgren
DeGette Lynch
DeLauro Magaziner
DelBene Manning
Deluzio Matsui
DeSaulnier McBeth
Dingell McClellan
Doggett McCollum
Escobar McGarvey
Eshoo McGovern
Espallat Meeks
Fletcher Menendez
Foster Meng
Foushee Mifune
Frankel, Lois Morelle
Frost Moulton
Garcia (IL) Mrvan
Garcia (TX) Mullin
Garcia, Robert Nadler
Goldman (NY) Napolitano
Gomez Neal
Gottheimer Neguse
Green, Al (TX) Nickel
Hayes Ocasio-Cortez
Himes Omar
Horsford Pallone
Houlihan Panetta
Hoyer Pappas
Hoyle (OR) Pascrell
Huffman Pelosi
Ivey Peters
Jackson (IL) Pettersen
Jackson (NC) Phillips
Jacobs Pingree
Jayapal Pocan
Jeffries Porter
Johnson (GA) Pressley
Kamlager-Dove Quigley

NOT VOTING—27

Cherfilus- Gimenez
McCormick Granger
Connolly Griffith
Crenshaw Grijalva
Davidson Guest
Davis (IL) Harder (CA)
Diaz-Balart Hunt
Donalds Jackson Lee
Evans Massie
Garamendi Mast

□ 1703

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the second vote series today due to NATO summit engagements. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 340, NAY on Roll Call No. 341, YEA on Roll Call No. 342, and NAY on Roll Call No. 343.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 341 and YEA on Roll Call No. 343.

**ELECTING A MEMBER TO CERTAIN
STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1342

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Lopez.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY: Mr. Lopez.

Mrs. McCLAIN (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McCORMICK). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**CONGRATULATING PARKER'S CON-
VENIENCE STORES ON 40 YEARS
IN BUSINESS**

(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 recognize Parker's Convenience Stores for celebrating 40 years in business.

Patrick Parker opened his first location in 1986 under the name Three Little Birds. Today, it has grown to 11 convenience stores throughout coastal Georgia.

All Parker's locations tailor their products to meet customers' needs. Some stores are known for their gourmet food or beach items while other stores are better known for their homestyle cooking.

Part of the local chain's success is due to the Parker family's continuous involvement in both their business and the community. From supporting their children's schools to giving back to other charities, the Parkers are pillars of coastal Georgia. This tradition will certainly continue as Jack Parker, Patrick's son, is moving home to take over and expand the family business.

I congratulate Parker's Convenience Stores on 40 years of successful business and wish them well in the future.

**HONORING STELLA WHITNEY-
WEST ON HER RETIREMENT**

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

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the remarkable career of Stella Whitney-West, who is retiring after 17 years as the CEO of NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center in Minneapolis.

NorthPoint, one of my district's federally qualified health centers, serves thousands of my constituents every single year. It was the first FQHC to be designated as a health care home by the Minnesota Department of Public Health.

NorthPoint's role in serving our community during the COVID-19 pandemic was immeasurable, not only providing critical care and information but also access to countless other resources like food and housing support.

The positive impact that NorthPoint has had on my district cannot be overstated, and it is all due to Stella Whitney-West's incredible leadership. While Ms. Whitney-West will be truly missed at NorthPoint, the strong foundation she leaves will have a positive impact on the generations to come. Her dedication to public health is invaluable. Her life's work serving others has made Minneapolis a healthier and more equitable place for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor and thank Stella Whitney-West for her distinguished career and faithful service to our community.

**CONGRATULATING ASSISTANT
CITY MANAGER KEITH RATTAY
ON HIS RETIREMENT**

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank the Mission Viejo assistant city manager, Keith Rattay, for his 29 years of dedicated service to our Mission Viejo community.

As a landscape architect, he etched his artistic mark across the city, including at the Oso Creek Trail and at all city parks, facilities, and recreation centers. Keith also helped with the Civic Center, Animal Services Center, amazing holiday lighting displays, and business designs. Literally, Keith's fingerprints are imprinted all over the city.

He has been a great resource to me, my office, and Mission Viejo at large. I thank Keith for making Mission Viejo as beautiful as it is today. I wish him a very happy and wonderful retirement.

**ALEXANDRIA BROWN NAMED
OHIO'S 13TH DISTRICT CHAMPION
OF THE WEEK**

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Alexandria Brown as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

Alexandria is a fire medic for the city of Green and the founder of Female Firefighters of Ohio, a nonprofit dedicated to providing resources to aspiring female firefighters through training, mentorship, and preparation for the fire service.

Today, fewer than 10 percent of firefighters are women. In order to increase the number of women in her field, Brown reaches out to aspiring female firefighters to provide support, including access to mentorship programs and monthly training sessions to gain critical experience and necessary certifications.

Alexandria cultivates a supportive training environment that allows women to enter the field feeling prepared, supported, capable of contributing to their departments, and, most importantly, keeping all of our communities safe.

I am thankful for all of those who are willing to run toward the fire while we all run away. They keep our community safe.

Alexandria's dedication to expanding female representation in her field is an inspiration for our community and a shining example of the spirit that makes our district the Birthplace of Champions.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Alexandria Brown for her dedication to her field and the amazing work she does to keep our community safe.

□ 1715

**RECOGNIZING THE TUNNELS TO
TOWERS FOUNDATION**

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank retired Fire Department of New York Lieutenant Jack KIELTY, a dedicated board member of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

This foundation stands in memory of 9/11 hero Stephen Siller, and they work to support those brave individuals like Jack KIELTY and Steve Siller who willingly risked their lives at a time when New York and our Nation needed them.

I have witnessed the impact of their work through my friend and constituent, retired Sergeant Major Sid Hamid. As an Army Green Beret, Sergeant Major Hamid selflessly placed himself in harm's way many times and battled through nine separate tours on behalf of the United States military.

Through the program, Tunnel to Towers Foundation, Sergeant Hamid was gifted a smart home at the beginning of the summer. Jack KIELTY of the New York City Fire Department traveled down to Franklin, Texas, to personally present the home to the Hamid family.

In recognition of this selflessness, I stand here today to say thank you to Jack KIELTY with a very important certificate signed by the Governor of the State of Texas, Governor Greg Abbott, proclaiming Jack KIELTY to be an honorary Texan.

Mr. Speaker, our great Nation needs people who will stand up at a time of need, and this is exactly what 9/11 has produced, brave Americans but also selflessness in their service to others.

I thank Jack Kielty, Tunnel to Towers, and Sergeant Hamid for their great service to this great Nation.

CELEBRATING OCF A BEST AND BRAVEST AWARDS

(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, I rise to commemorate the 16th annual Orange County Fire Authority Best and Bravest Awards. This program celebrates OCF A's firefighters and professional staff, highlighting the brave service that keeps our communities safe.

For California, fire season is no longer just a season; it is year-round. Climate change has intensified the frequency and severity of wildfires. In this tough environment, OCF A personnel have consistently risen to the occasion, preventing tragedy, protecting lives, and safeguarding homes and possessions.

In Congress, I have proudly championed legislation to help firefighters. My bills would boost firefighter pay and benefits and standardize national disaster research to better support their work. Showing gratitude to first responders means supporting them both on and off the job.

Congratulations to the Best and Bravest Award winners, and I thank everyone at OCF A for their outstanding courage, dedication, and resilience.

DON'T DO WHAT WE DO IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I come from California, which there is a certain amount of risk in saying that because we do a lot of wacky things there. It is a wonderful State with wonderful geography, wonderful weather, and so many great things, but the governance sometimes—I don't know.

What we are exporting currently is a lot of the work of the California Air Resources Board, which currently is trying to regulate locomotives into technology that doesn't even yet exist, and therefore, foist that same nontechnology onto other States. We are talking about the logistics of moving freight in California but also out of California and that can't be moved because they don't have a plan for that.

They would have them switch locomotives at the border, but with CARB's plans, they don't really care about that. They want to make everybody in the whole country buy locomotives to meet a Tier 4, they call it, which isn't even available yet. Beyond Tier 4, they want to go to zero emissions, which isn't really zero, the so-called electric trains. They are not even available. The technology isn't there, and CARB wants all of this done by the year 2030.

Imagine the logistics of getting food from California, which people rely on. Mr. Speaker, 99 percent of certain crops come from California. We won't be able to ship them out as well as the military material that might need to be moved out of our State in times of war or conflict. Anyway, don't do what we do in California.

PRESERVING A CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD

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

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the recently established public/private partnership between the Berkeley County Commission, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, and the Martinsburg-Berkeley County Parks and Recreation Board in West Virginia's Second Congressional District, which I am blessed to represent.

This partnership will lead to the establishment of Hoke's Run Battlefield Park near Falling Waters 163 years after the battle was fought, highlighting the importance of Berkeley County and West Virginia's role in the Civil War.

The planned preservation of the 10-acre battlefield where Union General Robert Patterson battled Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson will educate visitors on the small battle's historic importance to the first major battle of the Civil War at Bull Run. The park will feature a recreation trail, interpretive signage, and a pavilion.

I look forward to the opening of this new park, bringing area residents and visitors alike to learn more about the rich history of Berkeley County, West Virginia, as the northern gateway to the Shenandoah Valley.

WORKING FOR VETERANS' BENEFITS

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. 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 in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be here today with my friend, assistant Democratic leader JOE NEGUSE, to talk about my law, the Honoring our PACT Act.

It was signed into law by President Joe Biden in August of 2022 and has

since helped more than a million veterans and their survivors receive the healthcare and benefits that they have earned.

In the 116th Congress, we passed the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 that helped blue water Navy veterans receive care and benefits for exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam war.

These veterans waited decades for this relief. I am so glad that we could help them cut red tape and make it easier for them to receive healthcare for certain conditions, but it took way too long to get it done.

After blue water Navy, we were hearing from veterans around the country about being exposed to burn pits and other toxins when they were serving our country more recently. They were experiencing serious illnesses that they thought were connected to their toxic exposure.

Many of these servicemembers were directed to throw trash, plastic, and other items into burn pits, and this meant breathing in the toxic air, or they were exposed to jet fuel for long periods of time due to their job in the service.

It is easy to look back and think that this was not a good idea, but they did not have a choice at that time and were following orders.

It was taking the Department of Veterans Affairs too long to address these veterans' illnesses on its own due to the perceived cost and the difficulty in obtaining the scientific evidence needed in order to help.

We knew there was a strong need, and with the lessons learned from blue water, we knew we needed to act. This was the origin of the Honoring our PACT Act.

When we send our servicemembers into harm's way, we make a pact to care for them when they come home. This is one of the most sacred promises in our country and the ultimate goal of this law.

Thanks to the PACT Act, veterans no longer need to prove the connection between their service and an illness. The law outlines 23 categories of presumptive respiratory illnesses and cancers, representing over 300 individual conditions for which veterans can quickly get healthcare and benefits. Since the law was signed, several more presumptive conditions have been added to the list with more on the way.

Congress was able to work together on a bipartisan basis to get this done for veterans. Unfortunately, not much has gotten done for veterans since then, which truly troubles me. Helping those who have served should be a non-partisan issue and one that gets due attention, no matter which party is in charge.

I will continue momentarily, but I yield to my friend from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE), our assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. NEGUSE. First, let me say, Mr. Speaker, that we are so grateful to the

ranking member for his steadfast leadership in leading the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and of course, his leadership with respect to the PACT Act.

I couldn't be more grateful to the colleagues that I have the privilege of serving with in the House Democratic Caucus, whom the country will hear from tonight, many of whom are veterans, people like Representative DELUZIO and Representative CARBAJAL, individuals who have given a great deal to our country, made countless sacrifices, and now are leading the charge here in Congress to protect our veterans.

I couldn't be more grateful to people like Dr. RAUL RUIZ whose leadership year after year make the case for the Congress to treat this particular issue with the urgency that it deserves, ultimately culminating in the PACT Act.

The PACT Act, as you heard from our ranking member, marked the largest expansion of benefits in a generation, cutting red tape and waiting times for veterans who were exposed to toxins and developed certain illnesses.

It was historic in that it provided benefits to generations of veterans, many of whom were long forgotten. There are one million PACT Act claims, Mr. Speaker, and we are just getting started.

For the families who have suffered the ultimate loss, the PACT Act means access to life insurance, to tuition benefits for their surviving family members, home loan assistance, monthly stipends, and more.

Mr. Speaker, you will hear from Mr. JIM COSTA and Mr. TIM KENNEDY and so many other members of our caucus the same admonition, which is that we have to do everything in our power to provide for the families of fallen servicemembers.

We have made progress in that regard, but there is much more for us to do. House Democrats stand ready, as we always are and will be, to get that job done.

I thank the ranking member again for his leadership, I thank the members of the House Democratic Caucus for their leadership, and I look forward to making more progress in the days, months, and years ahead.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. DELUZIO), a veteran, and up until recently, an esteemed member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding time.

I think we can all agree in this body that this country has a sacred obligation to care for those that wore the uniform, who served in peace or in war or both, and that starts with adequately funding and staffing the VA to make sure that those who have earned their benefits, who have earned their care, can receive them.

That is why the Honoring our PACT Act that the ranking member and so many others got through this Congress is such a big deal. It is why it is so

powerful. It expands VA healthcare and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic chemicals across generations who have served, and it fulfills that sacred promise this country has made.

Veterans have long been exposed to some nasty stuff in service in Vietnam, the Gulf war, Afghanistan, Iraq, and other places. My generation saw burn pit exposure in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. We now know how dangerous this exposure can be and is for folks; cancers and diseases.

The PACT Act meets this moment. It adds a presumption of service-related illnesses coming from that toxic exposure. It cuts through red tape that had been blocking too many veterans from the care they have earned.

We see the numbers. Over a million veterans and survivors have already had claims approved under the PACT Act. That is a big deal. It means those veterans and their families now have access to those benefits that are hard earned that their service ought to have guaranteed.

In this body we often have hot air, debates, all the rest. Here is some practical advice. Last year, we saw veterans have a deadline to submit their intent to file, and many did. That was to get backdated benefits back to when this bill passed the Congress in 2022.

Veterans and survivors who submitted that intent to file need to submit an actual claim as soon as possible if they have not yet done that. That is to ensure they get the most out of the PACT Act for those benefits that they have earned. They have a year after submitting intent to file to submit their final claim forms to receive those backdated benefits.

□ 1730

Mr. Speaker, VA.gov is the website to do it, to get more information, check the status of your claim. My office and the office, I am sure, of every Member here is willing to help a veteran. Go see a VSO, a veteran service organization, an accredited claims agent, an attorney. You can find some help.

I remind my fellow veterans of this: These are earned benefits. You have earned them through your service. Make sure that you are getting what you need to take care of yourself and your family.

The PACT Act is a big deal, but it is only going to be successful if we fund it, if we make sure every veteran in this country knows what they have earned, and we give the VA the resources they need to meet veterans' demands.

That is our task in this body. I will work with everyone here to get it done. I am proud of the work we have done in this Congress.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ), who helped me champion veterans last Congress, an amazing doctor, and an amazing neighbor of mine.

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

The Honoring our PACT Act is the most significant expansion of healthcare access and benefits for veterans in generations.

Now, over 5 million veterans and family members will have the peace of mind that if they become ill due to their exposure to toxic burn pits or they are disabled and cannot work, or God forbid, they pass away, they will receive the benefits that they need to overcome an illness, the healthcare to be able to stay at home with their family because they are unable to work, and if they pass, they will have peace of mind that their family will get their benefits.

Look, for many years I have brought this issue up in committees, in the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the general public that veterans were dying of cancers, veterans were unable to breathe due to pulmonary illnesses, all of which were due to the toxic air that they breathe from the smoke from burn pits.

The initial excuses were the evidence does not show any correlation. As a scientist, I refuted that. They asked the wrong questions, and their methodologies were flawed.

Then the other excuse was that it was too expensive. Well, our values are to put the lives of our veterans first and foremost. We send them to war without consideration of the cost of war; therefore, it is our moral obligation to take care of veterans.

I fought this tooth and nail under the banner of the name of Jennifer Kepner, a veteran who served in Balad Air Base in Iraq who died of pancreatic cancer. Before she died, I met with her at home at her kitchen table. She made me promise that no other veteran should suffer what she went through in trying to get the care and the benefits for her family. We accomplished and fulfilled that promise when we introduced the presumptive benefits for warfighters exposed to burn pits and other toxins which was included in the Honoring our PACT Act, which was the heart and soul of the Honoring our PACT Act because it gave presumptive benefits to 23 illnesses and categories of illnesses which total over 300 illnesses—and that is continuing to grow.

The reason why we are here is because House Democrats continue to fight hard to ensure the implementation of the PACT Act.

Last year, I spoke very frequently about a pending deadline for veterans to file an intent to file a claim for the PACT Act, which if they did so within a year after they filed that intent to file, they would get presumptive benefits and backpay to the day that the law was enacted.

We are enacting the deadline of that intent to file, which means that veterans had a year to file their claim, to get that backpay until the day the law was signed, and if they haven't then they should do so before August 14 or before the year of when they filed that intent.

If they do so, then they will get their pay and their benefits to the date of when the law was signed. If they don't or if they miss that year after they filed that intent, they should not despair. It is not as if this is your last chance of getting the claims; the only difference will be that they will get their benefits backtracked to the date that they filed their claim from that point on.

It is very urgent that we inform our veterans that if they filed an intent to file that they file the claim before the end of the year to the date that they filed their intent to file. That is why it is very important that veterans go to VA.gov, the VA website, or call 1-800-827-1000, call their Members of Congress, work with their county veteran service organizations representative or any of the VSOs and get the information that is needed so they don't miss out on the additional full benefits that the PACT Act gave our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank everybody who was involved. I thank President Biden and Secretary McDonough who were the game changers during this long fight that we have been having that culminated in such a victory for our veterans.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, let me add that Representative RUIZ—Dr. RUIZ was instrumental in the part of this PACT Act package that dealt with the 23 presumptive illnesses.

Let's be clear that the 23 presumptive illnesses aren't just 23 diseases. They are actually buckets, Mr. Speaker, 23 buckets, we are talking more like 300 illnesses that are covered by the PACT Act.

We endeavored hard to make sure that veterans did not have to wait decades for all of the hard scientific evidence to come in. We relied on analogues, such as the 9/11 attacks on the Twin Towers, and the toxic substances that our first responders were subjected to, and we observed that those first responders had a pattern of illnesses that began to arise in numbers that did not match what would be in the general population and we could use such approaches to begin to identify those very similar kinds of diseases that were arising from exposure to toxic burn pits.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA), a longtime advocate for veterans.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I commend the hard work and the efforts and the passion that Representative TAKANO, the ranking member on the committee and previous chair, has given to this issue. The hard work finally has paid off, and for that we thank him.

For far too long, our Nation has failed to honor its promise to all our veterans who are victims of toxic exposures. It is our sacred obligation, I believe, to take care of the troops we send in harm's way—that is the American way—and to take care of them and their families when they return home.

Sadly, nearly 3.5 million veterans have been exposed to the contaminants

such as burn pits, toxic fragments, radiation, and other hazardous materials during their deployment.

Until the mid-2010s, the burn pits were commonly used in Iraq and Afghanistan and other locations to dispose of waste collected at military bases.

Well, we have discovered that the aftermath has resulted in drastic impacts to those veterans. Nearly 3.5 million deployed veterans were exposed to burn pits in the last 30 years. Think about that, 3.5 million veterans. Mr. Speaker, 70 percent of the disability claims involving these toxic exposures were denied—they were denied by the Veterans Administration, and that is just wrong—leaving many of them, including 750,000 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, without any benefits. That is disgraceful.

House Democrats and President Biden fought like hell to change this, and we did. The PACT Act is the largest expansion—think about this—the largest expansion of benefits for service for toxic-exposed veterans in over 30 years through the hard work of Representative TAKANO and other members on that committee joining with our Democratic Caucus.

We have added over 23 presumptive conditions, or categories as was noted before, for burn pits and Agent Orange and expanded the VA healthcare to millions of veterans, including those who served in Vietnam, the Gulf war, and post-9/11 eras.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years later, we are beginning to see the results. It is long overdue. More than 5.6 million veterans have received screenings for toxic exposures. Over 1 million veteran claims have been granted by the Veterans Administration, a 75 percent approval rate for PACT Act-related claims.

What a change.

Nearly 24,000 veterans in my district alone, the 24th District in the San Joaquin Valley, are eligible for benefits, including 2,100 processed claims and a total of over \$5.17 billion in retroactive awards for PACT Act-related benefits for veterans and their survivors. This is a sea change. It is a big deal.

I thank President Biden, and I thank Secretary McDonough for their help. I thank all those Members who have been involved in this for their hard work. I am proud to have been a co-sponsor and to have voted for this historic law that has improved the lives of veterans in my district and nationwide and their families, for the families sacrifice, as well, and we should never ever forget that.

In closing, we must continue to build upon the success and to ensure that our veterans can retire with the dignity and the respect they deserve because they have earned it. They have earned it.

The bottom line is this: For those men and women who are currently serving our country, we thank you, and we think of you every day. For the veterans and their families—as I said, the

families sacrifice, as well—a grateful nation can never ever say thank you enough.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL), a strong advocate for veterans, a marine veteran himself and my good friend.

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

Mr. Speaker, as a proud marine veteran and the Representative for more than 34,000 of my fellow veterans across California's 24th Congressional District, I am proud to see the real impact that the Honoring our PACT Act has had for veterans and their families across the United States.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, we came together with President Joe Biden to pass the largest and most significant expansion of veterans benefits in more than 30 years.

Since then, we have seen more than 1.5 million claims filed for toxic exposures and other health risks resulting from service in Vietnam, the Gulf war, and wars of the post-9/11 era.

More than 2,000 of those claims have come from veterans in my own region.

We cannot give up the momentum on this important bill.

While we have seen so many already utilizing these expanded benefits, current estimates suggest that more than 5 million veterans were exposed to some amount of toxic substances during their military service.

That is why I am encouraging all veterans who submitted an intent to file last summer make sure they are following through and submitting an actual claim as soon as possible to ensure that our veterans can get backdated benefits to the date that this bill was signed into law.

I thank Ranking Member TAKANO and the House Democratic leadership for helping uplift this important deadline and reminding the American people in our veteran communities that we are still here every week fighting for their health, safety, and prosperity, all of which were earned by their years and decades of service.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have the urge to say "oorah." I thank the gentleman for his service to our country, not only as a Representative but also as a marine veteran.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER).

□ 1745

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, "Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude." These words spoken by President Harry Truman still ring true to this day.

Millions of servicemembers and veterans have answered the call to serve and protect the freedoms that we hold dear. Just as our Nation's servicemembers make a promise to leave no one behind on the battlefield, we must leave no veteran behind when they come home.

The PACT Act honors this promise. It is the largest expansion of VA benefits in a generation and ensures that millions of veterans who have been exposed to Agent Orange, burn pits, and other toxins during their military service receive the care that they have earned and deserve.

The PACT Act is one of the greatest accomplishments of the Biden-Harris administration, and it was made possible by the leadership of then-Speaker NANCY PELOSI and Chairman MARK TAKANO, among many others.

In Rhode Island, more than 3,200 veterans have already received PACT Act benefits with another 4,000 projected to be added to the program in the coming years. Over 1 million veterans and their families have received PACT Act benefits nationally.

I have been working very closely with my Rhode Island Second Congressional District military and veterans advisory committee to spread the word about the PACT Act and how veterans in our district can access those benefits.

However, there is still more work to be done. All too often, benefits claims sharks exploit veterans and their families with exorbitant fees. We must do more to protect veterans and their families from these predatory practices.

We must also ensure that veterans and their family members who were exposed to toxic PFAS chemicals on military bases and elsewhere receive the healthcare that they need, and I have cosponsored legislation to make that a reality.

We must always fight to ensure that veterans receive the care and benefits they deserve because they deserve nothing but the very best.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend from North Carolina, a great champion of veterans, Representative DEBORAH ROSS.

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the historic PACT Act. Thanks to this critical legislation, we are closer today than ever to ensuring every single veteran has access to the exceptional care and benefits they deserve.

In less than 2 years, I am happy to report, as my colleagues have also reported, 1 million PACT Act claims have been granted to more than 800,000 veterans and survivors across the country.

As the proud daughter of an Air Force veteran and a doctor, it is especially meaningful to recognize this milestone today.

We make a sacred promise to all of our Nation's veterans that after bravely serving our country in uniform, we will care for them when they return home. That is why we can and must do more to ensure that no veteran faces financial or logistical barriers to accessing the medical treatment and benefits they are owed.

Crucially, the PACT Act included the Camp Lejeune Justice Act, our bipar-

tisan bill to enable servicemembers from Camp Lejeune who were exposed to toxic chemicals to pursue long-overdue justice in court.

This legislation, unfortunately, did not go quite far enough, and too many veterans continue to face unacceptable barriers to accessing the remedies.

I recently introduced, with Congressman GREG MURPHY, who is also a doctor, the bipartisan Camp Lejeune Justice Corrections Act to make additional reforms, including capping attorney's fees, expanding jurisdiction to alleviate the large backlog of cases our courts are facing, and clarifying the right to a jury trial.

Today and every day, let's continue the fight to support our courageous veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for her work on the section of the PACT Act that relates to justice for those servicemembers who were in residence at Camp Lejeune. It is a decades-long effort to bring justice for those members, and I urge our government to move as expeditiously as possible to get those claims settled with all of our veterans across the country who have served at Camp Lejeune.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Ohio, a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and a fierce advocate for veterans, Representative GREG LANDSMAN.

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative TAKANO for hosting tonight and for his leadership on the PACT Act, which has helped so many veterans.

Our veterans and servicemembers have sacrificed so much on behalf of all of us. We know now that during their service, millions were exposed to toxic substances, and these exposures have caused serious health issues for so many.

This is why, 2 years ago, Representative TAKANO and others passed the PACT Act. This landmark legislation expanded healthcare for veterans exposed to these toxic substances. Since its passage, over 32,000 Ohioans and over 1 million veterans nationwide have had their PACT Act claims granted by the VA. This means that these folks are finally getting the healthcare they deserve.

As a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am proud to serve our veterans and advocate for better benefits, more funding, and continued investment in their well-being.

In our district, we have over 30,000 veterans. By ensuring the continued acceptance of PACT Act claims, funding the VA properly, and passing important veteran legislation like our Employing Veterans to Feed America Act, which provides jobs for veterans, we are doing important work.

I am grateful for all the veterans in southwest Ohio and across the country. I promise to keep working to improve their lives and the lives of their loved ones.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LANDSMAN for his amazing advocacy for our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend from the State of New Mexico, the Land of Enchantment, Representative MELANIE STANSBURY.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor our veterans and to celebrate and highlight the extraordinary passage of the PACT Act, which is the single-most significant expansion of veterans' benefits in generations. We passed that bill here in Congress under Democratic leadership with the support of President Joe Biden just 2 years ago.

It expands VA benefits to over 3 million veterans across the United States. In New Mexico, we have a long and proud tradition of service that extends across all of our communities, from the Navajo Code Talkers and the heroes of Bataan to the veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

The courage, valor, and dedication of our veterans are woven into the very fabric of who we are as New Mexicans. In fact, over 133,000 New Mexicans have served this great Nation, including my own veteran at home, my partner who served this country in the United States Marine Corps.

To all of our veterans and Active-Duty military, we thank them every day for their service and sacrifice. We are here because of the sacrifices they have made to defend this country and our democracy.

We must also thank those veterans who fought to pass the PACT Act itself, including, among them, New Mexico's own Master Sergeant Jesse Baca of the New Mexico Air National Guard and his wife, Maria, who fought for over a decade for our veterans exposed to burn pits and who stood on the steps of this Capitol Building to help get the PACT Act passed.

Now, it is up to us as leaders across the country to ensure that our veterans and our families are cared for. We know that when we care for our veterans, we care for New Mexicans.

Voting for the PACT Act was one of the proudest moments of my service to this country here in Congress. Today, one of my greatest and most awesome and humbling duties is to ensure that every New Mexican veteran accesses the benefits of the PACT Act.

To those who have not yet signed up who have served this country and, over the course of their service, were exposed to burn pits, toxins, and other workplace hazards, there is still time. The VA is there for them. They have their backs, and so do we.

To all of our veterans who have served this great country, they have put everything on the line. Now, it is our turn for the PACT Act to serve them. I thank them for their service and sacrifice.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to another great friend from the great State of North Carolina, an amazing advocate for veterans and someone who

has been a fierce advocate for justice for our Camp Lejeune veterans, the amazing Representative KATHY MANNING.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his hard work and friendship.

Mr. Speaker, for far too long, millions of veterans exposed to toxins like burn pits and contaminated water did not receive the care and benefits they earned. That is why, in the last Congress, House Democrats took action to correct this injustice.

I was proud to help pass the PACT Act, historic legislation to deliver long-overdue benefits and healthcare to 3.5 million veterans exposed to toxins while serving our country.

The PACT Act expanded eligibility for healthcare at the VA, including expanded coverage for illnesses related to Agent Orange. For veterans' families who lost their loved ones, the law may provide monthly stipends and access to life insurance, among other benefits.

Now, 2 years after President Biden signed the PACT Act into law, it is helping veterans and their families across the country. The VA has received over 1.4 million PACT Act claims, including over 4,700 claims from veterans in my home district, North Carolina's Sixth District.

Our country has an obligation to care for those who bravely serve our Nation. With the PACT Act, Democrats and the Biden administration are delivering on that promise. I was proud to help pass this deeply important legislation and support the thousands of veterans in my district who are now able to get the care they need.

Mr. Speaker, I will always work to honor the sacrifices America's veterans have made and to ensure they are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend from the State of Minnesota, another great champion of veterans and someone who has a veteran's medical center in her district, Representative ILHAN OMAR.

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, we passed the PACT Act, one of the most consequential pieces of legislation to address the severe health problems that so many of our veterans who served our great country are facing. I thank my colleague, Congressman MARK TAKANO, for his leadership in getting this bill across the finish line.

□ 1800

This bill has made it easier for veterans and their families to get the relief and the care they deserve.

I have heard from so many Minnesotans on how life-changing this legislation has been, from Brian who lost his wife to pancreatic cancer to Andrew who lost his brother to leukemia and to Amanda whose husband Rafael was diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer and is now getting the treatment he deserves because of the PACT Act.

All of the family members and veterans I have met with know this bill

could have been a game changer for them, their loved one, or just how crucial it is to help the next veteran.

Whether it was Agent Orange in Vietnam or exposure to toxic waters at Camp Lejeune or burn pits and other toxic exposures in Iraq and Afghanistan, this is a part of our military's history and legacy. I am glad we are finally addressing it in the most comprehensive way it deserves.

While I am grateful this program has been enacted to provide veterans and their loved ones with the care and benefits they have earned and deserve, only a small percentage of Minnesotans are taking advantage of this program. Less than 10,000 veterans out of more than 100,000 veterans in Minnesota who qualify under this program have enrolled. It is crucial that we continue to get the word out about this lifesaving program.

Mr. Speaker, to see if you or someone you know qualifies, please go to va.gov/pact.

I will not stop fighting until every one of my constituents who is eligible receives the care they deserve, and I will keep advocating for crucial reforms to stop future servicemen and -women from experiencing the same hardships, because when we ask young people to serve our country in uniform, we should not also be asking them to expose their bodies to toxins and to live with the consequences of those toxins for the rest of their lives.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative ILHAN OMAR for all her amazing work to help the veterans in her district and across our country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY), who is the newest member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the veterans who have made great personal sacrifices to serve our country.

To all those who have donned the military uniform, on behalf of a grateful nation, I say thank you.

First, I would like to express my gratitude to Assistant Leader JOE NEGUSE and Ranking Member MARK TAKANO for holding this Special Order to honor our veterans. From burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan to Agent Orange in Vietnam, veterans exposed to toxic substances face challenges that impact their quality of life and long-term health.

We owe it to our veterans who have defended democracy and preserved our precious freedoms to deliver the benefits that they have earned and deserved. That is why Democrats passed and President Biden signed into law the PACT Act which represents the largest expansion of benefits and services for veterans exposed to toxins during their time in service in over 30 years.

To date, over 1 million PACT Act claims have been approved. People are receiving the care and benefits that they need and deserve. As an added

success, the law has led to an increase in veterans accessing medical services from VA hospitals, crucially including a generation of Vietnam veterans. Additionally, the widows of veterans will receive compensation because of this law, fulfilling the Nation's duty of care to the families of veterans.

The PACT Act is making a difference for veterans in New York and across the country in accessing the benefits that they need to lead healthy lives.

Again, I say to our veterans: our Nation is forever indebted to you for your noble service. God bless you all.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative KENNEDY for hitting the ground running as one of our newest Representatives. I know he is going to be getting the message out to the veterans who live in his district to make sure that they submit their PACT Act claims and to access the benefits that they have earned through their service.

When President Biden signed the Honoring our PACT Act, he declared that every eligible veteran should be able to apply immediately. We had written the law in such a way that the healthcare and benefits would be phased in, but President Biden decided that every veteran should be able to apply for benefits as soon as it became law.

Within 24 hours, the Department of Veterans Affairs had created a website where veterans and their families could learn more about the law and how to apply for benefits. This shows how committed President Biden has been with House Democrats to support the veteran community. He understood what a difference this important law would make for veterans, and he did not want them to wait to be able to apply.

The successful implementation of the PACT Act shows that the Biden Administration was invested in helping veterans and implemented this law far faster than most laws. We all know, and we all knew veterans and their families could not wait any longer. This was many years coming for veterans who were already facing illness or cancer from toxic exposure, and many of these veterans were able to get updated disability ratings and access to healthcare.

I find it odd that while the PACT Act is sometimes known as the burn pits bill, when we talk about veterans waiting for decades, the PACT Act actually addressed Agent Orange claims and exposure to Agent Orange that had not been covered by previous legislation. So this took care of unfinished business with Agent Orange and exposure to radiation. So those veterans who were from previous conflicts, conflicts previous to Afghanistan and Iraq, were also eligible to get their toxic exposure illnesses addressed and covered by this legislation.

In fact, this legislation covers veterans who were involved in the global war on terror around the world. It was

not just confined to those veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Before the PACT Act, veterans were likely to need to prove exposure to specific chemicals in order to receive healthcare and benefits. This is nearly impossible when talking about burn pits because of the myriad of materials that were burned in them. Over 6 million veterans and their survivors have completed a toxic exposure screening to ensure they are eligible for care and benefits now and in the future.

VA also announced recently that over 1 million veterans had been granted their disability benefits, which is tremendous news, less than 2 years since this bill became law.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the veterans service organizations who all came together to support this bill and willed it into law. They showed Congress and President Biden just how important it was that we took care of veterans and their survivors.

Democrats and President Biden have proven time and time again that we do not just say thank you for your service. Our actions show just how grateful we are for that service and that we were willing to pay for all the costs of war.

So I want to thank Assistant Leader NEGUSE and all of my colleagues who have joined me on the floor today for this Special Order hour on the Honoring our PACT Act.

I am proud to have authored this important legislation that has helped thousands of veterans.

I am grateful to Speaker Emerita PELOSI who understood that we needed to deliver for veterans in the 117th Congress and who was a key player in getting this legislation over the finish line.

I want to thank President Biden for his continued support of the veteran community. I don't know of a President who has any greater love for veterans than President Biden. It is who he is. So it is with great sincerity and great emotion that I thank him for his decades of service to our veterans. As I said much earlier, he decided that all eligible veterans would be immediately able to apply for benefits instead of the original phased-in approach. He knew how critical this would be for countless veterans and their families.

We put partisanship aside and came together to help veterans and their families. More than 1 million veterans and survivors have already received benefits, and thousands more veterans have signed up for VA healthcare.

However, as I said earlier, there are some 300,000 veterans who have submitted an intent to file at some point last year who have 365 days to actually submit their claim. For most of these veterans, this 365-day window is this month or early August. In order to receive backdated benefits back to 2022, these veterans need to submit their claims as soon as possible.

However, we are not going to stop here. While we celebrate the Honor the

PACT Act and the more than 1 million veterans who have benefited from it, we know there is more work to do. As ranking member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am working to end veteran homelessness and to make the VA an even more welcome place for women and LGBTQ+ veterans and stop attempts at more privatization of VA healthcare.

We made a solemn promise to our servicemembers that if they serve our country, then we will take care of them. This means every veteran.

We also ensure and will ensure they get the best possible care at VA facilities. We will honor our pact with them, and we will honor the promise that we made to them with my legislation, but I will not stop working to improve the lives and livelihoods of veterans around the country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE), who is the assistant leader, to have the last word for tonight's Special Order hour.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member, again, for his leadership, his clarity of conviction, and the steadfast commitment that he has shown to our Nation's veterans time and time again. I certainly could not say it any better than he has, as you have heard, Mr. Speaker, from a wide cross section of the House Democratic Caucus, Members representing every community in our great country.

Our commitment to our Nation's veterans is rock solid. It is evidenced by the work that Ranking Member TAKANO and House Democrats, in partnership with President Biden, were able to ultimately accomplish in the last Congress, as you can see, Mr. Speaker, 1 million claims under the PACT Act, real families, real stories, and real impacts for countless veterans who have made incredible sacrifices for our country. We are indebted to them, and we will continue our commitment to them in the weeks, the months, and the years ahead led by Ranking Member TAKANO and by the leadership of the Members whom you have heard from this evening.

I thank the ranking member for yielding.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Office of Assistant Leader JOE NEGUSE and Ranking Member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee MARK TAKANO for hosting this special order hour and helping to raise awareness about the extended efforts made to secure and expand PACT Act benefits for over 1 million veterans and survivors.

The landmark bipartisan Sergeant First Class Health Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act, otherwise known as the PACT Act, was signed into law in 2022, enacting perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history.

This law provides expanded benefits to Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances, helping generations of Veterans—and their survivors, receive the critical care they deserve.

And as of 2024, these VA health care benefits were expanded to millions of Veterans—years earlier than initially called for by the 2022 passage of the PACT Act.

As a senior member of this Congress and a longtime supporter of Veterans, I know the passage of this law has been a step in the right direction to address all harms Veterans in America sadly face and continue to face, particularly Black and minority Veterans.

There is a long and painful history of denial of service-related toxic exposure that dates back to nuclear testing conducted during and in the decades following WWII that cause premature deaths, cancers and other service-related injuries.

For decades, millions of Veterans have unknowingly been exposed to toxic substances and radiation during their military service.

As a result of these exposures, Veterans have had to face a range of serious health complications, including many types of cancers, cardiovascular, respiratory, and neurological disorders, and other chronic illnesses.

Although the severity of the health issues can vary, many Veterans have faced debilitating conditions that require ongoing medical care and support and can cause disability, reduced quality of life, and premature death.

Current estimates suggest that more than 5 million Veterans were exposed to toxic substances or radiation during their service.

The type and extent of exposures vary significantly, depending on the time and location of a Veterans' military service:

During World War II, service members involved in construction projects and serving on ships were exposed to asbestos.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Veterans involved in nuclear testing and handling nuclear weapons risked exposure to radioactive materials.

During the Vietnam War Veterans faced exposure to Agent Orange, a toxic herbicide containing dioxin.

In particular, the pattern of not acknowledging service-related toxic exposure includes Agent Orange service-related exposure that was not acknowledged until passage of the Agent Orange Act of 1991.

Agent Orange was a herbicide used to defoliate vegetation and kill crops over the rural landscape in Vietnam from 1961 to 1971.

The health conditions caused by this exposure were compounded by mental distress when the government denied that the conditions were linked to Vietnam era military service.

Before passage of the PACT Act, Veterans with toxic exposures had to prove a direct connection between their medical conditions and a specific toxic exposure that they faced during their military service.

Because of the difficulty connecting a condition to an exposure, the VA denied nearly 80 percent of disability claims related to burn pit exposures before the passage of the PACT Act.

The PACT Act sought to remedy this from ever happening again.

In particular, the law added a "presumptive" service connection for hundreds of conditions linked to burn pits, agent orange, and other hazards while serving our country, and thus lowered the burden of proof required to receive disability benefits.

Now, the average nationwide percent service connection rate for Veterans with these granted claims is 70 percent, meaning that

they receive more than \$20,000 in earned benefits payments from VA each year.

Additionally, nationwide, we know that Veterans have submitted over one million total claims since the PACT Act was enacted. And over 76 percent of all claims have been approved, a sharp increase from pre-PACT levels—resulting in over \$2.4 billion in benefits to Veterans and the survivors.

These benefits are also particularly important to the state of Texas, which has the largest veteran population in the U.S.

Since its enactment in 2022, Texas has led the Nation in Veterans filing disability claims associated with the PACT Act at over 161,920.

From these PACT Act-related claims, VA has delivered more than \$600,231,041.75 in earned benefits to Texas Veterans and survivors.

Importantly, since the PACT Act was signed into law, more than 68,867 Texas Veterans have also signed up for VA health care.

These numbers make clear that the PACT Act is working, ensuring that the courageous men and women who serve our country avoid having to navigate unnecessary webs of red tape to receive treatment or benefits.

Just as our Veterans made a commitment to serve our Nation, we too have a responsibility to serve them long after they take off the uniform.

With the passage of the PACT Act and the proactive steps the Administration has taken following its enactment to ensure that actual benefits are realized for over one million Veterans, Congress has done just that.

□ 1815

MATH IS UNCOMFORTABLE

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

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CARL).

HONORING BALDWIN COUNTY SHERIFF HUEY
"HOSS" MACK

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor Baldwin County Sheriff Huey "Hoss" Mack, who will be retiring later this year and will become the director of Alabama Sheriffs Association.

Sheriff Hoss Mack served as the county sheriff for the last 18 years. His educational background includes a degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in human resource management.

He began service in Baldwin County Sheriff's Office in 1989 before becoming sheriff and was elected in 2006. Sheriff Hoss Mack has always been heavily involved in multiple criminal justice organizations, including both the Alabama and the National Sheriffs' Association. Not only has Hoss served Baldwin County with the utmost integrity, but he has been a friend of mine, and I appreciate that.

He is a true American and a true public servant. Baldwin County is blessed

to have had Sheriff Hoss Mack for the last 35 years, and I wish him fair winds and good luck in his next endeavor.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, we are going to try to do something a little tricky this evening. You are going to see the continuing theme of, hey, here is where we are borrowing and here is where the borrowing is coming from.

Then I am going to hit on some of the things that—what is the next one—drive me almost insane on the questions I get here, the things I get on this stupid thing. I have come to this conclusion: We live in a world where the propaganda, the fake information, and the distortion fields around us actually do not want America to succeed.

That is a pretty dark thing to say, but let's actually walk through my theory. I am going to make the point. On some of these presentations, I have been blessed. If you go on YouTube, I had one a couple months ago, I think there is, like, 1.3 million views. Go look at the comments section. I will argue about half those comments are bots. They are fake.

You see things like: Well, if you just didn't give any money to Israel, we could balance the budget. You start to realize that there is a world out there that takes advantage of our open society, that comes at us with things that are lies, and the poor person out there who is just trying to take care of their family, on occasion, grabs their phone, tries to read little bits of news, maybe reads a comment or two, and they don't realize the information coming at them is absolute crap.

Then the other problem that I am going to show here is when I have my own President get behind a microphone, look at the American people, and say things that are absolutely not true. Then an idiot like myself tries to come up and say: I have a path. There is a path. If I can get my brothers and sisters on the left to work with us on the right, there is a path to save this country.

It is really hard when the State of the Union goes on that podium right there and says things that are absolutely not true.

Does that mean they are also a deliverer of fake information because math is hard? Math is uncomfortable. Telling the truth is hard. Maybe this place has lied for so many decades that the public says: Look, we are just going to believe whatever is comfortable.

Let's actually walk through, first, a little bit of reality here. I will start with this chart because it sort of lays out where we are at today. Do you see the red? That red area is 74 percent of the spending, and 74 percent of the spending in this place is on auto pilot. We don't get to vote on it.

Do you see the blue? That is what I get to vote on. That is defense and non-defense discretionary. I get to vote on that. Every dime of it is borrowed. Every dime a Member of Congress votes on is borrowed money. Also,

guess what—we are in so much trouble—I have net interest on this, which I think is unfair because there is this thing called net. That is the publicly borrowed. That is where the Treasury sells bonds.

I think, this week, we are selling \$111 billion—maybe it is \$112 billion or \$113 billion—in three different auctions this week just to finance our insatiable spending because, remember—this is one of the things I find is uncomfortable even at home—100 percent of the borrowing from today through the next 30 years, according to CBO, is interest, Medicare, and if we backfill Social Security in a decade from now. It is demographics.

Yet, how do you make policy? There are ways to fix it with policy. When the leader of the free world looks into a camera and says things that are just insane when it comes to being on a calculator.

Take a look one more time. Non-defense discretionary, defense, all of that is borrowed, and a wedge—I should do a chart that shows you how much is borrowed money. I originally thought we might be at \$2.5 trillion borrowing this year. Some of the tax receipts are a little bit better. Some of the spiking growth that we had in the first part of the fiscal year on healthcare costs have flattened ever so slightly, so we are probably going to end up borrowing around \$2.3 trillion this year.

What that means is even part of the mandatory spending, Medicare, because remember, Medicare isn't all on the trust fund. The trust fund only covers 38, 40 percent. The rest comes out of the general fund. Once again, look at this chart and understand your government functionally is an insurance company with an army. That is meant to be sarcastic, but it is meant to sink in.

Let's actually walk through. I am going to walk through a couple of these just to sort of lay out where we are actually at. CBO predicts by 2054, so 30 years from now, budget deficits are entirely driven by Social Security and Medicare shortfalls.

We are not allowed to say that, are we? Does anyone remember the State of the Union? There was a handful of us, Democrats and Republicans, who had been quietly working for a year trying to put together a plan to save Social Security in the long run.

The President gets there and says: Promise me you won't talk about Social Security or Medicare. People look terrified and go: Okay. Yes, good campaign issue. They care more about winning the next election than protecting seniors. It is the great lie around here. You talk about it saying: I want to find a way to modernize and save, and you will get the crap kicked out of you. You also told the truth.

You have to look at the data, the charts. Remember, the SSA, the Social Security Administration's actuary numbers are actually substantially more optimistic than the Congressional Budget Office, so we are going to

use the more optimistic numbers. When you start to realize and when the outlays are, over the next 30 years, starting to hit 17 percent of the entire economy and revenues don't come anywhere close to that, there is your crisis. We can just pretend because getting through the next election is more important.

Look, you have all seen this chart over and over and over and over and over and over that interest continues to grow, and we think actually the interest calculation—this is important. Let's do this right now. The hierarchy right now, today, Social Security will, this year, be \$1.480 trillion. The total gross interest because, remember, just a couple days ago, I think we sent \$36 billion to Social Security because we borrowed the money. Treasury had borrowed the money from the trust fund. We pay it back with interest. Total interest to the United States will approach \$1.2 trillion this year.

Then you have Medicare, and then you have defense. Defense is functionally sitting as No. 4. How do you have a society that runs around thinking, well, if we just cut some defense? I showed you the chart before. You can get rid of every dime of defense, every dime of nondefense discretionary. That is the Park Service. That is the FBI. That is the Foreign Service. That is us. If you get rid of everything, you still have to borrow money.

You look at the charts over and over, and when we have had high marginal tax rates, we get about 18 percent of GDP in taxes. When we have had low marginal tax rates, we get about 18 percent of GDP. You have a long history—and I have done floor presentation after floor presentation—that when you lowered the rates, you grew the economy, you got about the same percentage of GDP. When you raised the tax rates, the economy shrunk a bit or slowed down, and you got the same percent of GDP.

The idea is grow the economy as much as possible, and then cut spending everywhere you can. I have some charts, and I don't know if I should do them again—actually, maybe I will just jump to them in a moment—where you lay out almost every tax hike that are the dreams of the left: Let's tax rich people who are over \$400,000. Let's do this tax and that tax.

I come here with the academic papers and showed you, when you maximize all those tax rates, capital gains, income tax, estate tax, just do it all, you get about 1.5 percent of GDP.

For us on a cut side, it is brutal, but I can come up with almost \$300 billion in nondefense discretionary. That is 1 percent of GDP. So, hey, together, we came up with 2.5 percent. We are borrowing 6 or 7 percent of the entire economy, and we have used up everything.

I mean, understand what is going on here. Just another chart that basically gives you a sense: Rising Social Security and Medicare shortfalls driven en-

tirely or nearly the entire 2019 to 2034 deficit hikes. That means, in a 10-year window, almost all the growth of the debt and deficit during that time period, interest, Medicare, and then at the end of the decade, Social Security trust fund is gone. Right now, you will get a Democrat saying: Well, Social Security doesn't add anything to the deficit. They are absolutely correct until the trust fund is gone.

There is the part that enraged me the other night. If any of you were able to watch the Presidential debate the other night, my phone lit up at one point by a bunch of reporters who wanted to double check a number.

The President was asked about Social Security. I begin to make the wealthy—okay. I begin—and this is his actual quote, so it is disjointed, but this is what he said: “. . . I begin to make the wealthy begin to pay their fair share, by increasing from 1 percent beyond, to be able to guarantee the program for life.”

He is talking about Social Security, so 1 percent. Then he went on to say: “Well, that one enough will keep it solvent.”

The left's definition of wealthy is over \$400,000 income, right? The President just told the American people 1 percent. I will fix Social Security by taxing them 1 percent.

We have a math problem. The problem here is, the blue you see here, that is not 1 percent. I had to make it 2 percent because the 1 percent was so small we figured you couldn't even see it. I doubled what the President said.

This is the shortfall. Half of this is what the President told you would work.

I am enraged by all the fake crap that comes into my phone in my office, our phones, our publications, all the things that you see on Twitter, or X, or whatever we are supposed to call it today, that are just made up by bots particularly and foreigners.

What happens now when my own President does it? How do I show up here? How do I get my brothers and sisters here to actually make policy? How do you make policy when the leader of the free world says things that are mathematically just insane?

The immorality here, functionally 9½ years, we double senior poverty in America. If we don't fix this, we double senior poverty. The Democrats will weaponize it because they care more about winning the next election.

We have a President who could have just looked in the camera and said: Look, we haven't had the number of children, therefore, the number of workers. We started the rollovers in 1990. It is just math. It is not Republican or Democrat. Demographics are what we are.

Last year, the United States had 1.62 children fertility rate, meaning, functionally, now our math is, in about 15 years, the United States will have more deaths than births. I say that over and over trying to get people to think.

If your brain is trapped somewhere in the 1990s' policy sets, none of that math is real anymore. It hasn't been real in 30 years.

This place is absolutely immoral. I brought charts here over and over and over, the Democrat solution saying: Instead of the President's 1 percent proposal, if you do the—what is it—the 14-point-whatever percent, 14.4 or 12.4 total Social Security tax, not the Medicare, not the unemployment, those things, and you put it on all income over \$400,000—I have shown a number of charts—if you use the CBO math, it covers about 38 percent of the shortfall.

□ 1830

That is using over 12 points, both the employer and the employee's portion. I have a President who looks in the camera and says 1 percent. Now, let's come together at a townhall or a meeting here and say: Hey, guys, let's have an honest conversation because every day we wait, the on-ramp is harder to save Social Security.

Oh, DAVID, the President already told us we are doing 1 percent on rich people. I can show you with the 12.4 you are covering only about 38 percent.

Why is this place so absolutely immoral? Do they really care that much more about winning the next election?

After the President said that, I started to dig through the stories other people had sent me. I had this woman text me weeks ago saying, did you know that with the money in Ukraine that the First Lady of Ukraine bought almost a million-dollar Bugatti, or however you pronounce that car.

Well, the BBC did a very long article about how much is absolutely fake coming into the U.S. marketplace of ideas. There are bot farms. There are troll farms. They created fake photos, which turns out that is what actually helped BBC identify that this is all fake stuff.

How do you make policy in a world where we are awash in things coming in from our enemies, from the countries that want us at each other's throats, make it impossible to do basic policy to save the Republic, and then my own President is making crap up?

Article after article of disinformation that is crashing in, the things I have that come into my office about Israel that are coming in from bot farms.

We have article after article that Microsoft did an analysis of how much was coming in from Chinese bot farms, Chinese servers. Apparently, we just had a major disruption by stopping 968 Twitter accounts that were completely fake and they were all coming from a bot farm in Russia. That happened this week. The State Department just identified that bot farm and got it shut down.

Mr. Speaker, I say now to my Democrat colleagues that we have actually had a couple stories come out that have some real fun stuff. It turns out a

number of the Democrat activists are actually setting up fake newspapers. Now, if that wasn't bad enough, one of these articles in there actually has a section talking about that in American small town newspapers as many as half process this, as many as half are actually fake.

My wife pointed out to me that there was a newspaper from southern Kansas, where she grew up, that went out of business decades ago that somehow popped up in her news feed and it had this crazy stuff in it. Turns out, that was on the list of the ones that had been spoofed. A spoofed URL that looks like it is from Russia.

Think that about. In America, about half the small town online newspapers you see are actually fake.

How many of our constituents know that? It looks like the Democrats actually have decided, hey, this is a great business model. Let's make up fake newspapers online, have it laced with leftwing propaganda, and we will do it under a newspaper masthead.

How is this not a violation? Once again, the left proves they are a hell of a lot smarter than we are when it comes to being mercenary on campaigns. They figured out a way to get around the campaign finance laws. Spend money, but it is free speech. It is fake, but it is free speech. Then idiots like me get here and try to walk through the math.

Look, this is the MedPAC report. It is not that hard to read. You have quotes in here that in 2022, 13 percent of all personal and corporate income taxes collected by the Federal Government were transferred to the Medicare trust fund.

By 2030—so that is how many years? 5 budget years? 4 budget years?—22 percent of all tax receipts from corporate and individual income tax, 22 percent will just go to Medicare.

Functionally in a decade, you have gone from 13 to 22 percent of all tax receipts. It is demographics.

Why isn't this what we talk about around this place, how are we going to save these programs? Oh, you can't do that because you are going to have a President who is going to knife you by saying crazy things.

The Joint Economic Report we published a couple weeks ago, we tried to provide brutally honest math, brutal detail with actual solutions. Will anyone actually read it?

This one my staff was particularly fond of. It turns out that one of the new spoofings out there that are coming into young people's phones are celebrities with quotes that the celebrities have never said.

Are you all ready for this election cycle where you have AI memes looking like a Member of Congress, looking like a President, looking like a Senator, looking like a celebrity, saying things that are completely fake?

Now come here and try to do difficult policy where you are going to have to take on some bureaucracies, take on

certain business models, adopt technology to crash the price of healthcare. Are you going to get hit by an army of bots, an army of fake videos, an army of fake postings, saying they can't do that, because some group has figured out that winning the election is stopping us from saving the country from its debt spiral?

I am trying to explain it is bad enough having to take on the bureaucracy, it is bad enough having to take on the calcified intellect, of particularly some of my friends here, that say we can just fix everything by taxing people more.

What happens when our voters have to face millions of absolutely fake information videos that are crashing at them? I can't wait to see the bots and the comments they put in the video below this posting.

Take a look here: "Not touching Social Security means large benefit cuts."

When you start to actually take a look—and I think we did this before. Remember, the number goes up and down depending on employment, but we were working on one the other day from last year's CBO number that basically showed the average couple would take about a \$17,400 cut in their Social Security a decade from now when the trust fund is gone.

This is immoral. Shouldn't this actually be a place where we actually work on these things? Then you start to actually look at the lies—excuse me—the misinformation that our brothers and sisters on the left keep saying.

Oh, when we did tax reform, it was a gift to the rich. Okay. You got a math problem. The higher income, the top 20 percent today pay 69 percent of all income taxes. It is more progressive today than the tax code has ever been. The wealthy pay a higher percentage of Federal income taxes today than ever before. The lower quartiles today pay the lowest Federal income tax rates since income taxes, 16th amendment.

How often do you hear this? But that doesn't fit the narrative. Then you have the jerks actually say things like this: Well, you guys had \$1.7 trillion spending. Yes. We got \$900 billion more revenue than expected, but that was horrible. We are going to spend about \$2 trillion in grants and gifts and those things to big business because they do clean energy stuff. It is like they don't look at themselves in the mirror.

Once again, I have done entire presentations here going through every leftwing tax idea trying to add it up. Even when you don't do economic effects—if you do economic effects, these numbers—and then try to say, hey, you guys are only getting about a point and a half or so of GDP out of these numbers, you are not getting anywhere close. You got to do it through policy.

Then the fragility that no one was prepared for—well, some of us were prepared for—are interest rates. How many of you think interest rates are going back down, particularly in the long end of the curve?

Remember, what the Federal Reserve does is on the short end of the curve, meaning shorter term bonds. When you start to look at 10-year debt and up, some of the best bond traders and economists right now are saying it is not going down. You might get a little bit of a tick.

The United States is now number 14 on the credit stack, meaning Greece today can sell a 10-year bond cheaper than we can. You read the notes on the S&P's and the Moody's, it is not—we have one of the healthiest economies in the industrialized world, but one of the things that is going on is they don't trust us.

Will our governance be disciplined enough to actually take on the spending and the debt? The fact of the matter is, we are paying a premium now. The United States now pays a premium on our debt.

This week, I told you we are borrowing about—there are three auctions this week—\$111 billion, and we are going to pay a premium on that debt. Sometimes this place doesn't look like we are serious about taking the debt on and managing our fiscal affairs.

First off, we are having great difficulties selling long-term bonds. Do you remember a few months ago we had sort of a bond tantrum? Why do you think Treasury moved things down to sell short-term, short-term, short-term? A lot of investors out there don't even trust this government enough to say, I am going to buy a 30-year U.S. savings bond and I am going to be safe.

Once again, even a 100 percent tax rate on small businesses and upper-income families could not come close to balancing the long-term budget in this country.

Stop thinking you are going to do it with tax hikes or even for those of us who want to cut the size of government, you need to have revolutionized the cost of this government. Stop being afraid of technology. Stop being afraid of the things where we could change the cost of this government because it might affect your business model.

Look, I was going to try to put up one or two slides last for happy talk, until I realized one of the slides I wanted to show you was, once again, another concept of why the Democrats' Inflation Reduction Act is the most Orwellian named piece of legislation in modern history.

They are very proud, saying we are subsidizing electric cars. My wife has an electric car. She loves it, but the data basically said—when they passed that, I came here to the floor and showed, hey, here is the survey data. Almost everyone that is going to buy an electric car is buying them with the subsidy, without the subsidy. It is a lifestyle. It is almost a status symbol, but let's give away billions and billions of dollars.

Now you actually have breakthroughs. Could you imagine if just a fraction of a fraction of a fraction of that resource had gone more into primary research? Looks like there has

been a breakthrough on solar cells, an additional 25.7 percent efficiency, except the problem is it was developed in China.

The very people who preach at us to subsidize all this stuff, but let's subsidize less generations or maybe even the generation before that's technology.

You want me to put solar panels on my house, you want us to drive electric cars, make it so economically sensible and make it so economically affordable that it is the disruption.

Why did you stop going to Blockbuster Video? Because you had this button you could hit at home and stream videos right to your home. Was that subsidized by the government?

□ 1845

The fact of the matter is that there are technology disruptions. Why didn't we fixate on that? Well, it turns out that maybe the disruptions don't write checks to your campaign.

The Democrats' planned economy, the control of the marketplace, the arrogance that somehow they think they know what the future looks like instead of building a tax system or regulatory system that is competitive, that is disruptive. Some are winning; some are losing. That is the way the American economy is supposed to work.

In many ways, we have now built a society of oligopolies, thanks to Dodd-Frank and Democratic policies. They have made the big bigger, the big really powerful, and the really big and powerful now your constituency.

It turns out now that if you look at who votes for Republicans, it is entrepreneurs, working people, and those who are being crushed by those they have to compete with who now get subsidies from their political allies.

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

REQUIRE VOTERS TO PROVE CITIZENSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Arizona for his willingness to come to the floor and talk about these important issues that, frankly, all of us should be talking about. He does so with regularity, and it is important.

The average American is hurting because they watch the price of goods going up and all the things that are happening as a direct consequence of what we are doing and not doing here—as the gentleman points out, our inability and lack of willingness or fortitude to focus on the issues that matter.

Right now, I think something the American people need to understand, as we head into the fall season, is that we are heading into the time of elections.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle come down to give a whole lot of rhetoric about the lack of agenda or lack of things that we are doing. We have legislation on the floor of the House this week to ensure that only citizens vote, something we call the SAVE Act. That legislation is necessary because anybody with eyes knows that we are getting overrun by open borders that are endangering the American people. We have millions of people flooding into the country and have thousands and thousands of people who are on the voter rolls who are not supposed to be. Those are facts. It is true.

We know States that are starting to cleanse their voter rolls are finding people who are noncitizens and are registered to vote. We saw it in Virginia. We have seen it in North Carolina. We have seen it in Texas. We have seen it across the country. The truth is, it goes far deeper than that.

The question that we have to ask ourselves is: What does it mean to be an American? What does citizenship even mean anymore?

We have an administration—Joe Biden, the people who work for him, and our Democratic colleagues on the other side of the aisle—that is at war with the whole idea of American exceptionalism and what it means to be an American. They are at war with the whole idea of what it means to be an American citizen. They are undermining the whole purpose, the whole intent, behind citizenship. Citizenship is supposed to matter.

This week, we are going to be voting on the floor on a bill to require a simple thing: that we know that only American citizens are voting in our American elections. That is what we are voting on this week, tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, you would think that some number of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle would be willing to work with us on such legislation. They bemoan that they are not getting an amendment offered. Let's be very clear: They offered one amendment—one—in the committee of jurisdiction, the House Administration Committee. Do you know how many Democrats were present? One, the ranking member. The ranking member offered the amendment. It went down 6-1. There was no real debate from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle because the only purpose of the amendment was to gut the bill. That was the only purpose.

Then, I heard bemoaning from our Democratic colleagues and the ranking member of the Rules Committee when we were up in the Rules Committee, and he said they should be able to offer this amendment. Why? His Democratic colleagues didn't even show up to the debate in the committee, and the whole purpose of the amendment was to gut the bill.

The bill has been strongly supported by the Speaker on down, strongly supported by his staff, strongly supported

by the people who have worked on it hard, but none of that matters to the American people. The only thing that matters to the American people is that it is legislation that would protect their constitutional right as a citizen to be the one who has a say in his or her government.

What is happening right now is we are undermining the integrity of our elections and undermining our very Republic by allowing noncitizens to vote. Indeed, some jurisdictions—Oakland, San Francisco, New York, and, indeed, our Nation's Capital—are purposely registering noncitizens to vote.

They say, wink, wink, nod, nod, don't worry about it. We are only going to do that in State and local elections. We will not, of course, put them over in Federal elections because that is against the law. My Democratic colleagues want to say we don't need this bill because it is already against the law for a noncitizen to vote in Federal elections. True.

However, number one, then what are you worried about? Why are you concerned? What is so problematic that you think it is bad that we try to put procedures in place to carry out the law you say is already in place?

The truth is you don't like that that law is in place. That is the truth about our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. We know this because Democratic jurisdictions across the country, as I said a minute ago, are registering noncitizens to vote in State and local elections.

They want them to vote in Federal elections. The problem is, they have this pesky little issue with the American people, 81 to 87 percent of whom believe that only citizens should vote in American elections.

We have a bill before us on the floor of the House tomorrow that I believe is going to be opposed by virtually all or all of our Democratic colleagues. We will see. I kind of dare them to vote "no" on a bill supported by 81 to 87 percent of the American people. I dare them to vote "no" against a bill that says that only American citizens should vote in American elections. I am going to dare them to go ahead and follow a President who has put out a policy against a bill, the purpose of which is to guarantee citizens are the ones who get to vote in American elections.

We will see if our Democratic colleagues want to go to the polls in November having rejected what clearly the vast majority of their constituents, even in the most liberal jurisdictions in the country, believe is right. That is what is likely to occur tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, if you believe the news, believe the accounts, look at what the President has done, and look at the posturing of the House Democratic leadership, they are on the precipice of staking out a position of belief that noncitizens should be able to vote in our elections.

That, of course, is not too surprising, given the extent to which a number of

our Democratic colleagues have repeatedly talked about how it is beneficial for them to have noncitizens—indeed, sometimes illegal aliens—voting in elections.

The fact of the matter is, we know what has happened in the Biden administration as the American people have been endangered, as Americans have died, as Laken Riley has died, and as numerous individuals have been killed, raped, murdered, and assaulted across this country by people who have been let into this country illegally.

We know that some 8 million illegal aliens have crossed the border under Biden's tenure. We know that some 5.3 million illegal aliens have been released by Joe Biden. We know that we have had massive numbers of criminal gang members, massive numbers of people affiliated with terrorist organizations, and thousands of numbers of Chinese nationals who have come into our country.

We know that our domestic crime is increasing. We know that we are being endangered. We know that people are being released. We know that we have criminals coming to our country, yet we want to do one simple thing. We have been fighting them, trying to stop what they are doing by releasing people into the country. We passed H.R. 2. Democrats refused to do anything about it. They refused to move it. CHUCK SCHUMER refuses to do it. Joe Biden doesn't even know what we are talking about.

Here, our Democratic colleagues are poised to reject a bill to protect our elections, to ensure that only Americans vote in our elections. That should give everybody in this country pause and give them a glimpse into the soul of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle and what they think about citizenship. They don't respect citizenship.

Our Democratic colleagues don't believe that citizenship matters. They don't believe that sovereignty matters because if they did, they wouldn't do this. If our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, our Democratic colleagues, had some small fix or even significant fix to believe that we could make our system better, we would be all ears.

If it was a legitimate exercise to say, yes, of course, we want to not only have it against the law for noncitizens to vote in our elections, as is currently the case, but we also want to make sure that we remove all Federal barriers and, indeed, improve the situation and have requirements in place to guarantee that we can check, know, and ensure that only citizens vote. That is not what they are doing.

The legislation that we put forward is pretty simple, the SAVE Act. It will allow you to come forward, prospectively. If you are going to vote this fall, you can go vote. You are in the system. If you move, your address changes, you get married, if something changes at some point over the next few years, we require States to clean their voter rolls.

If you want to register to vote, take a passport, take a military ID, take a Real ID, all of which demonstrate your citizenship. If you don't have one of those, take your regular driver's license, get a copy of your birth certificate, get a copy of an adoption certificate or naturalization papers and go down to say that you can register and are a citizen.

There are 400,000 tombstones on the other side of the Potomac River. They either gave the last full measure of devotion or risked the last full measure of devotion. I think you can take a few seconds to make sure that you demonstrate your citizenship to vote.

More than that, we put in massive safeguards. We give flexibility to States. We say that if they want to come up with a better way to do it, they can balance and check the Federal systems. They can sign an affidavit as a government official saying that they believe this is a citizen. They checked, and this is a citizen. They provided all the information necessary. Great.

There are no barriers, no undue burdens, no restrictions on the ability of an American citizen to vote under our plan. What it will do is give not just increased confidence but a return of belief in our system, a belief that they can actually trust elections, a belief that it is, in fact, their country.

Shouldn't we want this to be our country? Shouldn't we want to be proud and say this is our country, these are our rules, and that anyone is welcome to come here under the terms of our invitation only and will follow the rules. Criminals are not going to be allowed here, and they are not going to be allowed to carry out criminal activities. They are not going to be allowed to murder, rape, maim, or steal. However, if someone is coming here and is hardworking and follows our rules, God bless them, come on in, but they are going to vote only if they are a citizen.

The fact that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't want to guarantee that tells us everything we need to know. It gives up the whole game. It gives up the fact that our colleagues don't want sovereignty and security, and that is the truth.

There is a reason our colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to continue to throw money at international organizations, want to send an endless supply of funds and blank checks to the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and all the NGOs that are funneling people into our country, endangering our own citizens, and putting children into the sex trafficking trade.

All of that is being done on purpose. All of that is being done because our colleagues on the other side of the aisle want it all to occur. There is no other explanation for it.

I am tired. I have been sitting here watching for my entire time in Congress, watching this President—to the extent he even knows where the hell he is—destroy this country and endanger

the people who I represent, destroy and endanger Texans. That is what has happened, nothing less.

The President of the United States and the people who work for him have endangered our country. The Secretary of Homeland Security has endangered our country.

□ 1900

Ask the now probably thousands, certainly hundreds of parents who are sitting there having lost loved ones, killed, raped, or maimed, the tens of thousands of parents who have lost their kids to fentanyl poisoning, ask any of them. Ask the cops. Ask the Border Patrol who want to do their job but are being told they can't and being accused of whipping Haitian migrants. That is what is happening. Here we are again.

We are not even talking about securing the border in this bill. We are not talking about doing the things we should be doing as a sovereign Nation. We are talking about doing the simplest thing if you are a sovereign Nation, and that is ensure the integrity of your elections and that only citizens can vote.

I am proud of the job the Republican Party has done and my Republican colleagues have done, and the Speaker of the House has done in putting forward legislation that will solve the problem, that follows the law, defers where appropriate to States, sets a Federal standard where it is appropriate with respect to Federal elections only, follows the constitutional parameters, and lays it all out in a way to protect our elections.

This is what we are supposed to do. We are supposed to protect our country. We are, in fact, the guardians of our country. When we sit in this hallowed Chamber, what on Earth are we supposed to do but do the work of protecting the country, which leads me to another point.

Our country is in danger right now because the President of the United States no longer has the mental capacity to carry out the powers and the duties of the office. I get no great joy in saying that. It is true.

It is appalling to watch the news media and my Democrat colleagues in this Chamber, in the Senate, and in the administration ignore the reality of the state of the President's mental acuity, endangering the American people, and now suddenly wake up because there is an election in a few months and suddenly go, oh, we need to do something about this. Why? Because there is an election in a few months.

Even at that, they are unwilling to call the question. I would posit that they are unwilling to call the question because the Democrats in the White House, indeed, the First Lady and the Vice President of the United States, are all complicit in covering up the lack of mental ability of the President, covering up the health, the mental health, the physical health of the

President. By doing this, they are endangering the American people. Indeed, they are unconstitutionally calling for President by committee.

I heard the former Secretary of Homeland Security, Jeh Johnson; I have heard numerous current administration staffers; I have heard numerous Democrat colleagues in the House and the Senate talk about: Don't worry. The President has some good people around him. Don't worry. There are a lot of really good people that are advising him. There are committees of people.

First of all, I am not blown away by the quality of the people surrounding the President. Second of all, that is not how it works.

The Founders firmly rejected, from memory, I think it is Alexander Hamilton in Federalist 70, the notion of President by committee, that it would endanger us, that you needed an executive, you needed a Commander in Chief to make the decisions.

A brief note to my colleagues on this side of the aisle who are saying CHIP, shhhh. Don't say anything. Don't bring it up. We are in election season. They are falling on their own sword. They are blowing up. Let them blow up.

What I am concerned about blowing up is our country if we are attacked and we have a President in the White House who can't respond. That job is not just from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This matters. It matters that the President of the United States is, at best, questionable to make decisions when it matters.

It is why the 25th Amendment exists, which, of course, requires the Vice President to take action, which I do not believe the Vice President will do because the Vice President knows she is complicit in having hid from the American people the mental state of the President of the United States for years.

This is not a political statement. As I have just noted, some people on my side of the aisle would rather I not say it. Shhhh. Let's just get to November. I just want our country to get to November. I want our country to get to December. I want our country to get to the next century.

When the President of the United States can't carry out the powers and the duties of the office without a committee of staff around him, when the press secretary at the White House today literally answered the question when asked by a reporter what would happen at 11 p.m. if nuclear weapons were fired at the United States, and her answer was: Well, there are some really good people around him that would come and talk to him. That gives me a lot of pause.

All of us who are in elected office have advisers, people we trust, seek their advice, seek their counsel, but I can promise you, when you know what hits the fan, if I have to come down here and make a decision, I walk down here and make a decision because that

is what we are hired to do. When you have to have a vote, you have to vote. When you have to come down and take action, you have to take action. The President of the United States is uniquely in that position.

The fact of the matter is this administration has been propped up, effectively, a Manchurian candidate, being propped up with committees of people around the President, hiding and obfuscating the truth, making decisions. That, frankly, should give all of us pause.

It is no wonder that the country is in such bad shape at the moment. Our country is being impoverished by the day. The Bureau of Labor Statistics found over the last year almost a million native-born Americans lost jobs on net.

Americans are spending over \$12,800 more annually to buy the basics because of the inflation under this administration. Mortgage rates are up to 7 percent. Housing affordability has plummeted to record lows. Gasoline is up 55 percent, eggs up 40 percent, flour up 35 percent, electricity up 29 percent, baby food up 29 percent, breakfast cereal up 25 percent, bread up 25 percent, chicken and poultry up 25 percent, lunch meat up 24 percent, eating out up 23 percent, rent up 21 percent, used cars up 20 percent. Americans have lost over \$4,400 paying higher energy costs under the President.

The Biden administration announced they paused all non-FTA exports for liquefied natural gas. What do you think that does? It doesn't help us. We are involved in endless conflicts, funding them. Nobody in this Chamber wants Ukraine to lose to Russia, but nobody in this Chamber wants to continue to fund a perpetual war by an administration that is out of touch while the American people are suffering. Biden has sold off more than 40 percent of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and in 2023, the SPR stockpile plunged to 40-year lows.

The fact of the matter is this administration is failing the American people. Republicans have for the last 18 months in this Congress for sure, if not the duration of the Biden administration, but certainly the last 18 months been putting forward responsible, strong policies that the President of the United States and my Democrat colleagues are rejecting.

We have worked hard to put forward Limit, Save, Grow, which would dramatically turn around the economic situation, dramatically reduce spending, dramatically reduce the size of the bureaucracy, dramatically improve our energy prices and competition around the globe, which, by the way, which would have had an impact in Ukraine, which would have helped us push back on Russia.

We passed responsible appropriations bills. We got caps enacted and put in place. The defense bill is funded. The increase in defense spending is funded out of taking cuts to the IRS expansion

the Democrats wanted to foist on hard-working Americans and we took money out of remaining COVID funds. Non-defense was then held flat.

We passed H.R. 2, a responsible border security bill, which would have ended the release of people into the United States. It would have tightened down on parole and asylum. It would have ended the release of unaccompanied children. It would have treated them responsibly. It would have reduced the power of cartels. It would have reduced sex trafficking, and it would have kept people like Laken Riley alive. We did that. We passed H.R. 2. Our Democrat colleagues opposed it. They opposed it in the Senate, and they opposed it here.

This Republican Conference has passed appropriation bill after appropriation bill to be rejected by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. We have passed thousands of amendments. We passed seven appropriations bills last year. We passed a number of appropriations bills this year, and we are continuing to pass them.

We are doing the work the American people sent us here to do with zero help from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and, frankly, I am proud of the work that we have been putting forward that has been rejected by our Democrat colleagues.

I haven't always agreed. I have been very clear on this floor. You have to deliver results. You have to get some things across the finish line. You have to be willing to hold the line and fight and use the power of the purse. There is more that we can do but make no mistake about it. We have been putting forward good bills to make our economy stronger.

If our legislation had been adopted by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle and the President, inflation would be down. The border would be secure. People would be enjoying much more affordable energy. Job creation would be up. People's lives and quality of life would be better. More Americans would be secure on the streets.

This week, we have on the floor a bill that would protect voting and ensure that only citizens vote. Again, if our colleagues on the other side of the aisle would work with us, we could do that. We could restore belief in our system. These are all the things that we have been working on, working to try to do.

Right now, our Democrat colleagues are wrapped around the axle trying to figure out what to do about their President because with all due respect, they are not putting America first. The President of the United States right now is not putting America first. The Vice President of the United States is not putting America first. The Cabinet is not putting America first.

If you were going to put America first, if you were going to put Americans first, then you would call it like you see it. You would act. You would lead. You would do what everyone in America knows needs to be done.

Everyone with eyes who has been watching the President—and again, I take no joy in saying it. He is our President. I disagree with him a lot, but he is our President, and the President of the United States needs to be strong and coherent and capable and able to lead in an increasingly dangerous world.

Notwithstanding the horrible policies that have been promoted and pushed by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, can we not just agree that the President of the United States should be mentally aware and competent to carry out the powers and duties of the office?

Will our colleagues on the other side of the aisle and in the administration not look at this the way every American is seeing this right now?

Even the most politically biased people in the media and around the country are looking at this and throwing their hands up and saying what is going on?

Admittedly, it is because they are panicking about the election in November when what it should be is that they are panicked about the state of our country and whether or not we can be safe and secure.

In the Book of Acts, it is noted that Paul was a Roman citizen. The Roman authorities put him in chains and were about to flog him without a trial, but when he said that he was born a citizen, they let him go even though he was spreading the message of hate and distrust of a religious minority, but citizenship meant a great deal.

One of the things that eventually led to the downfall of the Roman Empire was the fact that over the next few centuries after that, citizenship meant less and less and less until it meant almost nothing. Its people no longer knew how to preserve the civilization their ancestors had built. We cannot let the same thing happen here.

□ 1915

Citizenship matters. Being a citizen of this country matters. It matters in observing the White House. It matters in citizens voting in elections. It matters in the policies we put forward to put the American people first. Citizenship has to matter again.

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

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. JEFFRIES) for July 8 and July 9 on account of a funeral in the district.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-4739. A letter from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Information Security Controls: Cybersecurity Items [Docket No.: 220520-0118] (RIN: 0694-AH56) received May 28, 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-4740. A letter from the Program Analyst, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation/RMA, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Expanding Options for Specialty and Organic Growers (EOSOG) [Docket ID: FCIC-24-0003] (RIN: 0563-AC85) received June 28, 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-4741. A letter from the Program Analyst, Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — U.S. Grade Standards for Pecans in the Shell and Shelled Pecans [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-21-0039] received June 28, 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-4742. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing Colonel Robert J. Schreiner, United States Space Force, to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4743. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing Colonels Terri J. Erisman and Steven M. Ranieri, United States Army, to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4744. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing 31 officers to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general or major general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4745. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing seven officers to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half), pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4746. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing eight officers to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general, pursuant to

10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4747. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Limitation on the Acquisition of Certain Goods Other Than United States Goods (DFARS Case 2021-D022) [Docket: DARS-2023-0042] (RIN: 0750-AL40) 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 Armed Services.

EC-4748. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Restriction on Certain Metal Products (DFARS Case 2021-D015) [Docket: DARS-2023-0018] (RIN: 0750-AL33) 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 Armed Services.

EC-4749. A letter from the OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Architect and Engineering Service Fees (DFARS Case 2024-D019) [Docket: DARS-2024-0019] (RIN: 0750-AM16) 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 Armed Services.

EC-4750. A letter from the OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation [Docket ID: DoD-2024-OS-0047] (RIN: 0790-AL77) 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 Armed Services.

EC-4751. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — TRICARE; Removal of Certain Temporary Regulation Changes Made in Response to COVID-19 [Docket ID: DOD-2023-HA-0049] (RIN: 0720-AB89) 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 Armed Services.

EC-4752. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Data Requirements for Commercial Products for Major Weapon Systems (DFARS Case 2023-D010) [Docket: DARS-2023-0047] (RIN: 0750-AL83) 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 Armed Services.

EC-4753. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Revision of Limitations on Subcontracting [FAC 2021-07; FAR Case 2016-011; Item II; Docket No.: 2016-0011; Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN35) received June 12, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4754. A letter from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's 2023 Fair Lending Report, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 5493(c)(2)(D); Public Law 111-203, Sec. 1013(c)(2)(D); (124 Stat. 1970); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-4755. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's advisory opinion — Consumer Information Requests to Large Banks and Credit Unions received June 24, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-4756. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's letter — Use of Federal Work-Study Funds for Voter Registration 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-4757. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Service, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Rulemaking and Guidance Procedures [Docket ID: ED-2020-OGC-0150] (RIN: 1801-AA22) 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 Education and the Workforce.

EC-4758. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Valuation Assumptions and Methods (RIN: 1212-AA55) received June 12, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-4759. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Mattoon, Illinois) [MB Docket No.: 24-83] 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-4760. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's regulatory issue summary — Required Assessment of U.S. Department of Energy Laboratories by Licensees, Applicants, and Suppliers To Verify the Effective Implementation of Their Quality Assurance Programs [Regulatory Issue Summary 2024-02] received June 18, 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-4761. A letter from the Associate Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's safety evaluation — Safety Evaluation for EPRI Technical Report 3002023774, EPRI MOV Performance Prediction Methodology (PPM), Version 4.1 received June 18, 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-4762. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's issuance of regulatory guide — Regulatory Guide: Qualification of Class 1E Battery Chargers, Inverters, and Uninterruptible Power Supply Systems for Production and Utilization Facilities [Regulation 1.210, Revision 1], 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-4763. A letter from the Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, transmitting the Agency's 2023 Annual Report and Financial Audit, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 2002(b); Public Law 109-469, Sec. 702(b); (120 Stat.

3534); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4764. A letter from the Deputy Director Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Securing the Information and Communications Technology and Services Supply Chain; Connected Software Applications [Docket No.: 230125-0025] (RIN: 0605-AA62) received May 28, 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-4765. A letter from the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, transmitting the 2023 management report of the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco including financial statements, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106(a)(1); Public Law 97-258 (as amended by Public Law 101-576, Sec. 306(a)); (104 Stat. 2854); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4766. A letter from the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, transmitting the 2022 management report of the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco including financial statements, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106(a)(1); Public Law 97-258 (as amended by Public Law 101-576, Sec. 306(a)); (104 Stat. 2854); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4767. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Corporation's Semiannual Report to Congress for the period October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4768. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress, covering the period ending March 31, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4769. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's interim rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Increasing the Minimum Wage for Contractors [FAC 2022-04; FAR Case 2021-014, Docket No.: FAR-2021-0014, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AO31) received June 12, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4770. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Amendments to the FAR Buy American Act Requirements [FAC 2022-05; FAR Case 2021-008, Docket No.: 2021-0008, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AO22) received June 12, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4771. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Management Response for the period of October 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4772. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Guidance Procedures (RIN: 3206-AO63) 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 Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4773. A letter from the President and CEO, Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, transmitting the 2023 management re-

port and financial statements of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106(a)(1); Public Law 97-258 (as amended by Public Law 101-576, Sec. 306(a)); (104 Stat. 2854); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4774. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, transmitting the 2023 management report and financial statements of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106(a)(1); Public Law 97-258 (as amended by Public Law 101-576, Sec. 306(a)); (104 Stat. 2854); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4775. A letter from the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, transmitting the 2023 management report and financial statements of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106(a)(1); Public Law 97-258 (as amended by Public Law 101-576, Sec. 306(a)); (104 Stat. 2854); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4776. A letter from the Executive Assistant to the Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Cape Hatteras National Seashore; Bicycling [NPS-CAHA-NPS37329; Docket No.: NPS-2023-0003; 233P103601-PPSECAHASO-PPMPSPD1Z.YM0000] (RIN: 1024-AE83) 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 Natural Resources.

EC-4777. A letter from the Congressional Affairs Specialist, Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's interim final rule — Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary: Establishment of Temporary Special Use Area for Coral Nursery [Docket No.: 240618-0166] (RIN: 0648-BN10) 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 Natural Resources.

EC-4778. A letter from the Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary; Final Regulations [Docket No.: 240329-0091] (RIN: 0648-BJ62) 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 Natural Resources.

EC-4779. A letter from the Agency Representative, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rules Governing Pre-Issuance Internal Circulation and Review of Decisions Within the Patent Trial and Appeal Board [Docket No.: PTO-P-2023-0012] (RIN: 0651-AD68) 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 the Judiciary.

EC-4780. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Program Fraud Civil Remedies: Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment (RIN: 3206-AO65) 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 the Judiciary.

EC-4781. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program and Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program Regulations [Docket Number: DOT-OST-2024-0006] (RIN: 2105-AE69) received June 28, 2024, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4782. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs [Docket: DOT-OST-2021-0093] (RIN: 2105-AE94) received June 28, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4783. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs: Technical Amendments [Docket: DOT-OST-2021-0093] (RIN: 2105-AE94) received June 28, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4784. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Section, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Treatment of certain relief payments made to individuals affected by the East Palestine, Ohio train derailment [Notice 2024-46] 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 Ways and Means.

EC-4785. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulations and Security Standards, Office of the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Flight Training Security Program [Docket No.: TSA-2004-19147; Amendment No.: 1552-1] (RIN: 1652-AA35) received June 12, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Homeland Security.

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. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1341. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8281) 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; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.R. 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", providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8772) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7700) to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for dishwashers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; and providing or consideration of the bill (H.R. 7637) to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-578). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 8954. A bill to promote the development of renewable energy on public lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 8955. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to ensure that, whenever the Indian Health Service undertakes an investigation into the professional conduct of a licensee of a State, the Service notifies the relevant State medical board, 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 Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota):

H.R. 8956. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act for the development and implementation of a centralized system to credential licensed health professionals who seek to provide health care services at any Indian Health Service unit; 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 Mr. CURTIS (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. SORENSEN, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. BUCHSON, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEEMER, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MALOY, Mr. MAGAZINER, and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 8957. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study and submit a report on the greenhouse gas emissions intensity of certain products produced in the United States and in certain foreign countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LUCAS (for himself, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. SORENSEN):

H.R. 8958. A bill to reauthorize the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. ALLRED (for himself, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. SALINAS, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H.R. 8959. A bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to ensure DACA recipients are eligible for educational awards; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 8960. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow participation in

certain Fulbright programs to qualify for the repayment plan for public service employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 8961. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on Federal agency use of renewable energy certificates; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 8962. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a methane border adjustment mechanism; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DELUZIO:

H.R. 8963. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 521 Thorn Street in Sewickley, Pennsylvania, as the "Mary Elizabeth 'Bettie' Cole Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. GRIMALVA, Mr. MEEKS, and Mrs. BEATTY):

H.R. 8964. A bill to amend the HITECH Act to allow an individual to obtain a copy of such individual's protected health information at no cost unless certain circumstances apply, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FROST (for himself and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 8965. A bill to promote the development of certain plans, policies, and standards for managing cybersecurity risks and protecting sensitive technology relating to National Aeronautics and Space Administration spacecraft systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 8966. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to improve the recruitment and retention of employees in the Indian Health Service, restore accountability in the Indian Health Service, improve health services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia (for herself and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H.R. 8967. A bill to extend the authority of the Secretary of the Army to enter into a contract, partnership, or grant with a non-profit organization for the purpose of providing financial support for the maintenance and sustainment of infrastructure and facilities at military service memorials and museums that highlight the role of women in the military; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. LESKO (for herself and Mr. LATTA):

H.R. 8968. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to require annual reports on generation and load capacity by Regional Transmission Organizations and Independent System Operators, to establish reliability markets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LUTTRELL (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. ARRINGTON, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. BEAN of Florida, and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia):

H.R. 8969. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed an offense related to entering military, naval, or coast guard property, are inadmissible and deportable; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MOLINARO (for himself, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Ms. STEFANK, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. LANGWORTHY):

H.R. 8970. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a publicly available database that includes information regarding aliens without lawful status in the United States who have been convicted of felonies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H.R. 8971. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an investment credit for certain domestic infant formula manufacturing facilities; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 8972. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to update certain regulations to allow for expanded use of lap held child restraints during flights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. TOKUDA (for herself, Mrs. PELTOLA, and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 8973. A bill to amend the American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Culture and Art Development Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. VALADAO (for himself and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana):

H.R. 8974. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a Blue Campaign Certification Program to encourage employers in covered industries to encourage employees to complete training to recognize and respond to suspected human trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. ADAMS (for herself, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. MANNING, Mr. CARSON, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. WILD, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. HOYER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, and Mr. ESPAILLAT):

H. Con. Res. 118. Concurrent resolution recognizing the significance of equal pay and the disparity in wages paid to men and to Black women; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H. Res. 1341. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8281) 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; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (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"; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8772) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7700) to prohibit the

Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for dishwashers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7637) to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN:

H. Res. 1342. A resolution electing a Member to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H. Res. 1343. 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; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. LUNA (for herself, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. BURCHETT, and Mr. ALFORD):

H. Res. 1344. A resolution finding that Merrick Garland, Attorney General of the United States, is in contempt of the House of Representatives for disobeying a certain subpoena; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. NEAL (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. KEATING, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. AMO, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. TITUS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mrs. TRAHAN):

H. Res. 1345. A resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Ireland; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. WILD:

H. Res. 1346. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7056) to prohibit the limitation of access to assisted reproductive technology, and all medical care surrounding such technology; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia:

H. Res. 1347. A resolution calling for the immediate release of George Glezmann, a United States citizen who was wrongfully detained by the Taliban on December 5, 2022, and condemning the wrongful detention of all Americans by the Taliban; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 8954.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2. (The Property Clause.)

The single subject of this legislation is: Federal lands

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 8955.

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

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to ensure that, whenever the Indian Health Service undertakes an investigation into the professional conduct of a licensee of a State, the Service notifies the relevant State medical board, and for other purposes.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 8956.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Indian Health Care improvement Act for the Development and Implementation of a centralized system to credential licensed health professionals who seek to provide health care services at any Indian Health Service Unit

By Mr. CURTIS:

H.R. 8957.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study and submit a report on the greenhouse gas emissions intensity of certain products produced in the United States and in certain foreign countries, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 8958.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

"The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

To reauthorize the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

By Mr. ALLRED:

H.R. 8959.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Labor and Employment

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 8960.

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

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Public Service Loan Forgiveness Reform

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 8961.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Energy Policy

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 8962.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Fair Trade

By Mr. DELUZIO:

H.R. 8963.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:
Postal

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 8964.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:
health care.

By Mr. FROST:

H.R. 8965.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To promote the development of certain plans, policies, and standards for managing cybersecurity risks and protecting sensitive technology relating to National Aeronautics and Space Administration spacecraft systems, and for other purposes.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 8966.

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

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to improve the recruitment and retention of employees in the Indian Health Service, restore accountability in the Indian Health Service, improve health services, and for other purposes.

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia:

H.R. 8967.

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

Article 1, section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Authorizes the Secretary of the Army to use appropriated funds to maintain certain memorials.

By Mrs. LESKO:

H.R. 8968.

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

The power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To lower energy costs by increasing American energy production and restoring energy leadership.

By Mr. LUTTRELL:

H.R. 8969.

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

Article I, Section 8. To make laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

National Security

By Mr. MOLINARO:

H.R. 8970.

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

Article I Section VIII

The single subject of this legislation is:
Immigration

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:

H.R. 8971.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an investment credit for certain domestic infant formula manufacturing facilities.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 8972.

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

Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Transportation and Public Works

By Ms. TOKUDA:

H.R. 8973.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Amending the American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Culture and Art Development Act.

By Mr. VALADAO:

H.R. 8974.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a Blue Campaign Certification Program to encourage employers in covered industries to encourage employees to complete training to recognize and respond to suspected human trafficking.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 33: Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 549: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 553: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 802: Mr. PALMER.
H.R. 884: Ms. DELBENE, Ms. CARAVEO, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 906: Mrs. TRAHAN and Mr. BURLISON.
H.R. 957: Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 1003: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1008: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 1015: Ms. STANSBURY and Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 1088: Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mr. ELLZEY, and Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California.
H.R. 1118: Mrs. PELTOLA and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1269: Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 1425: Mr. HILL.
H.R. 1507: Ms. WILD, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. CLYBURN.
H.R. 1572: Ms. BUDZINSKI and Mr. ZINKE.
H.R. 1624: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 1699: Mrs. MCBATH.
H.R. 1705: Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 1708: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 1723: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York and Mr. MCGARVEY.
H.R. 1759: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 1787: Mrs. MCCLAIN.
H.R. 1831: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. DUARTE.
H.R. 2413: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 2474: Ms. BALINT, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Mr. GALLEGRO.
H.R. 2744: Mr. FINSTAD.
H.R. 2827: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 2870: Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 2923: Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 2955: Mrs. KIM of California.
H.R. 3042: Mr. BERA and Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 3090: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 3106: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 3170: Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, and Mr. CARL.
H.R. 3225: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3366: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 3432: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 3445: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 3470: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3475: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 3537: Mr. DELUZZO, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. AMO.
H.R. 3539: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California and Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 3790: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 3826: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 3851: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.
H.R. 3962: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 4020: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4070: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 4335: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H.R. 4355: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
H.R. 4384: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 4426: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 4519: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
H.R. 4538: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 4699: Mr. CASAR.
H.R. 4769: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
H.R. 4886: Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. STANTON, and Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 4893: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. BERA, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 4933: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 4963: Mr. VAN ORDEN and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 4987: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H.R. 5048: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 5074: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 5103: Mr. STEUBE and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 5177: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 5247: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 5300: Mrs. MCCLAIN.
H.R. 5399: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 5456: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.
H.R. 5532: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H.R. 5540: Mrs. FISCHBACH.
H.R. 5830: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 5840: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 5908: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 5909: Mr. TONKO, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. BARRAGAN.
H.R. 5995: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 6003: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 6041: Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. TRONE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 6242: Mr. MORELLE and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 6328: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 6416: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 6451: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 6600: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 6654: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 6860: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 6950: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 6951: Mrs. LESKO and Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 7002: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER and Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 7039: Mr. SARBANES and Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 7056: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 7132: Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILD, Mr. COSTA, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. BOWMAN, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 7138: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 7165: Mr. SUOZZI, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, and Mr. MRVAN.
H.R. 7213: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 7222: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.
H.R. 7274: Mr. CASE and Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 7342: Ms. PETERSEN and Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 7359: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 7365: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
H.R. 7373: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 7378: Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 7388: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 7398: Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 7438: Ms. BUSH and Mr. LALOTA.

- H.R. 7495: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 7508: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 7546: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 7600: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 7618: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 7629: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 7670: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 7725: Mrs. HOUCHIN and Mr. PALMER.
H.R. 7764: Mr. CISCOMANI and Mrs. CHAVEZ-
DEREMER.
H.R. 7772: Mr. BURLISON.
H.R. 7814: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 7914: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK and
Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 7977: Mr. ARRINGTON.
H.R. 7999: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.
H.R. 8018: Mr. MULLIN and Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 8025: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 8042: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 8061: Mr. NADLER, Mr. ROGERS of Ala-
bama, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr.
LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 8193: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 8232: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H.R. 8300: Ms. PINGREE and Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 8307: Mr. COHEN, Mr. SABLAN, and Mr.
D'ESPOSITO.
H.R. 8314: Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 8336: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 8341: Mr. HUIZENGA.
H.R. 8345: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H.R. 8358: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 8370: Mrs. PELTOLA, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr.
MRVAN, and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
H.R. 8371: Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 8407: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 8419: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 8426: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 8427: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 8442: Mr. KENNEDY and Ms.
STANSBURY.
H.R. 8469: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 8492: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 8501: Mr. RASKIN and Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 8530: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 8536: Mr. CASAR.
H.R. 8554: Mr. CASAR.
H.R. 8566: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey and Mr.
KEATING.
H.R. 8575: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. LAWLER, Ms.
CLARKE of New York, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 8588: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 8679: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 8693: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 8702: Ms. OMAR, Mr. POCAN, Mrs.
LESKO, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. MOONEY.
H.R. 8704: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 8706: Mr. FLOOD and Mr. PALMER.
H.R. 8734: Mr. FULCHER.
H.R. 8765: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California,
Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Mr. FROST.
H.R. 8770: Mr. MOYLAN.
H.R. 8777: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. OGLES, Mr.
WALTZ, and Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 8784: Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 8801: Mr. FINSTAD.
H.R. 8807: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. MRVAN.
H.R. 8821: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
H.R. 8828: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 8830: Mr. DELUZZIO and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 8878: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 8880: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.
H.R. 8883: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 8892: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 8899: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 8906: Mr. SELF.
H.R. 8913: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 8915: Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H.R. 8924: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 8926: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr.
LAWLER, and Mrs. KIM of California.
H.R. 8932: Mr. FINSTAD, Mrs. BICE, and Mr.
OWENS.
H.R. 8936: Mr. LAWLER and Mrs. KIM of
California.
H.R. 8937: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 8941: Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H.J. Res. 82: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia
and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.J. Res. 117: Mr. LATURNER.
H.J. Res. 133: Mr. FITZGERALD.
H.J. Res. 142: Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. GROTHMAN,
Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. ESTES.
H.J. Res. 144: Mr. FALLON.
H.J. Res. 148: Ms. VAN DUYN and Mr. ARM-
STRONG.
H.J. Res. 150: Mr. PERRY.
H.J. Res. 161: Mr. DONALDS.
H.J. Res. 181: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. THOMP-
SON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. OWENS.
H. Con. Res. 115: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H. Res. 439: Mr. TONKO, Mrs. NAPOLITANO,
Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. KILDEE,
Ms. PINGREE, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms.
DELBENE, and Ms. STEVENS.
H. Res. 530: Ms. PETTERSEN.
H. Res. 561: Mr. NORCROSS.
H. Res. 1003: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H. Res. 1012: Mr. SUOZZI.
H. Res. 1063: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina
and Ms. BROWNLEY.
H. Res. 1131: Ms. NORTON.
H. Res. 1198: Mr. WITTMAN.
H. Res. 1279: Ms. STEVENS.
H. Res. 1286: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H. Res. 1323: Mr. BOST, Mr. RUTHERFORD,
Mr. FINSTAD, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H. Res. 1327: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MCGOVERN,
Mr. LAWLER, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. TITUS,
Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York,
and Mr. MAGAZINER.
H. Res. 1328: Mr. LAWLER.
H. Res. 1329: Mr. TORRES of New York.
H. Res. 1332: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.



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WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024

No. 113

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Presiding Officer offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious God, You are known by many names, worshipped in many houses. In You we live, move, and have our being. Strengthen us now in the work that You have allowed us to do, that our country might know Your grace, Your justice, and Your mercy.

Center the concerns of the marginalized, and may the words of the prophet live in our lives: "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream."

Grant that our work might bring good news to the poor and all of God's children might be blessed.

In the name of the God who loves us into freedom and frees us into loving. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 9, 2024.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Patricia L. Lee, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2027.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

TRUMP PRESIDENCY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, American democracy faces a test of survival in 2024.

Almost 8 years ago, Donald Trump was elected President and commenced one of the most chaotic periods our country has seen in our lifetimes. Under a Trump Presidency, Republicans tried to rip away affordable

healthcare for tens of millions of American families, and they nearly succeeded. Under a Trump Presidency, Republicans packed our courts with radical judges who took America back half a century by repealing Roe v. Wade.

This week, the Senate will take up a simple resolution cosponsored by every female Senator in our caucus and myself that asks a very simple question: Where do Senators stand on freedom of choice? Do we believe that a woman should have the 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 he or she stands.

Of course, there is more. Under a Trump Presidency, megacorporations and the richest of the rich—the very, very wealthy—saw their taxes go down and profits go up, while middle-class families kept paying more for prescription drugs, childcare, and basic necessities.

Under the Trump Presidency, America was plunged into utter chaos. The pandemic was far worse than it needed to be because Donald Trump refused to confront it head-on and refused to be honest to the American people. We lived in constant anxiety about the next tweet from the White House.

Our allies saw Trump and questioned if they could trust him, while auto-crats saw Trump and wanted to be like him. It is no wonder that Trump went out of his way to pay fealty to dictators like Putin and buddy up to Kim Jong Un. It was downright un-American.

Four years later, Trump wants to do it all again. But there is a big difference between then and now. For all the chaos and disaster of the first Trump Presidency, it pales in comparison to the threat of a second Trump Presidency and the threat it would pose to our democracy.

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



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S4251

Over the last few weeks, there has been a whole lot of attention about a policy platform drafted by the Heritage Foundation, arguably the most influential conservative think tank in America. The platform, in effect, is the Trump manifesto. The project is staffed by over 200 former officials of the Trump Presidency and is connected to Trump Cabinet members, former campaign advisers, political appointees, and more.

If you read through this Trump manifesto, it is very clear what the hard right is telling America: Put us in power, and we will gut America from the inside out.

Trump's manifesto calls for the most conservative agenda America has ever seen, one that makes 1964 Barry Goldwater look like a moderate.

The Trump manifesto lays the groundwork for a nationwide abortion ban and calls for removing mifepristone from the market. It calls for defunding the Department of Education.

The Trump manifesto calls for reversing Democrats' clean energy agenda, while empowering the Nation's biggest oil and gas polluters.

The Trump manifesto calls for silencing and attacking all of Donald Trump's political enemies. The hard right is done speaking in euphemisms. They are saying it straight to our faces: If you disagree with Donald Trump, watch your back.

To see this happen in America is bone-chilling.

MAGA's political threats are reminiscent of the autocratic fervor we saw in Europe in the early 20th century, and for the first time, we are wondering: Could it ever happen here in America?

I hope not, but it all keeps going.

The Trump manifesto also calls for defunding Federal law enforcement and replacing thousands of Federal personnel with individuals loyal, above all, to Donald Trump.

And, finally, of course, the Trump manifesto calls for more tax cuts for the very wealthy, more tax cuts for corporate elites, more tax cuts for megacorporations, and oil and gas polluters. This is really the end goal of MAGA extremism: tax cuts for the top 1 percent, dystopia for everybody else.

Donald Trump promised that he would be a dictator on day one, and this manifesto is the playbook for how he will follow through on that threat. It is dangerous. The damage may be irreversible. The destruction could be unthinkable. And it would be a betrayal of everything that our Framers fought for, that the Union fought for, that the "greatest generation" fought for.

Donald Trump cannot—must not—be allowed within 10 miles of the Oval Office ever again.

NATO

Mr. President, on NATO, this week, the United States will welcome NATO leaders to Washington for the 2024

NATO summit. Western democracy faces perhaps its gravest threat since the Cold War. So this year's NATO summit comes at an inflection point.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine rages on. Putin's cruelty—cruelty—shows no sign of softening. We read yesterday a heartbreaking and infuriating report. Russian missile strikes obliterated a wing of the largest children's hospital in Kyiv, killing at least 31 Ukrainians, injuring another 150.

Shooting a missile at a children's hospital that had no military significance is vicious; it is nasty. It shows what a scoundrel Putin is.

My heart breaks for those children in hospital whose lives were taken away in the attack, the mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters drowning in grief. Again, this was the largest children's hospital in the Ukrainian capital, where kids who had cancer were going—a place that should be off limits to anyone who is a decent, honorable human being; who has at all a heart.

Putin has none of that—no decency, no honor, no heart—and it shows you how utterly morally bankrupt Putin's invasion of Ukraine truly is.

A lot of hard-right extremists led by Donald Trump tried to kill Ukraine aid earlier this year, but Putin's attack against the children's hospital shows why it is essential for America to stand with Ukraine. They are fighting an evil brute in Russia, and the worst thing America can do is show weakness against Putin or tell Ukraine we will abandon them. I am glad we stepped up earlier.

So as the NATO leaders gather in DC this week, nothing less than the future of Western democracy is at stake. President Biden will bring an unmistakable message to our NATO allies, as well as to our adversaries watching across the world: America will never turn its back on NATO.

My Senate colleagues and I will be honored to welcome the leaders of NATO here to the Capitol this week, as well as President Zelenskyy of Ukraine. We in the Senate will send President Zelenskyy and our NATO allies the same message we have shared from day one: America will never turn its back on you.

The same cannot be said for Donald Trump. Remember, it was Donald Trump who called NATO "obsolete" and said that he would encourage Russia to do "whatever the hell they want" to our NATO allies. Amazing. This is the wrong message to send to NATO, with so much at stake around the world. It is another example of why the MAGA hard right can't be trusted to lead on the global stage.

FIRE GRANTS AND SAFETY ACT

Mr. President, finally, on one other point, the Fire Grants and Safety Act, which we passed here in the Senate, helping our firefighters to get the equipment they need, adding to certain fire departments the more firefighters that they need, making us all safer, making our firefighters safer, and, fi-

nally, renewing the old Fire Grants and SAFER Act that Senator Dodd and I passed back in 2002, is a great thing.

Today, the President will sign it. I salute President Biden for supporting this legislation and helping us get it through the Congress.

I salute our firefighters, both paid and volunteer, who rush to danger to protect us when there is danger afloat. God bless them. I am glad that the Fire Grants and Safety Act that backs them up will be signed into law in a few hours.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

NATO

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in 1949, 12 nations gathered here in Washington to establish the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Seventy-five years later, our Nation's Capital welcomes NATO's 32 members back for a pivotal summit.

The most successful military alliance in human history has shepherded the free world through serious challenges—from nuclear-armed Cold War, through vicious terrorist attacks, to a new chapter of multipolar competition. This has always been a collective effort, but it has always required American leadership, and today, America and our allies face a serious test of resolve.

Russian aggression, Iran-backed terror, unchecked nuclear proliferation from North Korea, and China's bid for hegemony aren't just regional concerns; they are facets of an increasingly coordinated threat to Americans' security and prosperity.

The transatlantic alliance faces doubts at home and abroad about the credibility of our commitment to uphold this order. All NATO allies will share the risks if it is undone. All of us will suffer if autocrats and despots succeed in rewriting rules and redrawing maps. Even still, on the occasion of the Washington summit, there are encouraging signs that NATO is rising to meet the challenges.

Two years on, brutal Russian escalation hasn't just woken European allies from decades of neglect for their military capabilities; it has spurred a sea change in defense policy all across Europe and a renaissance of investment in defense industrial bases and cutting-edge weapons.

Across Europe, America's allies are investing 18 percent more on their defenses than they were a year ago. More than two-thirds of NATO's members

have now met or exceeded the alliance's 2 percent defense spending target. Just as important, many are committing 20 percent of their defense budgets to procuring new weapons and capabilities.

But the latest data did more than confirm the end of our "holiday from history"; they also prove what I have been explaining to our colleagues for years: When America leads by example, allies invest right here in America. A full two-thirds of our allies' spending on new defense procurement is going to buy American-made weapons and systems. Right now, U.S. industry is filling more than \$140 billion in contracts booked by European allies.

Many allies also are expanding their own defense industrial capacity—an encouraging and necessary step that will make NATO even more resilient.

Of course, one of the most encouraging developments since the last NATO summit has been the addition of two strong, new allies with highly capable militaries and cutting-edge industrial bases of their own. It was a tremendous honor to work closely with the leaders of Finland and Sweden throughout their accession to the alliance, and I am proud to join the Democratic leader in hosting them on Capitol Hill this week.

Today, the enemies of Western peace and prosperity are giving us good reason—good reason—to take the strength of our alliances and partnerships even more seriously. The authoritarians and rogue states seeking to undermine us are working together, and we can't afford not to do the same. That is why all NATO allies need to take hard power more seriously; why the 2-percent defense spending target is a floor but is not a ceiling; why these spending increases must be built into base budgets, not treated as one-off emergencies; and why contracting and procurement have to move at the speed of relevance, not the speed of bureaucracy.

These lessons apply as much to America as they do to our European allies, and they apply even more so to our neighbor to the north. Canada is one of the only allies without a plan to reach the 2-percent spending target.

It is encouraging that as NATO members address the deficiencies of our own collective security obligations, we are joined this week by essential non-NATO partners who are taking increasingly clear-eyed approaches to their own security.

The presence of leaders from the Indo-Pacific is an especially powerful reminder of our shared stake in the future of a Western order that preserves the freedom of navigation, territorial integrity, and the right to self-determination.

I will have more to say as the week goes on, but I am grateful for the opportunity to welcome America's friends to Washington at this critical time, and I am hopeful that together, the alliance will make headway on the serious business before us.

ENERGY

Mr. President, on one final matter, last week, a Federal judge in Louisiana blocked the Biden administration's de facto ban on new permitting for the export of America's abundant liquefied natural gas.

As I have said before, the administration's so-called pause is bad policy for a whole host of reasons. It endangers good-paying American jobs and could drive high prices for energy and consumer goods through the roof.

Of course, when the flow of clean American LNG slows down, it also presents close allies and trading partners with the prospect of increased reliance on dirtier energy from less savory places.

The overwhelming majority of U.S. exports go to consumers in Europe and Asia, but as the Biden administration tries to choke off American market dominance, Russian export capacity is actually surging to meet demand. Russia is lining its war chest with the spoils of its energy exports, and it is quite literally fueling the war in Ukraine with the proceeds of what the President's own Energy Secretary has described as "the dirtiest form of natural gas on Earth."

It is a dizzying move from an administration that has, until now, put green activists in the driver's seat of its energy policy. As we learned last week, it doesn't pass muster in Federal court, where a judge ruled in favor of the 16 States that sued to block this ridiculous—ridiculous—moratorium. The judge agreed with the plaintiffs that the Department of Energy failed to justify the pause on LNG exports and that they failed to consider the "impact on national security, state revenues, employment opportunities, funding for schools and charities, and pollution allegedly caused by increased reliance on foreign energy sources."

Well, there you have it—the courts have slapped down the Biden administration's disregard for the law. Now it is time to release American energy projects from the regulatory purgatory where they have been trapped for far too long.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the Supreme Court recently concluded its term, and, as predicted, Democrats met the decisions they didn't like with howls of outrage. "We will fight to rein in the outrageous abuses of this brazen Court," one Democrat offered temperately. "We must expand the Court now," another cried, before it "destroy[s] our democracy and our

planet." Yet another announced that she would be filing impeachment articles against a Supreme Court Justice or Justices, presumably for the high crime of ruling in a way that she didn't like.

For years now—since at least the last administration—Democrats have been engaged in a concerted campaign to paint the Supreme Court as illegitimate and extreme. We have heard about "stolen seats" and "MAGA justices" and other melodramatic statements meant to persuade the American people that the Supreme Court has somehow been hijacked. But what it all boils down to is this: Democrats think that the only legitimate Supreme Court is a Supreme Court that rules in line with Democrats' policy preferences. That is it. That is what all of this boils down to.

Democrats can dress things up any way they like with a host of invented reasons for why this Court is illegitimate, but the truth of the matter is, Democrats' real problem with this Court is that a number of the Justices have had the temerity to periodically deliver rulings with which Democrats disagree. If this Court were universally delivering the outcome the Democrats want, they would have no problem with the Court or its Republican nominees.

I could spend time debunking Democrats' wild claims. I could point out just how often this Court delivers unanimous decisions. Yes, contrary to what you might think from Democrats' lurid statements, the Democrat nominees and the Republican nominees are frequently in unanimous agreement. Or I could talk about just how often some of the Court's more conservative Justices and some of the Court's more liberal justices agree. But I am not going to do that today because I would like to spend a minute talking about the profound irresponsibility Democrats are displaying.

We hear a lot from Democrats about their concern for our institutions, and yet they are attempting to delegitimize a bedrock American institution, all for the crime of periodically daring to deliver decisions with which Democrats disagree.

At a time of deep political division, I can think of few things more irresponsible than attempting to shake Americans' faith in the impartiality of the Court and the legitimacy of our institutions.

I realize that Democrats don't like it when a decision doesn't go their way, and I completely understand that. I have disagreed with a few Supreme Court decisions in my time. But it is one thing—a legitimate thing—to disagree with a decision; it is another thing entirely to let your disagreement lead you into attempting to delegitimize a duly constituted Court composed of nine duly confirmed Justices.

I hate to tell Democrats, but in a democratic republic such as ours, you don't always get your way, and the

proper response when you don't get your way is not to attempt to tear down institutions or pack the Court so that you always get the outcome you want.

Before I close, there is one other thing I would like to address, and that is the disturbing anti-religious sentiment that has cropped up in recent Democrat attacks on the Court. It is not a new thing for Democrats, of course.

We all remember the Democrat ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee telling then-circuit court nominee Amy Coney Barrett that "the dogma lives loudly within you," with the implication that anyone who takes his or her religious faith seriously can't be trusted to hold public office.

Another judicial nominee faced scrutiny for his membership in the Knights of Columbus—a Catholic organization that participates in such disturbing activities as serving veterans, raising money for the needy, and providing young people with scholarships.

Of course, during the last Presidential election cycle, a Biden staffer stated that she would prefer that orthodox Catholics, Muslims, and Jews not sit on the Supreme Court.

Now it would appear that that anti-religious sentiment is back, with more than one Senate Democrat suggesting that certain members of the Supreme Court can't be trusted because they happen to take their religious faith seriously. These Democrats take the fact that these members of the Court have periodically ruled in ways that Democrats don't like as evidence that they are attempting to impose their faith instead of the law, with the implication that religious people are incapable of distinguishing between the two.

The Constitution is very clear on whether being a person of faith can disqualify you from public office. From article VI:

[N]o religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

Let me just repeat that.

[N]o religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

It is becoming clear that that isn't a section of our Constitution that Democrats agree with or at least understand, and that in and of itself is deeply disturbing.

I shouldn't have to tell Democrats that religious people are as capable as any other of distinguishing between their beliefs and the law or that our Founders did not intend for religious people to be second-class citizens or that a Supreme Court Justice disagreeing with a Democrat does not mean that the Supreme Court Justice is attempting to impose his or her faith. It likely means that he or she is trying to impose the law and the Constitution.

I am a little tired of members of the Democratic Party promoting the un-American idea that taking your faith

seriously makes you less qualified to participate in the public square.

If Democrats really cared about protecting our democracy and American institutions, they would stop trying to undermine the legitimacy of the Supreme Court. But with Democrats' inability to deal with not getting their way—and with an upcoming election this November—I am not going to be holding my breath.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it was 11 years ago that I wrote a letter to John Roberts, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court—11 years ago—asking him a basic question: Mr. Chief Justice, why is it that you believe the nine Justices that sit on the Supreme Court should be treated differently than any other person in Federal Government when it comes to a code of ethics?

I didn't receive a reply to that letter. We know what has happened since. Through private investigations and investigations by journalistic organizations, we have come to discover that at least one sitting Supreme Court Justice—Clarence Thomas—has received more than \$4 million in gifts from billionaires. What kind of gifts? Travel, jet airplane travel, travel on yachts, long-term vacations—worth more than \$4 million, largely undisclosed to the American public.

What is going on here? A Justice on the Supreme Court receives over \$4 million in gifts from billionaires and doesn't disclose it to the public? What about other Federal judges in like circumstances? Do they have requirements when it comes to the gifts they can accept and what has to be disclosed? Of course they do—in detail. It is only the nine Supreme Court Justices that exempted themselves from the basic, enforceable, transparent code of ethics that applies to every other Federal judge in America.

So when my friend from South Dakota comes to the floor and says we are being too critical of the Supreme Court—\$4 million in gifts? If any Member of the Senate received that kind of largesse, they would be held responsible for it under the law—and should be.

Secondly, this notion that being critical of the Supreme Court is somehow critical of the institution, I do raise questions—and I will in the statement I am about to make this morning—as to some of the most recent decisions. I think they are terrible. I think that in terms of their impact on the future of the Court and the future of the Constitution, we have legitimate concerns that should be raised. But to raise those questions is not to attack the integrity of the institution of the Court but the process and the decisionmaking that the Court has made.

Of course, throughout history, there have been times when the Court just plain got it wrong—*Plessy v. Ferguson*, a case which dominated for decades and

said that separate but equal was acceptable under the law. It wasn't until *Brown v. Board of Education* in the 1950s that they finally reversed that. For decades, *Plessy*—this terrible, wrongheaded decision—governed the administration not only of justice but of education in America. It damaged and destroyed lives right and left. Were people critical of it? Yes. And they should have been.

We are living in a democracy with freedom of speech, and we should be able to express ourselves when we have serious misgivings about decisions by the Court.

I want to address two recent decisions by this Court that I think really deserve special attention.

The Court recently finished its term with a series of disastrous decisions that once again upended our constitutional landscape.

The Court's radical, conservative supermajority discarded decades of longstanding precedent to protect rich and powerful interests. The Court's decisions will immunize Presidents who commit crimes. Let me repeat that. The Court's decisions will immunize Presidents who commit crimes, make it harder to prosecute corrupt politicians, and make it easier for corporate special interests to overturn Federal protections that Americans need to remain safe and healthy.

Meanwhile, the Court's conservative supermajority failed to protect some of the most vulnerable, upholding laws that criminalize homelessness and denying Americans the right to challenge the government when their immigrant spouses are denied a visa.

The far-right Justices responsible for these decisions may claim they are guided by "textualism" or "originalism"—we hear those terms frequently—but the reality is that they are engaged in judicial activism, pure and simple.

The Justices are cherry-picking their way through constitutional text and history to impose their own ideological agenda on the American people. In doing so, the majority has not only further damaged the Court's institutional integrity, they have undermined our democracy.

Start with the Court's rulings in *Loper and Relentless*. In these cases, the Court overruled *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council*, a landmark, 40-year-old decision holding that courts must provide deference to an Agency's reasonable interpretation of ambiguous Federal law.

With authorization from Congress, scientists, engineers, and other experts at these Agencies use their expertise to establish rules that help to ensure that our food is safe, that medications are effective as promised, that we have clean air and water, stable financial markets, fair working conditions, and more. But after the Court's decision to overrule *Chevron*, unelected judges with no expertise will be empowered to

overturn rules issued by Agency experts when they are challenged by corporations.

In another case, *Ohio v. EPA*, Justice Neil Gorsuch inadvertently demonstrated how ill-equipped the Justices on the Court are to substitute their judgement for Agency experts. In an opinion siding with Republican States that challenged an EPA pollution control plan, Justice Gorsuch repeatedly—repeatedly—and incorrectly referred to nitrous oxide, which is laughing gas, as we know, rather than nitrogen oxide, the pollutant the EPA is seeking to control. So the Court was arguing that the Agencies didn't have the power to make these decisions in detail and failed to describe properly the entity that was being regulated by the EPA.

The Court's decision giving Justices like Justice Gorsuch the power to second-guess these Agency experts is a body blow to our government's ability to protect the health and safety of the American people.

In another misguided opinion, the Court's six Republican-appointed Justices ruled in *Trump v. United States* that a President may be immune from criminal prosecution for abusing the power of government for personal or political gain.

This case is unimaginable.

Specifically, the Court held:

[T]he nature of Presidential power entitles a former President to absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for actions within his conclusive and preclusive constitutional authority. And he is entitled to at least presumptive immunity from prosecution for all his official acts.

Not only does the decision bar prosecuting a President for any official act, it prohibits prosecutors even from using any official act as evidence to help prove a President engaged in illegal unofficial acts.

And, in ruling that Donald Trump is "absolutely immune from prosecution for the alleged conduct involving his discussions with Justice Department officials," the Court has given a green light to a future President to use the Justice Department for corrupt purposes.

The Justice Department, whose mission is to enforce the law, defend the interests of the United States, and ensure public safety, will no longer enjoy its traditional independence. It could, instead, serve as a weapon to be wielded by a corrupt President.

So what does all of this mean?

It means that a corrupt President may hide behind their office for protection from prosecution, under the law, for even the most egregious wrongdoing.

It means the Supreme Court's conservative majority has effectively endorsed Richard Nixon's infamous claim that "when the president does it . . . that means that it is not illegal." In fact, much of the conduct at the heart of Nixon's Watergate scandal could, arguably, be considered official acts, making them presumptively immune under the current interpretation.

And, in the aftermath of *Trump v. United States*, a court would not even have been allowed to question Nixon's motives in order to have determined whether he acted unlawfully.

The Court's ruling has also left Congress and the judicial branch with limited options when dealing with a delusional or a corrupt executive.

The minority leader stated during the second Trump impeachment trial:

We have a criminal justice system in this country. We have civil litigation, and former presidents are not immune from being accountable by either one.

Unfortunately, this is no longer the case because the Court's conservative majority has demolished the ability to hold any President accountable for abuses of power.

It was not long ago that then-Judge Roberts sat before the Senate Judiciary Committee and told me directly and personally:

No man is above the law.

Then-Judge Gorsuch also testified, and he said:

Nobody is above the law in this country.

And then-Judge Kavanaugh told the committee:

No one is above the law. And that is just such a foundational principle of the Constitution and equal justice under the law.

But now they seem to think that a corrupt President is, in fact, above the law.

When the American people head to the polls this November, they should keep this case, *Trump v. United States*, in mind. We must ensure that our next leader is a person who will respect the rule of law even though he is now, because of this Supreme Court decision, immune from prosecution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

NATO

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today, world leaders are descending on our Nation's Capital for an important NATO summit, the 2024 NATO summit—the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It is fitting that this gathering is taking place in our Nation's Capital because this is where the story of NATO began.

In April of 1949, leaders of the United States and our closest allies gathered here in the Nation's Capital to sign the North Atlantic Treaty. With the stroke of a pen, those 12 countries became the founding members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The core mission of NATO can be summed up in only two words: collective defense. An attack against one ally is considered an attack against all allies. Of course, Europe had been through two devastating world wars, and the hope was, by creating the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, that aggression could be deterred and, thus, the peace maintained.

Seventy-five years ago, this commitment aimed to deter the Soviet Union from expanding its influence into West-

ern Europe. Nearly 23 years ago, the collective defense clause was invoked for the first and only time in history in the wake of the attacks on the United States on 9/11. America's NATO allies were there when we needed them—an act of friendship and support that we should never forget.

Today, the collective defense clause continues to serve as a firewall that safeguards NATO member states and underpins global security. And in the 75 years since NATO was founded, its membership has grown from 12 to 32 countries, and its influence continues to grow with the recent additions of Sweden and Finland.

Beyond ensuring the security of its members, NATO plays a key role in maintaining peace and stability around the world. Suffice it to say, NATO leaders have a big job ahead of them this week. Conflicts are unfolding around the globe, and democracy is under attack by the world's leading aggressors.

Nearly 2½ years have passed since Russia invaded Ukraine, and the fighting has not let up. Yesterday, Russia fired missiles at a children's hospital in Kyiv and other sites across Ukraine—killing at least 38 people and injuring more than 100.

In addition to the fighting in Europe, a war is also raging in the Middle East, as we know. More than 9 months have passed since the horrific terrorist attacks by Hamas against civilians in Israel, but Israel is not only defending its sovereignty against Hamas. It is also battling direct fire from Hezbollah and Iran. Just to be clear, Iran is the head of the snake here. Hezbollah and Hamas are proxies for Iran, committed to the ultimate destruction of Israel.

In addition to the conflicts in Europe and the Middle East, tensions are growing in the Indo-Pacific as well. The Chinese Communist Party continues to bully and threaten China's neighbors in the region. Just last week, China anchored one of its Coast Guard ships off the coast of the Philippines in a clear act of intimidation. This came after another incident last month when Chinese Coast Guard crewmen attacked Filipino sailors trying to resupply the Sierra Madre. One sailor lost his thumb, and a Philippine Navy boat was left in tatters. Clearly, China is testing America's commitment and the commitments of democracies around the world to protect a treaty ally in the Pacific.

While the Senate was in recess last week, I had the privilege of traveling to Romania, Armenia, and Malta with a bipartisan delegation of Members led by our friend, Senator ROGER WICKER—the ranking member of the Armed Services Committee and one of the principal delegates to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Our conversations with our allies around the world affirmed a key point that cannot be overlooked: None of these conflicts that are playing out today are occurring in a vacuum—not

the wars in Ukraine or in the Middle East or the tensions in the Indo-Pacific. Everything is connected. We might wish that it weren't true, but it is inarguably true, and this instability we are facing today has serious downstream consequences.

As each of these conflicts has played out, we have witnessed a daunting realignment of powers around the world that is reminiscent of what we saw in the 1930s with the rise of Germany.

Today, Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran have grown closer and closer together through an intricate web of weapons, technology, and energy transfers. In short, the tyrants of the world today are drawing closer and closer together, forming a modern-day axis of evil. When these big powers are at odds, the international order frays, and the regional players take advantage of the situation as it suits their interests. That point was driven home during our visit to Armenia—the former Russian satellite—when we discussed the ongoing instability in the Caucasus.

Now, I know you have to pull out a map to figure out where some of these countries are, but they are critical in terms of our analysis of the threats not only in the region but in the potential to spread those threats and major conflicts to other parts of the world.

In 2020, Russia brokered a deal to end the military conflict between Armenia and its neighbor Azerbaijan over longstanding territorial disputes. Russia promised to deploy peacekeepers to the region to enforce that agreement, but it is safe to say that Russia has not upheld its end of the deal. Each year since that deal was reached, Azerbaijan, supported by Türkiye, has encroached further and further into Armenian territory, and Russia has done nothing to stop it, notwithstanding its agreement to do so. Understandably, Armenian leaders are outraged by the situation. They signed a treaty, after all, to prevent this exact scenario, and Russia has abandoned its promise.

Our conversations with the Armenian leaders were powerful reminders of why it is so important to honor our security commitments around the world. We have made a commitment to our NATO allies, to Ukraine, to Israel, and to other partners around the world to support their security. But the truth is, their security is part of our security because we know, from history, that conflicts can arise in unpredictable places and can spread like a wildfire, thus directly challenging the United States' national security.

So that is why we cannot and we must not back out of these promises and risk other countries seeing us as an unreliable ally, because the truth is that weakness or unreliability is a provocation to the bullies and tyrants and autocrats around the world. When they see weakness, they continue to probe until they come up against resistance. Whether we are talking about an ally or an adversary, countries around the world must not doubt

America's commitment to our own national security, as well as the security of our allies, partners, and friends.

I say all of this to emphasize how much is at stake today. Presently, this is the most dangerous period of our history and of world history since World War II. We are talking about far more than the fates of individual states or governments. The stability of the international order is hanging in the balance.

With the NATO summit here in Washington this week, the eyes of the world are once again on the leadership. Like it or not, if the United States fails to lead, there is no other country that can fill the void. This is part of the responsibility that comes with being the preeminent economic and military power in the world—again, not for the purpose of conquest but for the purpose of deterring and discouraging conflicts from breaking out because, again, we know how these can spin out of control as a result of miscalculation or a mistake or otherwise.

Leaders from around the world—our friends and allies—are watching to see how the United States responds to the threats unfolding around the globe. They are watching us to see if we will live up to our commitments—things like the Budapest Memorandum in 1994, wherein we agreed to protect the sovereignty of Ukraine in exchange for their giving up their nuclear weapons. At the time, Ukraine had the third largest arsenal of nuclear weapons in the world, and they gave up those nuclear weapons in exchange for that guarantee to protect their sovereignty. That is part of what is at stake today in Ukraine.

Our friends and allies are watching our support for Ukraine, our assistance for Israel, and the message that we are sending to China. They are testing our attention span to see if we are so distracted by other major conflicts or other things happening around the world that it creates an opening for smaller ones, and they are watching to see if our commitments to our allies are truly ironclad and can be depended upon.

So, this week, President Biden has one job to do, and that is to deliver a clear and powerful message to our allies. He must reaffirm America's commitment to collective defense. He must demonstrate decisive leadership and solidarity with our NATO allies. He needs to deliver a strong warning to our would-be adversaries that attacks against the United States and our allies will not be tolerated.

Russia, China, Iran, North Korea—they are all watching, and there is no room for weakness or vacillation when it comes to sending this important message of deterrence. Deterrence, of course, is what maintains the peace. We never want war. We never want military conflict. We want to be so strong and so intimidating with our friends and allies that our adversaries won't take that step of initiating a military conflict.

I hope President Biden can summon up the energy and the forcefulness and the ability to express this important message to our friends and allies around the world because our adversaries are watching, but so are our friends.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

160-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF MONOCACY

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, in 1864, after 3 years of Civil War, many citizens of the North were ready for peace. The 13th Amendment had passed in this very Chamber but failed to do so in the House of Representatives, and the fate of Abraham Lincoln's Presidency—and perhaps the continuation of the war—was on the ballot.

In that spring of 1864, Lincoln placed his hand on a Hoosier general's shoulder, and he said: "I believe it right to give you a chance." What he really meant was a second chance.

I rise to mark a day 160 years ago when that second chance and a refusal to flinch from duty, even in a forlorn hope, saved our Nation's Capital and possibly much more than that.

Not long after his meeting with Lincoln, that same soldier was ushered into the office of Secretary of War Ed Stanton.

"What do you know of the Middle Department?" the Secretary asked.

"Nothing," his visitor replied.

"Nothing?" the Secretary repeated.

"I am from the West," General Lew Wallace answered.

By "the West," Wallace meant Crawfordsville, IN, and that is exactly where he was when the year began—an officer whose career appeared to be at a dead end.

Two years before, the division under his command arrived late to the Union lines during the first day of fighting at Shiloh. Wallace was scapegoated after one of the deadliest battles in the war up to that point. He was removed from his command in the Army of Tennessee and placed on reserve. Requests for a reinstatement failed.

"I had cast my last throw. What next?" Wallace wondered.

The answer came from another Hoosier—President Abraham Lincoln. Wallace was to report to Washington and take command of the 8th Army Corps and the Middle Department even though he didn't even know where the Middle Department was headquartered. The answer, Stanton told him, was Baltimore, and that is where Wallace headed after buying a Rand McNally map of the United States for 15 cents.

In early July, Wallace sat at his desk studying that map closely. He had just received word from the anxious president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad that Confederate troops were advancing through the Shenandoah Valley. The path from there to Washington, DC, was wide open. The city was poorly defended with Union soldiers. They were away attacking Richmond at the time.

“Washington, seriously menaced, was incapable of self-defense—that much was clear,” he wrote years later.

Staring at that map, Wallace understood that the threat was very real and his responsibility was crystal clear. Without orders—without orders—he departed for Monocacy Junction, where the roads and railroad leading to Washington and Baltimore crossed a tributary of the Potomac.

Upon arrival, he stood on a bluff looking down on the Monocacy River and the green pastures and golden wheat fields beyond it. He could see the steeples of Frederick, MD, not far off and the Catoctin Mountain on the horizon.

The peaceful summer was interrupted with the echo of distant gunfire. Soon it was clear: General Robert E. Lee had sent General Jubal Early north to take Washington. He had crossed the Potomac and was on his way east toward Monocacy Junction, perhaps to Baltimore—more likely to Washington, just 40 miles away.

Wallace had already moved with great urgency. He messaged Washington to recall troops and prepare for an attack. He called in what brigades or parts of brigades he could to augment his own men, eventually raising a force of several thousand. Then he spread them thinly along the eastern bank of the river, determined to block its bridge just long enough for reinforcements to arrive in the Capital.

On the night of July 8, the eve of the battle, Wallace laid down and placed his head on a folded coat, but anxiety made sleep impossible. Could he throw a hastily gathered and mostly green force in the way of a superior army, in an objective so hopeless? The Navy Yard up in flames, the Capitol menaced, the library inside it looted, the treasury emptied, foreign heads of state rushing to recognize the Confederacy—and then, most painfully, the image of Abraham Lincoln “cloaked and hooded, stealing like a malefactor from the back door of the White House just as some gray-garbed Confederate brigadier burst in the front door.”

The next morning, July 9, when the Confederate Army of over 15,000 arrived at Monocacy River, it was met with fierce resistance from the outnumbered Federals. Rebel charges were repeatedly turned back until late in the afternoon, when Wallace, after heavy losses—nearly 1,300 dead and wounded—ordered his men to withdraw toward Baltimore.

Early's battered army paused for the night before it continued on to Washington. When he reached its gates on the 11th, Union reinforcements were waiting. A skirmish at Fort Stevens followed, and the rebels departed empty-handed.

The Union stand cost the Confederates a full day—a full day—and with it, their chance at Washington.

Monocacy. Monocacy. Monocacy is usually unmentioned among the list of consequential Civil War battles, but

today, on its 160th anniversary, we reflect on its importance. You see, had Early's men taken the Capital, however briefly, the humiliation could have persuaded a war-weary population to dismiss Abraham Lincoln.

What then would be the fate of the 13th Amendment or the eventual terms of peace? Because of Wallace's steely resolve and his men's uncommon valor, the questions went unanswered. Lincoln was reelected. The following January, the 13th Amendment to forever end slavery passed Congress. The war was over by April, and the Union was preserved. And General Lew Wallace, not unlike the hero of a novel he later wrote, was redeemed.

When it comes to words, Wallace will always be best known for “Ben-Hur,” but the message he forwarded to Washington after the Battle of Monocacy is timeless too. It should inspire all of us still, a reminder that rising to our duty, no matter the odds or even outcome, can change the course of history.

I did as I promised. Held the bridge to the last.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REMEMBERING JAMES M. INHOFE

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise this morning to discuss national defense and, in particular, the importance of the NATO alliance as quite a number of our friends from NATO have arrived in Washington to celebrate the 75th annual meeting of this important defense organization.

I can hardly talk about national defense and NATO and the importance of keeping our defenses strong without calling attention to the sad fact that our former colleague, Senator Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, passed away today. I am told that Senators LANKFORD and MULLIN will seek recognition at a later time to speak extensively about this remarkable statesman who has passed from among us, and Members will be notified of when that might be should they want to join in.

But at this point, at this pivotal moment when I wish to talk about national defense, let me just say a word or two about my friend and colleague of some 30 years, Jim Inhofe.

As a young man, as a young family man, Jim Inhofe quickly learned how to build a business and create jobs, and he did so successfully. Only a few years later, as a municipal leader, he found out how to build consensus and he took that knowledge with him to Capitol Hill as a Member of the House of Representatives and then as our colleague here in the U.S. Senate.

Jim Inhofe demonstrated that he continued to know how to build con-

sensus and get things done for his fellow Oklahomans as well as for his fellow Americans.

Anyone who knew Jim Inhofe knew that he was a dedicated Christian. Jim Inhofe was a man of great faith with, in particular, a heart for Sub-Saharan Africa. He visited there countless times, encouraged numerous—probably hundreds—of his fellow Senators and representatives to accompany him to visit some of the most challenged countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. He hosted countless Prayer Breakfasts there. He got to know the leaders in those countries and their families by name. He was a remarkable Christian friend to those in Africa.

Jim Inhofe was an accomplished pilot. He flew solo around the world at age 56. As a Member of Congress, he was known as a straight shooter who was not afraid to challenge the conventional wisdom, as he did so on numerous occasions.

Jim and his wife Kay were married for 64 years. Together, they had four children and 12 grandchildren, one of whom they found and adopted and rescued during a trip to Africa.

I would mention that Kay Inhofe has been a special friend and adviser to my wife Gayle for these decades.

Again, I am informed that Senators MULLIN and LANKFORD will lead fuller discussion of this remarkable statesman who has passed from among us. But today, as I talk about national defense and NATO, I send my love, and we in the Senate send our love and condolences to the entire family and to the State that he loved, Oklahoma.

NATO

Mr. President, I would note, as Members have seen and as the public is reading and hearing about, that this week, 32 nations are gathering in Washington for NATO's 75th anniversary summit. Our alliance has reached this remarkable milestone, 75 years. Its longevity reaffirms its past success and its enduring value.

Our bond must remain strong, particularly at this hour. We are in the most dangerous global security threat since World War II. Almost all of our witnesses before the Armed Services Committee tell us that we are in the most dangerous global security threat for generations. As we navigate today's new challenges, NATO still stands as an indispensable alliance.

In this consequential moment, NATO is receiving a new leader. I congratulate the outgoing Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, and I welcome our new Secretary General Mark Rutte.

NATO's 75th anniversary and its leadership transition provides Senators an opportunity. We have a chance to remember why NATO matters, and we have a chance to call upon every member—every Nation member—to recommit to our alliance. I call upon my colleagues in both Houses and in the administration, our friends, to recommit to this important and vital alliance.

As Mr. Rutte takes office, he has a significant challenge to confront.

Frankly, we all do. As I have pointed out from this desk numerous times, NATO faces a new axis of aggressors. China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea are banding together. They are banding together to help Russia in its illegal invasion of Ukraine and they are banding together to pursue their designs on the free nations of this world.

This new axis poses a set of growing, interlocking strategic threats to the United States and our allies. In their own way, they have all been supporting Russia's illegal and unprovoked war on Ukraine.

And at this moment, I would have to pause and note the shameless and vicious Russian attack just earlier this week on a children's hospital in Kyiv, Ukraine.

This act by one of the most brutal dictators that has ever walked on the face of the Earth must go answered. It cannot go unanswered. And the very idea that the free nations of this world would seek to negotiate as peers with such a brutal war criminal as Vladimir Putin, to me, is unthinkable.

What in the world makes anyone think that this person who has violated every single principle of the organization for security and cooperation in Europe would negotiate in good faith and agree to that negotiation?

So we have a bleak situation, and it highlights NATO's importance. NATO was built for such a time as this. And in meeting with the leaders yesterday afternoon on the other end of this magnificent Capitol, I was heartened to hear that principle underscored.

After the devastation of two World Wars, NATO kept the peace by deterring the Soviet Union, and thank God we did. In the post-Cold War era, the alliance's support for Ukraine has demonstrated why NATO continues to be relevant.

Most NATO members have provided substantial military, economic, and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. In short, the alliance celebrates its 75th birthday from a position of strength.

But we should not interpret NATO's accomplishments in the past as a license to let down our guard now. NATO's collective strength is only as strong as its members' individual commitments.

The truth is that our allies need to spend more on defense. We need, in the United States, to spend more on defense. It is a necessity. We need to build modern, capable militaries that can stand shoulder to shoulder together in a fight against this axis of aggressors.

We need the industrial might to match that force strength. In fact, most allies are meeting their obligations. This year, 23 out of 32 NATO countries will spend at least 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense, up from only 7 out of 32 at the time of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. We all learned a lesson at that moment 2½ years ago.

At this point, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks prior to the scheduled roll call.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WICKER. Thank you very much to my colleagues and to the Chair.

The world has grown too dangerous for the remaining NATO members not to meet the 2-percent mark. We all must make it a priority to increase defense spending. It is shocking and unacceptable that some allies, especially some capable ones, have yet to reach the 2-percent requirement that they agreed to.

Friends can speak candidly to one another, and so I will. Our neighbor to the north, Canada, is among this group, which has not and, for several years in the future, will not reach its need.

I was able to meet with Prime Minister Trudeau just a few moments ago and was glad to hear him say that an announcement will be made from our friends in Canada, perhaps later this week, about a new plan to more quickly reach that 2-percent goal. And I call on him to fulfill that statement that he made to us in private. We look forward to that, and we congratulate him on that effort.

NATO allies shouldn't outsource security to others. But this challenge presents an opportunity, one that adds to the mandate we give the incoming Secretary General. The transatlantic industrial base has withered, and we also need to attend to that. And that should be part of Secretary General Rutte's new platform.

In the past, our friends of freedom have had to follow our lead as we pursue a "peace through strength" agenda. Today, Europe has not kept pace as it should.

The United States has begun investing heavily to rebuild its arsenal of democracy, and we need to continue doing so. But we are still waiting for the dramatic increase in European 155-mm artillery production. We have yet to see the expanded lines of long-range cruise missiles such as the Storm Shadow and the Scout.

We have heard promises of a reinvigorated defense industrial base in Europe, but those assurances have yet to be fulfilled.

So as he assumes office, Secretary General Rutte should join us in recognizing the 2-percent commitment is, in truth, insufficient in light of Russia's newly mobilized war economy. There are additional issues standing in NATO's way. Its members remain mired in their own domestic issues. They must, of course, attend to these domestic concerns, but they also remain tangled up in an alliance bureaucracy that struggles with basic expansions in munitions production capacity.

These challenges are significant, but Mr. Rutte and the elected governments of our alliance must not abide the status quo. We should consider this situation unsustainable, and we should say so.

NATO asks its members for 2 percent; in my 21st Century Peace

Through Strength report, I recommended that we in the United States spend 5 percent of GDP on national defense—as did President Reagan. My plan is primarily designed to deter the Chinese Communist Party, but it also calls for the United States to deepen commitments to Europe.

For a few examples, I recommend permanently stationing an armored brigade combat team in Poland. My plan proposes increasing our rotational deployments in Eastern Europe. We should also improve intelligence sharing and communication among allied forces.

Time and again, the United States has learned, sometimes the hard way, we cannot walk away from Europe. Together, the transatlantic alliance represents half of the world's economy. There is simply no way to contain Beijing's economic aggression without working together closely.

Likewise, a stagnant U.S. military budget and halfhearted European defense spending cannot contain Russia's antagonism.

So thank you for your indulgence.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I understand we have colleagues here and we have a vote, but I wanted to ask unanimous consent for 2 minutes prior to the vote.

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

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, yesterday the FTC, in a 4-to-1 decision, took action in a report, an interim staff report, that show that we should all be very concerned about the activities of PBM middlemen. These are the basic people who are supposedly getting discounts for us on drug prices but then actually pocket those discounts.

The final report, which we should be receiving—this interim report we should be receiving today basically says that market concentration and vertical integration are just giving these PBMs too much market power. The point is, are we going to do anything to stop that market power and to help the public who need better transparency on price?

It also says that PBMs are engaging in self-preferencing, meaning that they are steering those rebates back to themselves, and it is affecting pharmacies. It is affecting pharmacies in my State where now in downtown Seattle, you don't have any 24-hour pharmacies anymore, and pharmacy deserts are starting to happen.

The report also shows that PBMs may be using their market shares to force independent pharmacies into unfair contracts—that is what you get when you get a concentration of a market, and then you can basically push other people out of the market—and that PBMs and manufacturers are entering into rebate agreements that may impair or block access to lower cost drugs.

I urge my colleagues to get this report, to review it. I urge our colleagues here to take action on these PBM middlemen. This is a bipartisan effort. My colleague Senator GRASSLEY and I have legislation outlawing some of these practices at the FTC; and our colleagues Senator CRAPO and Senator WYDEN also have legislation that would help us on PBMs. So I thank my colleagues.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENTS—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

I also ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture vote today, Tuesday, July 9, be waived.

I further ask that if the cloture vote is invoked on the Meriweather nomination, the confirmation vote be at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, and the cloture vote on the Willoughby nomination occur at 5:45 p.m. today.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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. 380, Patricia L. Lee, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2027.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Alex Padilla, Debbie Stabenow, Catherine Cortez Masto, Mark Kelly, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Baldwin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Jeanne Shaheen, Chris Van Hollen, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, John W. Hickenlooper, Peter Welch, Mark R. Warner, Christopher A. Coons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Patricia L. Lee, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2027, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 204 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Hassan	Romney
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Butler	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Luján	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warnock
Cramer	Murphy	Warren
Duckworth	Murray	Welch
Durbin	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Padilla	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	
Graham	Reed	

NAYS—41

Barrasso	Hagerty	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hoeben	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Britt	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Budd	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Vance
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Mullin	Young
Grassley	Paul	

NOT VOTING—4

Capito	Menendez
Cruz	Rubio

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:11 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJÁN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON LEE NOMINATION

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

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

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 205 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Butler	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Luján	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Graham	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—41

Barrasso	Grassley	Paul
Blackburn	Hagerty	Ricketts
Boozman	Hawley	Risch
Braun	Hoeben	Rounds
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Budd	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Capito	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cassidy	Lankford	Thune
Cornyn	Lee	Tillis
Cotton	Lummis	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Vance
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Mullin	

NOT VOTING—5

Cramer	Menendez	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Rubio	

The nomination was confirmed. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). 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.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 536, Robin Michelle Meriweather, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Peter Welch, Laphonza R. Butler, Richard Blumenthal, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Sheldon Whitehouse, Gary C. Peters, Catherine Cortez Masto, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Tina Smith, Chris Van Hollen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Robin Michelle Meriweather, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 206 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Butler	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Lujan	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Graham	Peters	

NAYS—42

Barrasso	Grassley	Paul
Blackburn	Hagerty	Ricketts
Boozman	Hawley	Risch
Braun	Hoeven	Romney
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Budd	Johnson	Schmitt
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Vance
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Mullin	Young

NOT VOTING—5

Cramer	Menendez	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Rubio	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robin Michelle Meriweather, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2024

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise to urge my Democratic and Republican colleagues to stand with the majority of Americans who believe a woman should have the right to choose what is best for her and her family, health, and future.

The bills we are advancing today are commonsense, straightforward measures that will ensure more women can access the safe reproductive care that they need and deserve. Our legislation will also ensure that doctors can do their jobs, get the training they need to keep their patients safe.

For 2 years, millions of women across this country have lived without full reproductive rights, while many more

live in fear that their rights and freedoms could be on the chopping block. The overturning of Roe v. Wade has jeopardized Americans' lives, health, and future fertility. The Dobbs decision also forced women and their doctors to navigate a complicated and ever-changing patchwork of laws that dictate Americans' rights based on their ZIP codes.

For example, in my home State of Wisconsin, women were sent back to live under an 1849 criminal abortion ban. Judges and politicians were invited into the exam room, while lawyers told doctors how to do their jobs. And these dire impacts reached further than exam rooms; they reached into medical schools that are training our next generation of doctors.

For our top-ranked medical schools, a post-Roe reality sowed chaos as students and their instructors wondered how future doctors in our State would have access to the full slate of training necessary to safely practice obstetrics and gynecology.

The overturning of Roe put those medical schools' accreditations on the line. It opened the prospect that OB/GYNs might not be trained to provide sometimes lifesaving abortion care. No matter who you are, the idea that doctors could graduate without the proper training to do their jobs and save lives should scare all of us.

We also saw prospective students who might otherwise be attracted to our top-tier research institutions reconsider starting their careers in Wisconsin. We saw a downtick of OB/GYN residents interested in coming to our State. And while it is disheartening to say, can you blame them? Why would you want to start a career in a State that restricts you from doing your job and prevents your patients from exercising their right to control their own bodies?

That is why last year I introduced my Reproductive Health Care Training Act, commonsense legislation to support training for healthcare providers in abortion care, including for providers forced to travel out of State due to abortion restrictions.

My bill with Senator MURRAY would help ease the burden of travel costs for eligible medical programs to expand and support education for students, residents, and advanced practice clinicians in States that allow comprehensive training in abortion care.

Our legislation would also help ensure that medical programs accommodating an influx of students have the resources they need to provide training to students who must travel across State lines to complete their education.

The reality of post-Roe America is that there are still countless places in the United States where medical students cannot access training in comprehensive reproductive care. The Reproductive Health Care Training Act will ensure future doctors can meet the needs of their patients and provide safe

care, especially in States like Wisconsin that have abortion restrictions.

Every woman, no matter where she lives, deserves access to comprehensive reproductive care. The Reproductive Health Care Training Act will ensure America's future doctors are able to provide the sometimes lifesaving care Americans deserve.

So as in legislative session, and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 2024, the Reproductive Health Care Training Act, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, first of all, let's discuss the title of this bill: Reproductive Health Care Training Act of 2023. Why are my friends across the aisle afraid to use the word "abortion"?

This bill has nothing to do with reproductive healthcare. This is an abortion training act of 2023. Let's just call it like it is. This is the abortion training act of 2023.

What my colleague from Wisconsin didn't say or tell you is that this bill is unconstitutional. This bill uses taxpayer dollars to fund a direct pipeline of more abortions across the Nation through the Department of Health and Human Services.

This bill establishes a program to award grants or contracts to eligible entities for the purposes of expanding and supporting abortion training and for preparing and encouraging—encouraging—preparing and encouraging students to become abortionists. It encourages efforts to train abortionists with a focus on—get this—a focus on racial and ethnic minority groups, people with disabilities, tribal, and medically underserved communities. Does this imply there is a priority to train and send abortionists to these groups?

This bill authorizes \$25 million to be appropriated for this abortion training pipeline—again, against the Hyde Amendment. This is unconstitutional.

This bill has not received any type of markup in the Health Committee. The Federal Government should not be spending taxpayer dollars to encourage medical students and clinicians to take life when their principal duty, their sacred oath, is to protect life and to do no harm from conception to natural death. Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Yet again my Republican colleagues have sent a clear message to women across America. They don't think women should have the right to control their bodies.

This bill would have ensured more women could access the safe reproductive care that they need and deserve, including sometimes lifesaving abortion care.

Instead, my colleagues have turned their back on the millions of women in States where abortion is restricted. They have turned their backs on millions of women who are increasingly struggling to find OB/GYN care in their community. They have turned their back on OB/GYN residents and students who just want to learn how to care for their patients.

Without access to training and comprehensive reproductive care for our doctors, more women in States like my own will live in healthcare deserts, without the care they need to stay healthy, start a family, and get screenings for cancer and other serious illnesses.

My Reproductive Health Care Training Act would have ensured America's future doctors have the training they need to provide safe care, especially in States that have abortion restrictions.

This fight is not over, and I am in it for as long as it takes to restore a woman's freedom to make her own decisions about her health, her family, and her future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1297

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am here today with a very simple bill to protect doctors who are providing legal care against attacks from extreme out-of-state, out-of-touch politicians.

In my State, abortion is not only legal but protected by our State constitution. But when I talk to abortion providers in Spokane, where they see a lot of patients fleeing restrictive abortion bans from States like Idaho, they are terrified that they could face a lawsuit that will threaten their practice and their livelihood, just for doing their jobs, just for providing care their patients need—care that is, once again, completely legal in my State. We are talking about people who are following the law and simply want to provide care to their patients. This should be cut-and-dried.

So, Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1297, the Let Doctors Provide Reproductive Health Care Act, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; and, further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, I object to S. 1297 for a simple reason: It would make it easier for unborn life to be ended.

The Supreme Court's Dobbs decision brought renewed hope to Americans

who believe in the sanctity of each and every life, including life in the womb. After 49 years, a new culture of life is enriching our country from coast to coast.

But this bill would take us backward. This bill would, first of all, allow abortion on demand in pro-life States, so long as the patient is from another State. And that is crazy.

Second, this bill would expose doctors and nurses who work in religious organizations, clinics, and hospitals. It would expose them to costly lawsuits if they stand by their deeply held beliefs. That also is crazy.

And, finally, this bill would violate the spirit of bipartisan Hyde protections by providing millions of taxpayer dollars to the abortion industry. That also is crazy.

I was elected to protect life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all, including for life for the unborn. But this bill puts more unborn lives in danger. Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, let's be clear. Republicans who are now in the middle of trying to rewrite history and claim they only want State politicians overruling women—already an extreme position, by the way—just made clear that actually, on second thought, they have no problem whatsoever with politicians targeting doctors in States like mine, where abortion is legal. I think that pretty much gives the game away.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2053

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, we are now 2 years into a world without Roe v. Wade, a world in which daughters have fewer rights than their mothers and their grandmothers did at their age.

In the 2 years since the Supreme Court overturned Roe, nearly half the States in our country have banned—or effectively banned—access to abortion. Women in those States have extremely limited options for accessing essential healthcare.

For many of these women, their only option for getting the reproductive care they need is going to another State. Last year alone, 171,000 Americans traveled across State lines to access an abortion.

Pro-choice States like Nevada are welcoming these women with open arms and providing them with the essential healthcare their own States have outlawed. In the last 2 years, the number of women coming to Southern Nevada from out of State to get abortion care has doubled.

But even though Nevada is a safe place for women who need healthcare, anti-choice politicians living outside my State are telling women: No, sorry, if you try to travel outside this State, we are going to prosecute anyone who helps you.

Elected officials in States like Tennessee and Texas and Alabama are trying to punish women for leaving their State for reproductive care, as well as anyone who helps them, including their doctors or even their employers. Why? Because for these anti-choice politicians, this is about controlling women.

That is why today I am calling for passage of my Freedom to Travel for Health Care Act. Our legislation reaffirms that women have a fundamental right to interstate travel and makes it crystal clear that States cannot prosecute women—or anyone who helps them—for going to another State to get the critical reproductive care that they need.

The Freedom to Travel for Health Care Act would also empower the Attorney General and anyone impacted to sue the anti-choice politicians who have violated their rights and put these barbaric restrictions in place. And it would protect healthcare providers in pro-choice States like mine—in Nevada—who help these women traveling from out of State.

Now, I wrote this bill 2 years ago, after the fall of Roe v. Wade, because, like many women across the country, I could see that the anti-choice movement would never stop trying to dismantle women's rights. And we are seeing that play out before our very eyes. We are hearing it today on the floor. We see it in our States.

Last month, Lauren Miller came here to Washington to testify in a Senate subcommittee hearing and tell her story. Lauren was a mother of one and was thrilled to find out that she was pregnant once again, this time with twins. She and her husband couldn't wait to grow their family. But at her 12-week ultrasound, Lauren learned the most devastating news: Half of one of her twins' brains was filled with fluid, and it was not going to survive. Lauren needed to abort this fetus to save the other viable twin and to protect her own life.

The problem was that Lauren lived in Texas, where abortions are almost entirely banned. Lauren's doctors wouldn't even talk to her about having a lifesaving abortion because they were so afraid of Texas's intentionally confusing laws, and they did not want to be prosecuted for practicing medicine to help her.

In her testimony, Lauren said:

My pregnancy was not my own. It belonged to the State.

Even after she ended up in the hospital at risk of organ damage to her kidneys and her brain, she still could not get the care that she needed. Lauren was forced to set aside several days and thousands of dollars while she was terribly ill so that she could fly to Colorado, just to access reproductive healthcare—just to access 21st century medicine.

And if that wasn't enough of a burden, Lauren and her husband were terrified to travel out of State because of Texas's bounty laws. In Texas, private

citizens can be paid by their government if they catch anyone who has helped someone access abortion care.

Oklahoma has adopted a similar law.

This is what happens when we give it to the States. This is what happened with the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*. When we are talking about States' rights, this is it. These laws mean people seeking abortions have to plan for their out-of-State travel as if they are doing something illegal.

Lauren and her husband had conversations about whether they should leave their cell phones at home and only use cash so they couldn't be tracked—in this day and age, like they were criminals of some sort, all because Lauren was dying from an entirely preventable health issue that she couldn't get care for in her own State.

When my colleagues and I first introduced the Freedom to Travel for Health Care Act, anti-choice Republicans told us we were getting worked up over nothing. When we introduced and reintroduced it last year, anti-choice Republicans still told us we were overreaching. Anti-choice Republicans' main argument continues to be that it is just not necessary, that we are being hysterical, that we need to calm down.

Lauren Miller and her husband weren't being hysterical. She and her healthy son are living proof that we need to protect a woman's right to travel across State lines for abortion care.

My anti-choice colleagues can pretend this isn't happening right under their noses, but women across this country know the truth: Anti-choice politicians want to control women. They don't want women leaving the confines of their States with abortion bans, and they don't want us to have bodily autonomy.

Well, I stand with the vast majority of Americans who believe that politicians have no say in a woman's healthcare decisions. Women like Lauren Miller deserve access to life-saving care regardless of the State they live in. That is why we must pass the Freedom to Travel for Health Care Act now. This is commonsense legislation to uphold a woman's constitutional right and freedom to interstate travel for healthcare.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session and not withstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 2053, the Freedom to Travel for Health Care Act of 2023, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Mississippi.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, my pro-life colleagues and I most certainly do

not oppose any individual's freedom to travel across this great country, but we do take issue with this effort to give bad actors cover from prosecution.

While this bill poses as protecting pregnant women from prosecution, it would actually put vulnerable women and girls in harm's way if it became law. This would allow traffickers and abusive partners, parents, or relatives to take vulnerable women and girls across State lines to obtain abortions in an attempt to cover up their abuse.

These same abusers would also be given the freedom to travel across State lines to stockpile dangerous chemical abortion drugs to bring back to a life-affirming State. The chemical abortion regimen can pose dramatic complications that a woman or girl should never have to deal with, especially without medical care at her home.

According to the FDA's own label, these abortion drugs send roughly 1 in 25 women to the emergency room.

With this legislative effort before us, we see pro-abortion advocates promoting the scariest possible scenario by allowing a teenage girl to start the chemical abortion process across State lines with mifepristone, only to be sent back to her home State to deal with the physically and emotionally painful process alone.

We can and must do far better to protect women and girls from this heartbreaking and dangerous situation, and we certainly should not be shielding bad actors from prosecution.

It is for these reasons that I must object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, No. 1, let's be very clear: This legislation has nothing to do with shielding bad actors. And, No. 2, mifepristone is a safe and effective drug and has been for over 50 years.

So for my colleagues who have been on this path to limit access to healthcare for women and to reproductive freedom rights, to claim and make this misinformation and these scare tactics, when they are not true, does not do right by women.

Let me just say this. A majority of this country—including men, including Democrats, Republicans, non-partisans—support the right of a woman to choose. That is what this is about: continuing to fight for those rights.

A woman should have the freedom to access 21st century healthcare. Giving it to the States to make this decision is still giving it to elected officials to be in a room with women when they are making this decision. That is not the answer.

But until we can overturn *Dobbs*, we need legislation that is going to protect women so they can access this 21st century medication when they need it and come to States like mine without the fear of being prosecuted, and the

doctors need to be protected. That is what this is about, and it will always be about giving the freedom to women for their access to healthcare in this country.

And I will tell you this. My colleagues and I will never stop fighting for this. It is too important for our children, our young girls, and their future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, to recap, we just tried to pass some very straightforward legislation: a bill to protect a woman's right to travel across State lines to get the healthcare she needs, a bill to protect a doctor's right to provide legal abortion care to their patients without being threatened by an out-of-State extremist, and a bill to ensure more health professionals can receive critical training in comprehensive reproductive healthcare to help meet the dire need for providers.

Not a single one of these bills should be controversial. To oppose these bills, as Republicans have just done, is truly extreme. Are we going to let politicians hold women who want an abortion captive in their States? Seriously. If a woman wants to travel somewhere so she can make her own personal decision about her healthcare, are Republicans going to tie her hands? And if a doctor in a State like mine, where abortion is fully legal and even protected by our State constitution—if our doctors treat a patient from somewhere like Idaho—something that happens every day, by the way—do we want to let out-of-State extremist politicians threaten and try to punish them?

Again, we are talking about healthcare providers performing an abortion in a State where abortion is legal and protected. Republicans are all for States' rights until it comes to letting a woman make her own healthcare decisions.

When it comes to training, let's be clear: Abortion is healthcare, and in some cases, a patient's life may depend on whether they can get that care or not. That is why we need to make sure that every provider can get the comprehensive reproductive health training that they need by supporting medical training programs that are doing this important work.

It is incredibly frustrating to me that, so far, Republicans have blocked these proposals from moving forward. It seems, when it comes to an abortion, there is no bill too simple for Republicans to oppose. There is no right too basic for Republicans to attack and no problem too important for Republicans to ignore.

Republicans haven't just voted down our efforts to restore abortion rights in every State, they have voted against the right to birth control; they have voted against the right to IVF; and now they have opposed letting patients

leave their States for care, letting doctors provide legal care to anyone who comes to them, and helping healthcare providers get the training they need to save a life.

But let's be clear: No matter this outcome, no matter how far Republicans follow the most extreme anti-abortion voices in their party, Democrats are going to keep standing against them, pushing for reproductive rights, and fighting for patients.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REMEMBERING JAMES M. INHOFE

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. President, today, I take to the floor for the first time. I really am not one to speak a whole lot on the floor. My time in the House was very limited as to how many times I spoke on the House floor. Then, being in the Senate, this is my first time to speak, but it comes on an occasion that I feel is, I guess, the right time to speak.

A gentleman whom I took great pride in knowing, whom I referred to quite often as a grandfather, Senator Jim Inhofe, passed away, unfortunately, this morning.

And I was asked right off the bat, "Would you be willing to do some interviews?" on it. And then, obviously, we were asked to speak on the floor.

And I didn't even know what to say. How do you describe Senator Jim Inhofe, right? How do you describe his family—Miss Kay, who, from the first time I ever met her, she made me feel as comfortable as if I was her own child, just someone who took time to pet on me and love on me when I was trying to learn just to be in politics because politics was new.

Senator Inhofe would often take me by the hand—literally, by the hand—and say: Hey, listen to me, son. And over time he became quite a mentor—I mean, quite a mentor of mine.

And I get asked all the time: How do you plan on filling the shoes of Senator Inhofe? And I say: How do you fill the shoes of a gentleman whose middle name was "Mountain"? How fitting is that, right? Senator James Mountain Inhofe, because he was a mountain of a man.

He blazed his own trail. He was full of grit and tenacity. You always knew where he stood. I never doubted what his thoughts were. He would tell me right off the bat. When it was time for a decision to be made, he would get the delegation together. He would come in, and he wasn't someone that demanded you to go with him. He just let you know where he was at and why he was right. And you found a lot of respect in

that. At the same time, if he didn't agree with you, he let you know he didn't agree with you. But you can respect a guy that you always know where he stands.

So it saddens me deeply to know that, today, this Earth is less one gentleman that I think we all learned from. Everybody in this Chamber who knew James or Senator Inhofe knew a guy as a friend. You knew he was someone that you could trust.

I remember one time—it was in 2016—my wife and I, we were making a decision if we were going to continue to stay in public office. Quite frankly, I was done. I had my fill. I came from the private sector. And just politics, in itself, to me, was not something that I enjoyed. I was ready to just throw in the towel.

And Senator Inhofe called me. He says: Hey, come into my office, which, coming over from my little Senate office in Longworth, I went into this Taj Mahal office of Senator Inhofe's, and I just was in shock.

And he said: Do me a favor. He says: Don't leave yet. And I looked at him. He said: Just give it time. He said: I understand it is bad right now. I understand it is rough. He said: But take it from a guy who came out of the private sector—from me—who at that time had been in office almost 55 years. He said: Take it from me, a guy that came out of the private sector, how frustrating it can be. But it can also be the most rewarding thing you will ever do. It can be more satisfying than anything you have ever built if you will just stay put because, I promise you, it will get better.

And I can't say it has actually gotten better, but I can say that he was right, because it is gratifying. What he did is he allowed me to change my focus from understanding that all the outside distractions that can take place, all the nasty things that can happen on social media, the things that can be written about you that are out of your control, things that people automatically assume about you because you are in public office—that can all easily go away if you will stay focused on what you were elected to do, which is to serve the great State of Oklahoma and just focus on constituent service, focus on building things for the State, focus on staying passionate about what your passion is, and you can create such a legacy for yourself.

I don't think Senator Inhofe ever set out to build a legacy that his name is built upon. He always wanted to serve, from being mayor of the city of Tulsa, to being a Congressman for three terms, to serving in the Senate for almost 30 years. All he did every day was work hard for Oklahoma, and I am grateful to get to know him.

His family, the whole time he served—I have just got to brag about his family because, the whole time he served—which was a big thing for me too—it was, how do you balance the political life and the family life? Because

if you knew Jim, Jim was—or Senator Inhofe—always going home. Miss Kay was his priority. If she was ill, wasn't feeling good, he was headed that way. And every time I talked to him on the plane, when we sat beside each other, when we would land, the first person he would call would be Miss Kay.

And he would want to know how she is doing and want to make sure that this project is being complete. And sometimes he would even talk to me about some of the projects going on to his house. It was always a priority.

And for me, who had six kids at home—and at the time when I got in office, my oldest was 7 years old—that was a concern of mine of how you can balance it.

And he says: MARKWAYNE, I have been doing this—like I said, at that time, when we first had that conversation, he had been in office for over 50 years. He says: I have done it, and I think I have raised some pretty good kids. His kids loved him. His wife loved him. His grandkids loved him.

And not to talk about the way that he necessarily left the world, but I think he left it the way he would want to, a guy that was always moving. He was always on the run. He always had a project. He never sat still. To be able to be here one day, go through a little trouble for a maybe a few days, and leave this Earth and people loving you and you had a great reputation—I don't know how any of us would rather be remembered.

And so, while I take the podium for the first time, I just want to say again, it is an honor to walk in that trail that he blazed because, as I said, I am not ever going to fill his shoes. But he built a trail, as people want to refer to it, as a mountain man. What did the mountain man do, right? The mountain man went up, and he blazed trails—new trails. He was in territory that no one else knew about. He blazed a trail that I could build a highway on, and I have full intentions of doing that.

So to Miss Kay, to his kids, and to his grandkids and to all his family, thank you for giving so much of your time to allow Senator Inhofe to serve. Thank you for giving him to me and allowing me to call him—even though he sometimes got mad at me because he thought I was talking about his age. I wasn't. I meant it in an affectionate way. Thank you for allowing me to call him my grandfather, because I lost both my grandfathers. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to know him and to know your family. May God bless you.

I think it is pretty evident when I say this: We are all going to miss him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKKEY). The Senator from Utah.

Mr. ROMNEY. I ask unanimous consent that the 5:45 vote occur now.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the

Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 512, Charles J. Willoughby, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Alex Padilla, Laphonza R. Butler, Christopher A. Coons, Richard Blumenthal, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mazie Hirono, Sherrod Brown, Tina Smith, Catherine Cortez Masto, Jeff Merkley.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Charles J. Willoughby, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have noted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 207 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Heinrich	Romney
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Butler	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	Merkley	Tillis
Coons	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Warnock
Durbin	Ossoff	Warren
Fetterman	Padilla	Welch
Gillibrand	Peters	Whitehouse
Hassan	Reed	Wyden

NAYS—39

Barrasso	Cassidy	Graham
Blackburn	Cornyn	Grassley
Boozman	Cotton	Hagerty
Braun	Crapo	Hawley
Britt	Daines	Hoeven
Capito	Fischer	Hyde-Smith

Johnson
Kennedy
Lankford
Lee
Lummis
Marshall
McConnell

Moran
Mullin
Paul
Ricketts
Risch
Rounds
Schmitt

Scott (SC)
Sullivan
Thune
Tuberville
Vance
Wicker
Young

NOT VOTING—7

Budd
Cramer
Cruz

Ernst
Menendez
Rubio

Scott (FL)

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 39.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read 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 for the term of fifteen years.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Minnesota.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

NOMINATION OF ROBIN MICHELLE MERIWEATHER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Senate will vote to confirm Robin Michelle Meriweather to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

Born in Detroit, MI, Judge Meriweather received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and her law degree from Yale Law School. Following her graduation from law school, she clerked for Judge Merrick B. Garland on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit between 1998 and 1999. After her clerkship, she joined the law firm of Jenner and Block, LLP, as a litigation associate. There, Judge Meriweather's practice involved complex civil litigation, as well as matters concerning constitutional, statutory, and regulatory claims.

In 2007, she joined the civil division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia as an assistant U.S. attorney. Judge Meriweather became deputy chief of that division in 2011 and served in that capacity until 2017. Since January 2017, she has served as a U.S. magistrate judge for the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Throughout her time on the bench, Judge Meriweather

has issued more than 1,000 orders and presided over three trials.

Judge Meriweather's experience as a magistrate judge coupled with her experience in public and private practice have prepared her to serve honorably on the United States Court of Federal Claims.

I am proud to support her nomination and urge my colleagues to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL LEONARD "BUTCH" DOLLAGA

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the service and achievements of an esteemed and valued member of our Armed Forces, Rear Admiral Leonard "Butch" Dollaga, who will retire from the U.S. Navy on October 1, 2024, after 34 years in uniform. His long and distinguished service to our Nation reflects an unwavering devotion to duty and a great love of our country.

Rear Admiral Dollaga grew up next to the shipyards in Honolulu, HI, and his hometown of Vallejo, CA. He earned his commission from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1990 and upon graduation entered the fleet as a submarine officer. After serving as a division officer aboard USS *Los Angeles* (SSN 688), an engineer officer aboard USS *Rhode Island* (SSBN 740), and executive officer aboard USS *Cheyenne* (SSN 773), Rear Admiral Dollaga commanded USS *Charlotte* (SSN 766) in Pearl Harbor, HI. He also served as commodore of Submarine Development Squadron 12 in Groton, CT.

Ashore, Rear Admiral Dollaga's service reflected the same rigors he faced at sea. He served in a number of important roles, including admissions officer at the U.S. Naval Academy, technical assistant to the Director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion, nuclear officer program manager and submarine officer community manager on the staff of the Chief of Naval Personnel, instructor for the Submarine Command Course, Chief of the Joint Staff's Program and Budget Analysis Division, and Director of the Navy Appropriations Matters Congressional Liaison Office.

His flag assignments included serving as commander of the Undersea Warfighting Development Center in Groton, CT, and most recently as commander of Submarine Group SEVEN/Task Force 54/Task Force 74, where he led undersea operations in both the U.S. Central Command and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command areas of responsibility.

Over the past 2 years, Admiral Dollaga has served as the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs. As the principal representative of the Secretary of the Navy and the Chief of Naval Operations to the Senate and House of Representatives, he has provided invaluable support to Members and congressional staff. Rear Admiral Dollaga understands the importance of maintaining a strong partnership between senior Navy leadership and the Hill. He ensured, to the best of his abilities, that

there were no surprises, and he never shied away from tough conversations.

Rear Admiral Dollaga provided exemplary vision, strategy, and direction in executing numerous hearings, briefings, and engagements with Congress on the strategic direction and challenging issues facing the Department of the Navy. As he brings this chapter of his life to a close, I want to personally thank him and ask that we honor him today for his more than three decades of leadership and service.

Submariners endure deployments that take them away from their family and the luxury of frequent communication with their loved ones. For this reason, I also want to recognize the service and sacrifice of Rear Admiral Dollaga's family: his wife Lani, his daughters Sarah and Malia, and his son Kyle. Without their support and sacrifice over these past 34 years, his service would not have been possible. They have been an integral part of his journey and deserve our Nation's gratitude. I know my Senate colleagues will join me in congratulating Rear Admiral Dollaga on an outstanding career and in wishing him and his family all the best as they embark on a new chapter together.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS AND RECOGNIZING THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

Mr. FETTERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the First Continental Congress. The U.S. Congress's roots can be traced to the First Continental Congress, which convened in Philadelphia's own Carpenters' Hall in 1774 and was one of the most significant events in the founding of our Nation. Colonial delegates solidified a united American identity by adopting the Declaration of Colonial Rights, which created the Colonial coalition that later signed the Declaration of Independence. After the U.S. War of Independence, the Continental Congress evolved into the Federation Congress and ultimately the U.S. Congress as established by the Constitution in 1787.

In July 2024, the Carpenters' Company of Philadelphia, the nonprofit organization founded in 1724 that owns and operates Carpenters' Hall, will convene the Young People's Continental Congress, YPCC. A diverse group of high school students and their teachers from the 13 original Colonies will gather in Philadelphia to explore our Nation's founding. A second convening in July 2025 will engage students and teachers from all 56 States and jurisdictions. YPCC is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to engage young people in history and civics, as well as to launch Philadelphia's celebration of the semiquincentennial of American independence in 2026.

YPCC delegates will discuss America's founding principles and how those

principles have been expressed over our history. They will also experience Philadelphia's historic attractions to enhance their understanding of the democratic process and how our country was founded.

YPCC will harness the power of convening for a new generation of civic leaders and focus on the unique opportunity they have to help shape the conversations around what America looks like today. As generations of leaders have learned, there is nothing like being "in the room where it happened."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF WYOMING

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor the 150th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Wyoming. This important fraternal organization, also known as Wyoming Masons, will celebrate the occasion during their annual convention on August 12, 2024, in Casper, WY.

Freemasonry is one of the oldest fraternal organizations in the world. Members share a belief in "the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of mankind." With a shared commitment to lives of honor, integrity, and character, the men of Freemasonry work to better themselves, their communities, and the world.

The first known masonic meeting in Wyoming took place at Independence Rock on July 4, 1862. Independence Rock is located on the Oregon and Mormon trails in central Wyoming between the cities of Casper and Rawlins. Twenty masons from the camped Oregon wagon trains participated in a masonic meeting.

The Grand Lodge of Wyoming was established December 15, 1874, in Laramie City, territory of Wyoming. Four lodges with 211 members were represented. Edgar P. Snow was elected the first Grand Master. Today, Wyoming has 41 lodges with over 2100 members.

The Grand Lodge of Wyoming is a member of the Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference. The lodge recognizes several Appendant and Concordant organizations which provide opportunities for family members to interact with Masonic relatives.

These organizations include Job's Daughters International, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, York Rite of Freemasonry, Ancient Order of the Mystic Shrine, National Sojourners, Order of the Eastern Star, Ladies' Oriental Shrine, Daughters of the Nile, Allied Masonic Degrees, and Royal Order of Scotland.

The Grand Lodge of Wyoming is led by its 2023–2024 elected officers: Grand Master Thomas G. Needham, Jackson, WY; Deputy Grand Master Scott

Kitchner, Rock Springs, WY; Senior Grand Warden Gregory K. Shiek, Sheridan, WY; Junior Grand Warden Ken Thorpe, Jr., Sheridan, WY; Grand Treasurer John F. Nunley III, Cheyenne, WY; and Grand Secretary Beynon St. John, Lander, WY.

Those serving through appointments include Senior Grand Deacon E. Ray Leeman, Jr., Aladdin, WY; Junior Grand Deacon James K. Wamsley, Rock Springs, WY; Junior Grand Steward Bryan J. Compton, Jackson, WY; Junior Grand Steward Calvin E. Van Zee, Laramie, WY; Grand Lecturer Weston G. Hubele, Mills, WY; Grand Chaplain Preston Goulette, Pinedale, WY; Grand Orator Thomas Jefferson Rodgers, Sheridan, WY; Grand Marshal Stephen H. Fowler, Evanston, WY; Grand Librarian Gary D. Skillern, Cheyenne, WY; Grand Historian Mark S. Young PGM, Gillette, WY; Grand Organist Tim Forbis, Cheyenne, WY; and Grand Tyler David N. Lankford, Pinedale, WY.

District lecturers are Bret D. Steger, Pine Bluffs, WY; David G. Hammond, Laramie, WY; Stephen H. Fowler, Evanston, WY; Kraig A. Kobert, Jackson, WY; Toby Erickson, Lander, WY; Christopher G. Neubauer, Casper, WY; Jeffrey D. Thomas, Guernsey, WY; Jon C. Rowe, Gillette, WY; Thomas Jefferson Rodgers, Sheridan, WY; Eric R. Kay, Thermopolis, WY; and Bryan G. Baird, Cowley, WY.

Special appointees are Masonic Service Association Coordinator Shawn Covert, Bar Nunn, WY; Masonic Renewal Representative Weston Hubele, Mills, WY; George Washington Masonic National Memorial Representative Roy C. Kinsey, Jackson, WY; and Grand Lodge Webmaster R. Aaron Roybal, Cheyenne, WY.

It is an honor to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Wyoming. I send my best wishes to all Wyoming masons as you pave the way for future generations.●

TRIBUTE TO JACK WINSTEAD

• Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, on behalf of the people of Mississippi, I submit this statement into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to honor the public service of Mr. Jack Winstead. In both his professional and personal capacities, he has worked faithfully to make the most of Mississippi's natural resources and to care for our State's veterans.

Jack pursued his education at East Central Community College and Mississippi State University, but he had begun serving well before completing his studies. As an undergraduate, Jack began working with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, SCS. He went on to dedicate the next 35 years of his life to SCS.

Associations, commissions, and boards across the State have noticed Jack's expertise. Jack has not kept his skills to himself. Instead, he has given generously to the many who have

asked for his help. He has embraced leadership roles at the Mississippi Soil and Water Commission, the Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts, the Newton County Cattleman's Association, and more. Then-Governor Haley Barbour appointed him to the commission on environmental quality. Jack has worked on statewide, county-wide, and local issues, and Mississippi's natural resources have benefited from his dedication.

All of those accolades are a testament to Jack's value to our State, but he is not focused on titles. Today, he is the president of the Friends of Mississippi Veterans, a group which cares for those who have served in uniform. In particular, Jack has been working to support the 600 men and women living in one of the State's veterans nursing homes. Jack and his wife Jeanette have also established an endowment scholarship at East Central Community College.

Jack has said he is grateful to serve those who have made such a difference to our Nation. It is exactly that spirit that characterizes the best of Mississippi, and, for that reason, I am eager to praise him today in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.●

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 Committee on Armed Services.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:10 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 897. An act to provide for the establishment of the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5441. An act to reauthorize Long Island Sound programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5443. An act 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.

H.R. 5770. An act to reauthorize certain United States Geological Survey water data enhancement programs.

H.R. 6062. An act 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.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 897. An act to provide for the establishment of the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 5441. An act to reauthorize Long Island Sound programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 5443. An act 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; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 5770. An act to reauthorize certain United States Geological Survey water data enhancement programs; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 6062. An act 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; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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. OSSOFF (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 4640. A bill to strengthen trafficking victim assistance grant funding; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 4641. A bill to provide for certain reforms pertaining to Chevron deference; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 4642. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an income tax on excess profits of certain corporations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 4643. 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 Indian Affairs.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 4644. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 to increase funding for stormwater management for Atlanta, Georgia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 4645. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to extend the interest rate limitation on debt entered into during military service to debt incurred during military service to consolidate or refinance student loans incurred before military service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 4646. A bill to provide grants to State and local governments that enact right to counsel legislation for low-income tenants facing eviction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 4647. A bill to require the transfer of regulatory control of certain munitions exports from the Department of Commerce to the Department of State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 4648. A bill to require the President to establish a task force on streamlining the classified national security information system and narrowing of the criteria for classification of information, to make improvements with respect to such classification system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 4649. A bill to amend the Mutual Security Act of 1954 by declaring that if all NATO countries consent to the accession of Ukraine to NATO membership, the United States will have grounds for withdrawing from the North Atlantic Treaty; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 753. A resolution calling for the immediate release of George Glezmán, a United States citizen who was wrongfully detained by the Taliban on December 5, 2022, and condemning the wrongful detention of all Americans by the Taliban; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 754. A resolution commending the courage, bravery, and resolve of the fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters of Cuba, who, 3 years ago, stood in the face of brutal harassment, beatings, and torture to protest against the Communist Cuban regime, demanding access to their fundamental rights to life, dignity, and freedom; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KING, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. Res. 755. A resolution designating June 2024 as National Cybersecurity Education Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CASIDY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KING, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CARPER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KELLY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. Res. 756. A resolution designating June 19, 2024, as "Juneteenth Independence Day" in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery reached the slaves in the Southwestern States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MULLIN:

S. Res. 757. A resolution designating the week of May 5, 2024, through May 11, 2024, as "Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Ms. BUTLER, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Con. Res. 37. A concurrent resolution recognizing the significance of equal pay and the disparity in wages paid to men and to Black women; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 91

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) 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. 159

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 159, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption from gross income for mandatory restitution or civil damages as recompense for trafficking in persons.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor 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 name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor 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. 740

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr.

WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 740, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reinstate criminal penalties for persons charging veterans unauthorized fees relating to claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 838

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 838, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to mental health services under the Medicare program.

S. 1376

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1376, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 1384

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1384, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 2415

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2415, a bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize Federal support of States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 2496

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) 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. 2517

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2517, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to allow for periodic automatic re-enrollment under qualified automatic contribution arrangements, and for other purposes.

S. 2581

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2581, a bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

S. 2768

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi

(Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2768, a bill to protect hospital personnel from violence, and for other purposes.

S. 2796

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2796, a bill to provide for the equitable settlement of certain Indian land disputes regarding land in Illinois, and for other purposes.

S. 2911

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2911, a bill to prohibit the President and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from declaring certain emergencies or disasters for the purpose of imposing gun control.

S. 3096

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3096, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for the regularized appointment of justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3131

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S. 3131, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to expand and clarify the exclusion for orphan drugs under the Drug Price Negotiation Program.

S. 3253

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3253, a bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require research and development on frost or cold weather insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 3444

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) 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. 3502

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3502, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prevent consumer reporting agencies from furnishing consumer reports under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

S. 3819

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3819, a bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to issue regulations to establish shrinkflation as an

unfair or deceptive act or practice, and for other purposes.

S. 3832

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) 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. 4199

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4199, a bill to authorize additional district judges for the district courts and convert temporary judgeships.

S. 4292

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) 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. 4299

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4299, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule relating to the collection of crash-worthiness information under the New Car Assessment Program of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 4305

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 4305, a bill to improve the effectiveness of body armor issued to female agents and officers of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

S. 4322

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4322, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make improvements relating to the designation of rural emergency hospitals.

S. 4387

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) were added as cosponsors of S. 4387, a bill to prohibit transportation of any alien using certain methods of identification.

S. 4433

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 4433, a bill to enhance United States cooperation with European

countries to improve the security of Taiwan, and for other purposes.

S. 4464

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4464, a bill to require the United States Postal Service to apply certain requirements when closing a processing, shipping, delivery, or other facility supporting a post office, and for other purposes.

S. 4516

At the request of Mr. VANCE, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) 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. 4532

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 4532, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans.

S. 4537

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 4537, a bill to provide for congressional oversight of proposed changes to arms sales to Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 4539

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) 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. 4554

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) 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. 4580

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4580, a bill to establish, improve, or expand high-quality workforce development programs at community colleges, and for other purposes.

S. 4612

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from California

(Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4612, a bill to ensure that the background check system used for firearms purchases denies a firearm to a person prohibited from possessing a firearm by a lawful court order governing the pretrial release of the person.

S. 4613

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 4613, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish the Office of LGBTQI Inclusion and a rural outreach grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 4619

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor 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. 4624

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4624, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a report on the status and timeline for completion of the redesigned Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry 2.0.

S. 4627

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4627, a bill to authorize additional appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for solid waste disposal systems of the Army, with an offset.

S.J. RES. 82

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 82, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Food and Drug Administration relating to "Medical Devices; Laboratory Developed Tests".

S.J. RES. 87

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 87, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Treasury relating to "Clean Vehicle Credits Under Sections 25E and 30D; Transfer of Credits; Critical Minerals and Battery Components; Foreign Entities of Concern".

S. RES. 144

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 144, a resolution recognizing that it is the duty of the Federal Government to develop and implement a Transgender Bill of Rights to protect

and codify the rights of transgender and nonbinary people under the law and ensure their access to medical care, shelter, safety, and economic safety.

S. RES. 630

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 630, a resolution supporting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and recognizing its 75 years of accomplishments.

S. RES. 748

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 4645. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to extend the interest rate limitation on debt entered into during military service to debt incurred during military service to consolidate or refinance student loans incurred before military service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4645

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 "Servicemember Student Loan Affordability Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. INTEREST RATE LIMITATION ON DEBT ENTERED INTO DURING MILITARY SERVICE TO CONSOLIDATE OR REFINANCE STUDENT LOANS INCURRED BEFORE MILITARY SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 207 of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. 3937) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting "ON DEBT INCURRED BEFORE SERVICE" after "LIMITATION TO 6 PERCENT";

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph (2):

"(2) LIMITATION TO 6 PERCENT ON DEBT INCURRED DURING SERVICE TO CONSOLIDATE OR REFINANCE STUDENT LOANS INCURRED BEFORE SERVICE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), an obligation or liability bearing interest at a rate in excess of 6 percent per year that is incurred by a servicemember, or the servicemember and the servicemember's spouse jointly, during military service to consolidate or refinance one or more student loans incurred by the servicemember before such military service shall not bear an inter-

est at a rate in excess of 6 percent during the period of military service.

"(B) LIMITATION.—Subparagraph (A) shall apply only to the consolidation or refinancing of student loans described in such subparagraph and shall not apply to the consolidation or refinancing of any other obligation or liability.";

(4) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, by inserting "or (2)" after "paragraph (1)"; and

(5) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated, by striking "paragraph (2)" and inserting "paragraph (3)".

(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF LIMITATION.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking "the interest rate limitation in subsection (a)" and inserting "an interest rate limitation in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a)"; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking "EFFECTIVE AS OF DATE OF ORDER TO ACTIVE DUTY" and inserting "EFFECTIVE DATE"; and

(B) by inserting before the period at the end the following: "in the case of an obligation or liability covered by subsection (a)(1), or as of the date the servicemember (or servicemember and spouse jointly) incurs the obligation or liability concerned under subsection (a)(2)".

(c) STUDENT LOAN DEFINED.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) STUDENT LOAN.—The term 'student loan' means the following:

"(A) A Federal student loan made, insured, or guaranteed under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.).

"(B) A private education loan as that term is defined in section 140(a) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1650(a))."

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 753—CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF GEORGE GLEZMANN, A UNITED STATES CITIZEN WHO WAS WRONGFULLY DETAINED BY THE TALIBAN ON DECEMBER 5, 2022, AND CONDEMNING THE WRONGFUL DETENTION OF ALL AMERICANS BY THE TALIBAN

Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 753

Whereas George Glezmman is known to his family, friends, colleagues, and associates as a loving father, as well as a kind, service-oriented man to his community;

Whereas, in December 2022, George Glezmman traveled to Afghanistan for a five-day trip to explore the cultural landscape and rich history of the country;

Whereas the Taliban detained George Glezmman without charging him with a crime or granting him due process in any judicial proceedings;

Whereas, on September 29, 2023, George Glezmman was designated as wrongfully detained by United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken;

Whereas George Glezmman is being held in a nine-foot by nine-foot cell with other detainees and has been held in solitary confinement and underground for months at a time;

Whereas the Taliban has not granted George Glezmman any consular visits by Department of State personnel;

Whereas, during his detention, George Glezmman has had only seven phone calls to-

taling 54 minutes with his family and limited in-person visits with representatives of Qatar, the protecting power of the United States in Afghanistan;

Whereas George Glezmman is suffering from facial tumors, hypertension, severe malnutrition, and other medical conditions; and

Whereas George Glezmman turned 65 years old during his wrongful detention, and his physical and mental health are rapidly declining due to the stress and harsh conditions such that his family fears he will not survive his wrongful detention: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the Taliban to immediately and unconditionally release George Glezmman and all other citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States wrongfully detained in Afghanistan;

(2) urges the Taliban to respect George Glezmman's human rights and to provide full, unfettered, and consistent health and safety visits to George Glezmman while in detention;

(3) encourages the Government of Qatar, as the protecting power of the United States in Afghanistan, to continue its efforts to conduct basic health and wellness checks on George Glezmman, thanks Qatar for its efforts so far, and encourages Qatar to be involved in securing the release of George Glezmman;

(4) urges the President of the United States and all United States executive branch officials to continue to raise the case of George Glezmman and to press for his immediate release in all interactions with the Taliban;

(5) condemns the Taliban's practice of wrongful detention and demands that the Taliban stop detaining United States citizens for political gain;

(6) expresses sympathy for and solidarity with the families of all other citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States wrongfully detained abroad; and

(7) expresses support for the family of George Glezmman and a commitment to bringing George Glezmman home.

SENATE RESOLUTION 754—COMMENDING THE COURAGE, BRAVERY, AND RESOLVE OF THE FATHERS, MOTHERS, SONS, AND DAUGHTERS OF CUBA, WHO, 3 YEARS AGO, STOOD IN THE FACE OF BRUTAL HARASSMENT, BEATINGS, AND TORTURE TO PROTEST AGAINST THE COMMUNIST CUBAN REGIME, DEMANDING ACCESS TO THEIR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS TO LIFE, DIGNITY, AND FREEDOM

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 754

Whereas July 11, 2024, marks 3 years since the historic, pro-democracy demonstration in Cuba when thousands of courageous Cubans took to the streets in more than 40 cities, across all provinces, to demand access to their freedoms and civil liberties and call for an end to communism, censorship, and the oppression imposed by the totalitarian Cuban regime;

Whereas, in an attempt to silence the Cuban people and prevent future protests from taking place, the Cuban dictatorship responded with a wave of terror, repression,

and criminalization and detained and persecuted more than 1,400 protestors, including women and children;

Whereas, in a crude and savage effort to silence the Cuban people, the Communist regime cut internet connectivity and mobile services throughout Cuba, which hindered the Cuban people from organizing and hid from the outside world images and videos of the oppressive and brutal crackdown by the regime;

Whereas totalitarian regimes such as Communist China, Russia, Iran, Venezuela, and Nicaragua surveil and repress their citizens in a similar manner to the Cuban regime, with China, according to reports, even establishing an electronic eavesdropping facility in Cuba to spy on Americans and citizens of China abroad;

Whereas the ongoing imprisonment of José Daniel Ferrer García, a Cuban human rights and democracy activist who has worked tirelessly to advocate for fundamental civil liberties for the Cuban people, has suffered from the tactics of the brutal, despotic regime in Cuba, which aims to silence anyone who would dare speak out against its cruelty and barbarity;

Whereas, according to José Daniel Ferrer García's family in January 2022, since his unlawful arrest on July 11, 2021, he had been subjected to months of solitary confinement, physical and psychological torture, and inhumane treatment from Cuban operatives, resulting in dire health conditions;

Whereas José Daniel Ferrer García suffers from severe headaches, breathing problems, mouth bleeding, malnutrition, vision loss, and bouts of coughing with an inability to sleep, can barely sit in a chair properly, and shows physical signs of repeated torture;

Whereas, 3 years into his ongoing and unjust imprisonment by the Communist regime, José Daniel Ferrer García continues to be subjected to evil, inhumane treatment and has not had contact with his family;

Whereas, like José Daniel Ferrer García, 3 years after the historic demonstration, an unknown number of protestors remain in prison, including minors, many are being held without access to or communication with family members, international human rights organizations, or legal counsel, and some have even been disappeared;

Whereas, in an effort to intimidate Cubans from daring to protest again, the Cuban regime has held mass sham "trials" that lack any semblance of due process and has imposed disproportionate prison terms of up to 25 years for ill-defined charges such as "public disorder, contempt, or violence such as rock-throwing," according to media reports;

Whereas the brutal and illegitimate Communist regime is terrified of the brave and resilient men and women of Cuba who stand resolute in speaking out against the regime's humanitarian crimes and efforts to persecute, kidnap, torture, and eventually kill anyone who stands up against its tyranny;

Whereas unilateral concessions to the Cuban regime in the form of weakened economic sanctions have effectively rewarded malicious governance, leading to more despicable and resolute repression of the Cuban people;

Whereas the corruption and failures of Cuba's closed, Communist economy, in which many industries are run by the Cuban military, have failed the people of Cuba; and

Whereas the international community should stand in solidarity with the Cuban people in condemning the human rights atrocities committed by the brutal, illegitimate, totalitarian, Communist regime and should demand freedom and democracy for the men, women, and children of Cuba: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the bravery, courage, and resolve of the members of the pro-democracy movement and all freedom activists in Cuba for risking their lives to bring freedom to the Cuban people;

(2) condemns the repression of the hundreds of pro-democracy activists and political prisoners, including children, that the Cuban regime is unjustly detaining and subjecting to physical and psychological torture, and calls for their immediate and unconditional release;

(3) condemns the Cuban regime's brutal, totalitarian dictatorship and demands an end to the suffering of the men, women, and children of Cuba and the impunity of the regime's human rights abusers;

(4) calls for the international community to stand with the Cuban people and speak out against Cuba's repressive acts and infringement on fundamental freedoms, such as expression, belief, and assembly; and

(5) urges the Biden administration to put democracy, human rights, and civil liberties at the core of its Cuba policy by ceasing to provide unilateral concessions to the oppressive Cuban regime and by reimposing sanctions on the Cuban regime until all conditions in United States law for removing sanctions are met.

SENATE RESOLUTION 755—DESIGNATING JUNE 2024 AS NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION MONTH

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KING, and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 755

Whereas recent cyberattacks and vulnerabilities present cybersecurity risks to individuals and organizations and increase the urgency to grow and sustain a knowledgeable and skilled cybersecurity workforce in both the public and private sectors;

Whereas, according to CyberSeek.org, as of April 2024, in the United States, there are 1,239,018 individuals in the cybersecurity workforce and 469,930 open jobs in cybersecurity;

Whereas a 2017 report entitled "Supporting the Growth and Sustainment of the Nation's Cybersecurity Workforce: Building the Foundation for a More Secure American Future", transmitted by the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Homeland Security, proposed a vision to "prepare, grow, and sustain a cybersecurity workforce that safeguards and promotes America's national security and economic prosperity";

Whereas expanding cybersecurity education opportunities is important in order to address the cybersecurity workforce shortage and prepare the United States for ongoing and future national security threats;

Whereas cybersecurity education can—

(1) provide learning and career opportunities for students across the United States in elementary through postsecondary education; and

(2) bolster the capacity of the domestic workforce to defend the United States and secure the economy of the United States;

Whereas, in 2021, Congress authorized, as part of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 134 Stat. 3388), the Cybersecurity Education Training Assistance Program (referred to in this preamble as "CETAP"), a Department of Homeland Security initiative to provide cybersecurity career awareness, curricular resources, and professional development to elementary and secondary schools;

Whereas CYBER.ORG, a grantee of CETAP, has introduced cybersecurity concepts to more than 4,500,000 students and provided resources to more than 34,000 K-12 educators in all 50 States and 4 territories of the United States;

Whereas the mission of NICE, a partnership between government, academia, and the private sector led by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, is "to energize, promote, and coordinate a robust community working together to advance an integrated ecosystem of cybersecurity education, training, and workforce development";

Whereas cybersecurity education is supported through multiple Federal programs and other related efforts, including—

(1) the Office of the National Cyber Director;

(2) the NICE Community Coordinating Council;

(3) the Advanced Technological Education program administered by the National Science Foundation;

(4) the CyberCorps: Scholarship for Service program administered by the National Science Foundation, in collaboration with the Office of Personnel Management and the Department of Homeland Security;

(5) the Department of Defense Cybersecurity Scholarship Program administered by the Department of Defense;

(6) the Cybersecurity Talent Initiative administered by the Partnership for Public Service;

(7) the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity administered by the National Security Agency;

(8) the Presidential Cybersecurity Education Award;

(9) Career Technical Education (CTE) CyberNet Academies administered by the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education of the Department of Education;

(10) the GenCyber program administered by the National Security Agency, in collaboration with the National Science Foundation;

(11) widely used resources, including CareerOneStop, Occupational Outlook Handbook, and O*NET OnLine administered by the Department of Labor; and

(12) the Registered Apprenticeship Program administered by the Office of Apprenticeship of the Department of Labor; and

Whereas ensuring access to cybersecurity education for all students in the United States regardless of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sex, or geographic location will expand opportunities for high-earning jobs in high-demand fields: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 2024 as "National Cybersecurity Education Month";

(2) invites individuals and organizations in the United States—

(A) to recognize the essential role of cybersecurity education; and

(B) to support Federal, State, and local educational efforts;

(3) encourages educational and training institutions to increase the understanding and awareness of cybersecurity education at such institutions; and

(4) commits to—

(A) raising awareness about cybersecurity education; and

(B) taking legislative action in support of cybersecurity education to effectively build and sustain a skilled cybersecurity workforce.

SENATE RESOLUTION 756—DESIGNATING JUNE 19, 2024, AS “JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY” IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE 19, 1865, THE DATE ON WHICH NEWS OF THE END OF SLAVERY REACHED THE SLAVES IN THE SOUTHWESTERN STATES

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KING, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CARPER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KELLY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. BRITT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 756

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and the other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and enslaved African Americans were free;

Whereas African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as “Juneteenth Independence Day”, as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas African Americans from the Southwest have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day for more than 150 years;

Whereas Juneteenth Independence Day began as a holiday in the State of Texas and is now celebrated in all 50 States and the District of Columbia as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States;

Whereas Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations are held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race;

Whereas slavery was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in December 1865; and

Whereas, over the course of its history, the United States has grown into a symbol of democracy and freedom around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 19, 2024, as “Juneteenth Independence Day”;

(2) recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the United States;

(3) supports the continued nationwide celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to

provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(4) recognizes that the observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 757—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 5, 2024, THROUGH MAY 11, 2024, AS “TARDIVE DYSKINESIA AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. MULLIN submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 757

Whereas many people living with serious mental illnesses, including bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, schizophrenia, and schizoaffective disorder, or gastrointestinal disorders and symptoms, including gastroparesis, upset stomach, nausea, and vomiting, may be treated with medications that work as dopamine receptor blocking agents, such as antipsychotics and antiemetics;

Whereas, while ongoing treatment with medications can be necessary for serious mental illnesses or gastrointestinal disorders, prolonged use of medications is associated with tardive dyskinesia (referred to in this preamble as “TD”);

Whereas TD is an involuntary movement disorder that is characterized by uncontrollable, abnormal, and repetitive movements of the face, torso, limbs, and fingers or toes;

Whereas even mild symptoms of TD can impact an individual physically, socially, and emotionally;

Whereas TD affects approximately 600,000 individuals in the United States and approximately 65 percent of individuals with TD have not been diagnosed, making it important to raise awareness about the symptoms;

Whereas it is important and recommended by the American Psychiatric Association that individuals taking medications be monitored for TD by a health care provider;

Whereas clinical research has led to approval of treatments for adults with TD by the Food and Drug Administration;

Whereas recognition and treatment of TD can make a positive impact in the lives of many individuals experiencing psychotic and mood disorders; and

Whereas the Senate can raise awareness of TD among the public and medical community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of May 5, 2024, through May 11, 2024, as “Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week”;

(2) encourages each individual in the United States to become better informed about and aware of Tardive Dyskinesia; and

(3) encourages individuals experiencing uncontrollable, abnormal, and repetitive movements to consult a health care provider regarding their symptoms.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 37—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EQUAL PAY AND THE DISPARITY IN WAGES PAID TO MEN AND TO BLACK WOMEN

Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Ms. BUTLER, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 37

Whereas, July 9, 2024, is Black Women’s Equal Pay Day, which marks the day that symbolizes how long into 2024 Black women must work to make what White, non-Hispanic men were paid in 2023;

Whereas section 6(d) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(d)) prohibits discrimination in compensation for equal work on the basis of sex;

Whereas title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.) prohibits discrimination in compensation because of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex;

Whereas, despite the passage of the Equal Pay Act of 1963 (29 U.S.C. 206 note) 6 decades ago, which requires that men and women in the same workplace be given equal pay for equal work, Census Bureau data show that Black women working full time, year round, are paid 69 cents for every dollar that is paid to White, non-Hispanic men;

Whereas, when part-time and part-year workers are included in the comparison, Black women are paid 66 cents for every dollar that is paid to White, non-Hispanic men;

Whereas, if the current trends continue, on average, Black women will have to wait over 100 years to achieve equal pay;

Whereas the median annual pay for a Black woman in the United States working full time, year round, is \$49,480, which means that, if the current wage gap were to continue, the average Black woman would lose nearly \$884,800 in potential earnings to the wage gap over the course of a 40-year career;

Whereas lost wages mean Black women have less money to support themselves and their families, save and invest for the future, and spend on goods and services, causing businesses and the economy to suffer;

Whereas Black women’s median earnings are less than men’s median earnings at every level of academic achievement;

Whereas Black women with bachelor’s and master’s degrees experience a higher wage gap in comparison with White, non-Hispanic men than in comparison with Black women with a high school diploma;

Whereas, in the United States, more than 68 percent of Black mothers are the sole or primary breadwinners for their families, compared to just more than one-third of non-Hispanic White mothers;

Whereas the lack of access to affordable, quality childcare, paid family and medical leave, paid sick leave, and other family-friendly workplace policies contributes to the wage gap by forcing many Black women to choose between having a job and getting quality care for themselves or their family members;

Whereas if the wage gap were eliminated, on average, a Black woman working full time would have enough money for more than 2 additional years of tuition and fees for a 4-year public university; the full cost of tuition and fees for a public 2-year community college; more than 41 additional months of premiums for employer-based family health insurance coverage with employer contributions; more than 50 weeks of food for a family of 4; more than 12 additional months of home ownership costs, including mortgage payments, real estate taxes, insurance, utilities, and fuel costs; more than 17 additional months of rental costs, including rent payments, utilities, and fuel; or the full cost of an average borrower’s Federal student loan debt in under 2 years;

Whereas 38 percent of women have been sexually harassed at the workplace and over 78 percent of sexual harassment charges filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission are filed by women, yet research has found that only a small number of women who experience harassment formally

report incidents for reasons including fear of retaliation;

Whereas workplace harassment forces many women to leave their occupation or industry;

Whereas targets of harassment are 6.5 times as likely as individuals who are not targets to change jobs or pass up opportunities for advancement, contributing to the gender wage gap;

Whereas Black women were the most likely of all racial and ethnic groups to have filed a sexual harassment charge;

Whereas nearly two-thirds of workers that are paid the minimum wage or less are women and there is an overrepresentation of women of color in low-wage and tipped occupations;

Whereas 60 percent of private sector workers reported that they were either discouraged or prohibited by their employers from discussing wage and salary information, which can hide pay discrimination and prevent remedies;

Whereas the pay disparity Black women face is part of a wider set of disparities that Black women face in home ownership, unemployment, poverty, access to childcare, and the ability to accumulate wealth;

Whereas the gender wage gap for Black women has only narrowed by 5 cents in the last 2 decades;

Whereas true pay equity requires a multifaceted strategy that addresses the gender and racial injustices that Black women face daily;

Whereas the pandemic had a disproportionately negative economic impact on Black women; and

Whereas many national organizations have designated July 9, 2024, as Black Women's Equal Pay Day to represent the additional time that Black women must work to compensate for the lower wages paid to Black women in 2023: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the disparity in wages paid to Black women and its impact on women, families, and the United States; and

(2) reaffirms its support for ensuring equal pay for equal work and narrowing the gender and racial wage gaps.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2075. Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2076. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2077. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2078. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2079. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2080. Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S.

4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2081. Mr. KAINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2082. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2083. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2084. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2085. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2086. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2087. Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2088. Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. VANCE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2089. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2090. Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2091. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2092. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2093. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2094. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2095. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2096. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2097. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2098. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2099. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2100. Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2101. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2102. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2103. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2104. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2105. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2106. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2107. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2108. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2109. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2110. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2111. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2112. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Ms. HASSAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2113. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2114. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2115. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2075. Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DRINKING WATER WELL REPLACEMENT FOR CHINCOTEAGUE, VIRGINIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration may enter into one or more agreements with the Town of Chincoteague, Virginia, to reimburse the costs of the Town of Chincoteague directly associated with the removal of drinking water wells located on property administered by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the establishment of alternative drinking water wells on property under the administrative control, through lease, ownership, or easement, of the Town of Chincoteague.

(b) DURATION.—An agreement entered into under subsection (a) shall not exceed a period of 5 years.

SA 2076. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS EXPERIENCE OFFICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 325. Veterans Experience Office

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department within the Office of the Secretary an office to be known as the ‘Veterans Experience Office’ (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Office’ in this section).

“(b) HEAD OF OFFICE.—(1) The head of the Office shall be the Chief Veterans Experience Officer.

“(2) The Chief Veterans Experience Officer shall—

“(A) be appointed by the Secretary from among individuals the Secretary considers qualified to perform the duties of the position; and

“(B) report directly to the Secretary.

“(c) FUNCTION.—The functions of the Office are as follows:

“(1) To carry out the key customer experience initiatives of the Department, including setting the customer experience strategy, framework, policy, and other guidance for the Department.

“(2) Requiring the heads of other organizations and offices within the Department to report regularly on customer experience metrics, action plans, and other customer experience improvement efforts.

“(3) To carry out such other functions relating to customer experience as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(d) STAFF AND RESOURCES.—(1) The Secretary shall ensure that the Office has such staff, resources, and access to customer experience information as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Office.

“(2) Funds available for basic pay and other administrative expenses of other Department organizations shall also be available to reimburse the Office for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs for services provided to such organizations.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 3 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“325. Veterans Experience Office.”

SA 2077. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . REINSTATEMENT OF ENTITLEMENT TO POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3319, the following:

“§ 3319A. Victims of sexual assault and domestic violence; authority to retain transferred education benefits

“(a) REINSTATEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary concerned may, subject to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, reinstate terminated educational assistance payments that were transferred to a spouse or a dependent child under section 3319 of this title if the Secretary concerned determines that the proximate cause for the termination of payment is—

“(1) the administrative separation or conviction by a court martial, or by civilian, Tribal, or State court, of a covered individual for a dependent-abuse offense; and

“(2) the administrative separation or conviction resulted in a discharge characterization of the covered individual that does not meet the requirements of section 3311(c) of this title.

“(b) APPLICATION.—(1) A spouse or dependent child described in subsection (a) seeking reinstatement of terminated educational assistance payments for a termination described in such subsection shall apply for such reinstatement.

“(2) An application under paragraph (1) shall include sufficient information to substantiate that a spouse or dependent child was the victim of dependent-abuse that resulted in a discharge characterization that does not meet the requirements of section 3311(c) of this title.

“(3) The Secretary shall consult with veterans service organizations to ensure that the application process under this subsection is trauma-informed.

“(c) LIMITATION.—Reinstated payments shall not exceed any unused portion of the educational benefits that were transferred to a spouse or dependent child pursuant to section 3319 of this title that remain unobligated at the time of discharge of the covered member.

“(d) DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The Secretary concerned may determine that the proximate cause of termination of education benefits is dependent-abuse, as specified in regulations prescribed in subsection (e), only if—

“(1) the record for the administrative separation establishes, by a preponderance of evidence presented, that the covered individual perpetrated a dependent-abuse offense; or

“(2) the covered individual is convicted of a dependent-abuse offense.

“(e) REVIEW OF DETERMINATIONS.—(1) The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, establish procedures by which a spouse or de-

pendent child whose application for reinstatement of terminated educational assistance under subsection (b) is denied by the Secretary concerned may request the applicable Secretary review the application and denial.

“(2) Pursuant to a review by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Homeland Security under paragraph (1) of an application and denial, the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Homeland Security, as the case may be, may overturn the denial if the Secretary determines such denial was made in error.

“(3) The Secretary receiving a request for a review of an application and denial pursuant to the procedures required by paragraph (1) shall review the application and denial and respond to the request not later than 30 days after receiving the request.

“(4) The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, develop and make available to the public guidance on how a spouse or dependent child may request a review pursuant to the procedures established under paragraph (1).

“(f) REGULATIONS.—(1) The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

“(2) Regulations under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) The procedure for application of reinstatement of education benefits.

“(B) The criminal offenses, or categories of offenses, under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (chapter 47 of title 10), Federal criminal law, the criminal laws of the States and other jurisdictions of the United States, and the laws of other nations that are to be considered dependent-abuse offenses for the purposes of this section.

“(g) BAR TO DUPLICATION OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS.—An individual entitled to education assistance under this chapter who is also eligible for educational assistance under chapter 30, 31, 32, or 35 of this title, chapter 107, 1606, or 1607 or section 510 of title 10, may not receive assistance under two or more such program concurrently, but shall elect (in such form and manner as the Secretary may prescribe) under which section to receive educational assistance.

“(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘covered individual’ means a member of the Armed Forces described in section 3311(b) of this title.

“(2) The term ‘dependent-abuse offense’ means conduct by a covered individual while a member of the Armed Forces on active duty for a period of more than 30 days that—

“(A) involves abuse of the spouse or a dependent child of the member; and

“(B) is a criminal offense specified in regulations prescribed under subsection (e).

“(3) The term ‘dependent child’ has the meaning given such term in section 1408(h) of title 10.

“(4) The term ‘spouse’ means a person who was the beneficiary of transferred educational assistance payments at the time of discharge of a covered individual, who—

“(A) was married to the covered individual; or

“(B) divorced such individual prior to discharge for, as determined by the Secretary concerned, reasons relating to a dependent abuse-offense that resulted in a discharge characterization that does not meet the requirements of section 3311(c) of this title.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 33 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3319 the following new item:

“Sec. 3319A. Victims of sexual assault and domestic violence; authority to retain transferred education benefits.”.

SA 2078. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. ____ . DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.**

(a) HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 3699C. High technology program

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—(1) The Secretary shall carry out a program under which the Secretary provides covered individuals with the opportunity to enroll in high technology programs of education that the Secretary determines provide training or skills sought by employers in a relevant field or industry.

“(2) Not more than 6,000 covered individuals may participate in the program under this section in any fiscal year.

“(b) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—(1) The Secretary shall provide, to each covered individual who pursues a high technology program of education under this section, educational assistance in amounts equal to the amounts provided under section 3313(c)(1) of this title, including with respect to the housing stipend described in that section and in accordance with the treatment of programs that are distance learning and programs that are less than half-time.

“(2) Under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide such amounts of educational assistance to a covered individual for each of the following:

“(A) A high technology program of education.

“(B) A second such program if—

“(i) the second such program begins at least 18 months after the covered individual graduates from the first such program; and

“(ii) the covered individual uses educational assistance under chapter 33 of this title to pursue the second such program.

“(3) No covered individual may receive a housing stipend under this subsection for any month if such individual is in receipt of a housing stipend under chapter 33 of this title for that month.

“(c) CONTRACTS.—(1) For purposes of carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall seek to enter into contracts with any number of qualified providers of high technology programs of education for the provision of such programs to covered individuals. Each such contract shall provide for the conditions under which the Secretary may terminate the contract with the provider and the procedures for providing for the graduation of students who were enrolled in a program provided by such provider in the case of such a termination.

“(2) A contract under this subsection shall provide that the Secretary shall pay to a provider—

“(A) upon the enrollment of a covered individual in the program, 25 percent of the cost of the tuition and other fees for the program of education for the individual;

“(B) upon graduation of the individual from the program, 25 percent of such cost; and

“(C) 50 percent of such cost upon—

“(i) the successful employment of the covered individual for a period—

“(I) of 180 days in the field of study of the program; and

“(II) that begins not later than 180 days following graduation of the covered individual from the program;

“(ii) the employment of the individual by the provider for a period of one year; or

“(iii) the enrollment of the individual in a program of education to continue education in such field of study.

“(3) For purposes of this section, a provider of a high technology program of education is qualified if—

“(A) the provider employs instructors whom the Secretary determines are experts in their respective fields in accordance with paragraph (5);

“(B) the provider has successfully provided the high technology program for at least one year;

“(C) the provider does not charge tuition and fees to a covered individual who receives assistance under this section to pursue such program that are higher than the tuition and fees charged by such provider to another individual; and

“(D) the provider meets the approval criteria developed by the Secretary under paragraph (4).

“(4)(A) The Secretary shall prescribe criteria for approving providers of a high technology program of education under this section.

“(B) In developing such criteria, the Secretary may consult with State approving agencies.

“(C) Such criteria are not required to meet the requirements of section 3672 of this title.

“(D) Such criteria shall include the job placement rate, in the field of study of a program of education, of covered individuals who complete such program of education.

“(5) The Secretary shall determine whether instructors are experts under paragraph (3)(A) based on evidence furnished to the Secretary by the provider regarding the ability of the instructors to—

“(A) identify professions in need of new employees to hire, tailor the programs to meet market needs, and identify the employers likely to hire graduates;

“(B) effectively teach the skills offered to covered individuals;

“(C) provide relevant industry experience in the fields of programs offered to incoming covered individuals; and

“(D) demonstrate relevant industry experience in such fields of programs.

“(6) In entering into contracts under this subsection, the Secretary shall give preference to a provider of a high technology program of education—

“(A) from which at least 70 percent of graduates find full-time employment in the field of study of the program during the 180-day period beginning on the date the student graduates from the program; or

“(B) that offers tuition reimbursement for any student who graduates from such a program and does not find employment described in subparagraph (A).

“(d) EFFECT ON OTHER ENTITLEMENT.—(1) If a covered individual enrolled in a high technology program of education under this section has remaining entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 30, 32, 33, 34, or 35 of this title, entitlement of the individual to educational assistance under this section shall be charged at the rate of one month of such remaining entitlement for each such month of educational assistance under this section.

“(2) If a covered individual enrolled in a high technology program of education under this section does not have remaining entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 30, 32, 33, 34, or 35 of this title, any educational assistance provided to such individual under this section shall be provided in addition to the entitlement that the individual has used.

“(3) The Secretary may not consider enrollment in a high technology program of education under this section to be assistance under a provision of law referred to in section 3695 of this title.

“(4)(A) An application for enrollment in a high technology program of education under this section shall include notice of the requirements relating to use of entitlement under paragraphs (1) and (2), including—

“(i) in the case of the enrollment of an individual referred to under paragraph (1), the amount of entitlement that is typically charged for such enrollment;

“(ii) an identification of any methods that may be available for minimizing the amount of entitlement required for such enrollment; and

“(iii) an element requiring applicants to acknowledge receipt of the notice under this subparagraph.

“(B) If the Secretary approves the enrollment of a covered individual in a high technology program of education under this section, the Secretary shall deliver electronically to the individual an award letter that provides notice of such approval and includes specific information describing how paragraphs (1) and (2) will be applied to the individual if the individual chooses to enroll in the program.

“(e) REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—(1) The Secretary shall not approve the enrollment of any covered individual, not already enrolled, in any high technology programs of education under this section for any period during which the Secretary finds that more than 85 percent of the students enrolled in the program are having all or part of their tuition, fees, or other charges paid to or for them by the educational institution or by the Department of Veterans Affairs under this title or under chapter 1606 or 1607 of title 10, except with respect to tuition, fees, or other charges that are paid under a payment plan at an educational institution that the Secretary determines has a history of offering payment plans that are completed not later than 180 days after the end of the applicable term, quarter, or semester.

“(2) The Secretary may waive a requirement of paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines, pursuant to regulations which the Secretary shall prescribe, such waiver to be in the interest of the covered individual and the Federal Government. Not later than 30 days after the Secretary waives such a requirement, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report regarding such waiver.

“(3)(A)(i) The Secretary shall establish and maintain a process by which an educational institution may request a review of a determination that the educational institution does not meet the requirements of paragraph (1).

“(ii) The Secretary may consult with a State approving agency regarding such process or such a review.

“(iii) Not later than 180 days after the Secretary establishes or revises a process under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report regarding such process.

“(B) An educational institution that requests a review under subparagraph (A)—

“(i) shall request the review not later than 30 days after the start of the term, quarter, or semester for which the determination described in subparagraph (A) applies; and

“(ii) may include any information that the educational institution believes the Department should have taken into account when making the determination, including with respect to any mitigating circumstances.

“(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter until the termination date specified in subsection (i), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the operation of programs under this section during the year covered by the report. Each such report shall include each of the following:

“(1) The number of covered individuals enrolled in the program, disaggregated by type of educational institution, during the year covered by the report.

“(2) The number of covered individuals who completed a high technology program of education under the program during the year covered by the report.

“(3) The average employment rate of covered individuals who completed such a program of education during such year, as of 180 days after the date of completion.

“(4) The average length of time between the completion of such a program of education and employment.

“(5) The total number of covered individuals who completed a program of education under the program and who, as of the date of the submission of the report, are employed in a position related to technology.

“(6) The average salary of a covered individual who completed a program of education under the program and who is employed in a position related to technology, in various geographic areas determined by the Secretary.

“(7) The average salary of all individuals employed in positions related to technology in the geographic areas determined under subparagraph (F), and the difference, if any, between such average salary and the average salary of a covered individual who completed a program of education under the program and who is employed in a position related to technology.

“(8) The number of covered individuals who completed a program of education under the program and who subsequently enrolled in a second program of education under the program.

“(g) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION; CONSULTATION.—(1) The Secretary shall develop practices to use to collect information about covered individuals and providers of high technology programs of education.

“(2) For the purpose of carrying out program under this section, the Secretary may consult with providers of high technology programs of education and may establish an advisory group made up of representatives of such providers, private employers in the technology field, and other relevant groups or entities, as the Secretary determines necessary.

“(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘covered individual’ means any of the following:

“(A) A veteran whom the Secretary determines—

“(i) served an aggregate of at least 36 months on active duty in the Armed Forces (including service on active duty in entry level and skill training) and was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable; and

“(ii) has not attained the age of 62.

“(B) A member of the Armed Forces that the Secretary determines will become a vet-

eran described in subparagraph (A) fewer than 180 days after the date of such determination.

“(2) The term ‘high technology program of education’ means a program of education—

“(A) offered by a public or private educational institution;

“(B) if offered by an institution of higher learning, that is provided directly by such institution rather than by an entity other than such institution under a contract or other agreement;

“(C) that does not lead to a degree;

“(D) that has a term of not less than six and not more than 28 weeks; and

“(E) that provides instruction in computer programming, computer software, media application, data processing, or information sciences.

“(i) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out a program under this section shall terminate on September 30, 2028.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3699B the following new item:

“3699C. High technology program.”

(b) EFFECT ON HIGH TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 116 of the Harry W. Colmer Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-48; 38 U.S.C. 3001 note) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) HOUSING STIPEND.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall pay to each eligible veteran (not including an individual described in the second sentence of subsection (b)) who is enrolled in a high technology program of education under the pilot program on a full-time or part-time basis a monthly housing stipend equal to the product—

“(A) of—

“(i) in the case of a veteran pursuing resident training, the monthly amount of the basic allowance for housing payable under section 403 of title 37, United States Code, for a member with dependents in pay grade E-5 residing in the military housing area that encompasses all or the majority portion of the ZIP code area in which is located the campus of the institution where the individual physically participates in a majority of classes; or

“(ii) in the case of a veteran pursuing a program of education through distance learning, a monthly amount equal to 50 percent of the national average of the monthly amount of the basic allowance for housing payable under section 403 of title 37, United States Code, for a member with dependents in pay grade E-5, multiplied by

“(B) the lesser of—

“(i) 1.0; or

“(ii) the number of course hours borne by the individual in pursuit of the program of education involved, divided by the minimum number of course hours required for full-time pursuit of such program of education, rounded to the nearest multiple of 10.

“(2) BAR TO DUAL ELIGIBILITY.—No covered individual may receive a housing stipend under this subsection for any month if such individual is in receipt of a housing stipend under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, for that month.”

(2) in subsection (g), by striking paragraph (6); and

(3) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the following new subsection (h):

“(h) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out a pilot program under this section shall terminate on September 30, 2023.”

(c) APPROVAL OF CERTAIN HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—Section 3680A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) Any independent study program except—

“(A) an independent study program (including such a program taken over open circuit television) that—

“(i) is accredited by an accrediting agency or association recognized by the Secretary of Education under subpart 2 of part H of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1099b);

“(ii) leads to—

“(I) a standard college degree;

“(II) a certificate that reflects educational attainment offered by an institution of higher learning; or

“(III) a certificate that reflects graduation from a course of study offered by—

“(aa) an area career and technical education school (as defined in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of section 3(3) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302(3))) that provides education at the postsecondary level; or

“(bb) a postsecondary vocational institution (as defined in section 102(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(c))) that provides education at the postsecondary level; and

“(iii) in the case of a program described in clause (ii)(III)—

“(I) provides training aligned with the requirements of employers in the State or local area where the program is located, which may include in-demand industry sectors or occupations;

“(II) provides a student, upon graduation from the program, with a recognized postsecondary credential that is recognized by employers in the relevant industry, which may include a credential recognized by industry or sector partnerships in the State or local area where the industry is located; and

“(III) meets such content and instructional standards as may be required to comply with the criteria under sections 3676(c)(14) and (15) of this title; or

“(B) an online high technology program of education (as defined in subsection (h)(2) of section 3699C of this title)—

“(i) the provider of which has entered into a contract with the Secretary under subsection (c) of such section;

“(ii) that has been provided to covered individuals (as defined in subsection (h)(1) of such section) under such contract for a period of at least five years;

“(iii) regarding which the Secretary has determined that the average employment rate of covered individuals who graduated from such program of education is 65 percent or higher for the year preceding such determination; and

“(iv) that satisfies the requirements of subsection (e) of such section.”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

“(8) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the enrollment of a veteran in an online high technology program described in subsection (a)(4)(B).”

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (c) shall take effect on October 1, 2023.

SA 2079. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for

other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PRESENTATION TO PROMOTE BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO VETERANS IN PREPARATION COUNSELING UNDER THE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1142(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(20) A presentation that promotes the benefits available to veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Such presentation—

“(A) shall be standardized;

“(B) shall, before implementation, be reviewed and approved by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in collaboration with veterans service organizations that provide claims assistance under the benefits delivery at discharge program of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

“(C) shall be submitted by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives for review at least 90 days before implementation;

“(D) where available, shall be presented with the participation of—

“(i) a representative of a veterans service organization recognized under section 5902 of title 38; or

“(ii) an individual—

“(I) recognized under section 5903 of such title; and

“(II) authorized by the Secretary concerned to so participate;

“(E) shall include information on how a veterans service organization may assist the member in filing a claim described in paragraph (19);

“(F) may not encourage the member to join a particular veterans service organization; and

“(G) may not exceed one hour in duration.”.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not less than frequently than once each year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) identifies each veterans service organization that participated in a presentation under paragraph (20) of section 1142(b) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a);

(2) contains the number of members of the Armed Forces who attended such presentations; and

(3) includes any recommendations of the Secretary regarding changes to such presentation or to such paragraph.

SA 2080. Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, insert the following:

SEC. 1239. EXPANSION OF FORFEITED PROPERTY AVAILABLE TO REMEDIATE HARMS TO UKRAINE FROM RUSSIAN AGGRESSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1708 of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (division M of Public Law 117-328; 136 Stat. 5200) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “from any forfeiture fund” after “The Attorney General may transfer”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “which property belonged” and all that follows and inserting the following: “which property—

“(A) belonged to, was possessed by, or was controlled by a person the property or interests in property of which were blocked pursuant to any covered legal authority;

“(B) was involved in an act in violation of, or a conspiracy or scheme to violate or cause a violation of—

“(i) any covered legal authority; or

“(ii) any restriction on the export, reexport, or in-country transfer of items imposed by the United States under the Export Administration Regulations, or any restriction on the export, reexport, or retransfer of defense articles under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations under subchapter M of chapter I of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, with respect to—

“(I) the Russian Federation, Belarus, the Crimea region of Ukraine, or the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk People’s Republic regions of Ukraine;

“(II) any person in any such country or region on a restricted parties list; or

“(III) any person located in any other country that has been added to a restricted parties list in connection with the malign conduct of the Russian Federation in Ukraine, including the annexation of the Crimea region of Ukraine in March 2014 and the invasion beginning in February 2022 of Ukraine, as substantially enabled by Belarus; or

“(C) was involved in any related conspiracy, scheme, or other Federal offense arising from the actions of, or doing business with or acting on behalf of, the Russian Federation, Belarus, or the Crimea region of Ukraine, or the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk People’s Republic regions of Ukraine.”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) The term ‘covered legal authority’ means any license, order, regulation, or prohibition imposed by the United States under the authority provided by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or any other provision of law, with respect to—

“(A) the Russian Federation;

“(B) the national emergency—

“(i) declared in Executive Order 13660 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of certain persons contributing to the situation in Ukraine);

“(ii) expanded by—

“(I) Executive Order 13661 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of additional persons contributing to the situation in Ukraine); and

“(II) Executive Order 13662 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of additional persons contributing to the situation in Ukraine); and

“(iii) relied on for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13685 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of certain persons and prohibiting certain transactions with respect to the Crimea region of Ukraine);

“(C) the national emergency, as it relates to the Russian Federation—

“(i) declared in Executive Order 13694 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking the

property of certain persons engaging in significant malicious cyber-enabled activities); and

“(ii) relied on for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13757 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to taking additional steps to address the national emergency with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities);

“(D) the national emergency—

“(i) declared in Executive Order 14024 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation);

“(ii) expanded by Executive Order 14066 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to prohibiting certain imports and new investments with respect to continued Russian Federation efforts to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine); and

“(iii) relied on for additional steps taken in—

“(I) Executive Order 14039 (22 U.S.C. 9526 note; relating to blocking property with respect to certain Russian energy export pipelines);

“(II) Executive Order 14068 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to prohibiting certain imports, exports, and new investment with respect to continued Russian Federation aggression); and

“(III) Executive Order 14071 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to prohibiting new investment in and certain services to the Russian Federation in response to continued Russian Federation aggression); and

“(iv) which may be expanded or relied on in future Executive orders; or

“(E) actions or policies that undermine the democratic processes and institutions in Ukraine or threaten the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Ukraine.

“(4) The term ‘Export Administration Regulations’ has the meaning given that term in section 1742 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801).

“(5) The term ‘restricted parties list’ means any of the following lists maintained by the Bureau of Industry and Security:

“(A) The Entity List set forth in Supplement No. 4 to part 744 of the Export Administration Regulations.

“(B) The Denied Persons List maintained pursuant to section 764.3(a)(2) of the Export Administration Regulations.

“(C) The Unverified List set forth in Supplement No. 6 to part 744 of the Export Administration Regulations.”.

(b) SEMIANNUAL REPORTS.—Such section is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on progress made in remediating the harms of Russian aggression toward Ukraine as a result of transfers made under subsection (a).”.

(c) PLAN REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of State, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan for using the authority provided by section 1708 of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023, as amended by this section.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” has the meaning given that term by section 1708 of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023, as amended by this section.

SA 2081. Mr. KAINÉ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. LIMITATIONS ON EXCEPTING POSITIONS FROM COMPETITIVE SERVICE AND TRANSFERRING POSITIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “agency” means any department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal Government;

(2) the term “competitive service” has the meaning given the term in section 2102 of title 5, United States Code;

(3) the term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management; and

(4) the term “excepted service” has the meaning given the term in section 2103 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—A position in the competitive service may not be excepted from the competitive service unless that position is placed—

(1) in any of schedules A through E, as described in section 6.2 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on September 30, 2020; and

(2) under the terms and conditions under part 6 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on September 30, 2020.

(c) TRANSFERS.—

(1) WITHIN EXCEPTED SERVICE.—A position in the excepted service may not be transferred to any schedule other than a schedule described in subsection (b)(1).

(2) OPM CONSENT REQUIRED.—An agency may not transfer any occupied position from the competitive service or the excepted service into schedule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulations, without the prior consent of the Director.

(3) LIMIT DURING PRESIDENTIAL TERM.—During any 4-year presidential term, an agency may not transfer from a position in the competitive service to a position in the excepted service the greater of the following:

(A) A total number of employees that is more than 1 percent of the total number of employees employed by that agency, as of the first day of that presidential term.

(B) 5 employees.

(4) EMPLOYEE CONSENT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section—

(A) an employee who occupies a position in the excepted service may not be transferred to an excepted service schedule other than the schedule in which that position is located without the prior written consent of the employee; and

(B) an employee who occupies a position in the competitive service may not be transferred to the excepted service without the prior written consent of the employee.

(d) OTHER MATTERS.—

(1) APPLICATION.—Notwithstanding section 7425(b) of title 38, United States Code, this section shall apply to a position under chapter 73 or 74 of that title.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than March 15 of each calendar year, the Director shall submit to Congress a report on the immediately preceding calendar year that lists—

(A) each position that, during the year covered by the report, was transferred from the competitive service to the excepted service and a justification as to why each such position was so transferred; and

(B) any violation of this section that occurred during the year covered by the report.

(e) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue regulations to implement this section.

SA 2082. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION E—GOOD SAMARITAN REMEDIATION OF ABANDONED HARDROCK MINES ACT OF 2024

SEC. 5001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the “Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2024”.

SEC. 5002. DEFINITIONS.

In this division:

(1) ABANDONED HARDROCK MINE SITE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “abandoned hardrock mine site” means an abandoned or inactive hardrock mine site and any facility associated with an abandoned or inactive hardrock mine site—

(i) that was used for the production of a mineral other than coal conducted on Federal land under sections 2319 through 2352 of the Revised Statutes (commonly known as the “Mining Law of 1872”; 30 U.S.C. 22 et seq.) or on non-Federal land; and

(ii) for which, based on information supplied by the Good Samaritan after review of publicly available data and after review of other information in the possession of the Administrator, the Administrator or, in the case of a site on land owned by the United States, the Federal land management agency, determines that no responsible owner or operator has been identified—

(I) who is potentially liable for, or has been required to perform or pay for, environmental remediation activities under applicable law; and

(II) other than, in the case of a mine site located on land owned by the United States, a Federal land management agency that has not been involved in mining activity on that land, except that the approval of a plan of operations under the hardrock mining regulations of the applicable Federal land management agency shall not be considered involvement in the mining activity.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term “abandoned hardrock mine site” includes a hardrock mine site (including associated facilities) that was previously the subject of a completed response action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) or a similar Federal and State reclamation or cleanup program, including the remediation of mine-scarred land under the brownfields revitalization program under section 104(k) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)).

(C) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “abandoned hardrock mine site” does not include a mine site (including associated facilities)—

(i) in a temporary shutdown or cessation;

(ii) included on the National Priorities List developed by the President in accordance with section 105(a)(8)(B) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9605(a)(8)(B)) or proposed for inclusion on that list;

(iii) that is the subject of a planned or ongoing response action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) or a similar Federal and State reclamation or cleanup program;

(iv) that has a responsible owner or operator; or

(v) that actively mined or processed minerals after December 11, 1980.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(3) APPLICABLE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.—The term “applicable water quality standards” means the water quality standards promulgated by the Administrator or adopted by a State or Indian tribe and approved by the Administrator pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

(4) BASELINE CONDITIONS.—The term “baseline conditions” means the concentrations, locations, and releases of any hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants, as described in the Good Samaritan permit, present at an abandoned hardrock mine site prior to undertaking any action under this division.

(5) COOPERATING PERSON.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “cooperating person” means any person that is named by the Good Samaritan in the permit application as a cooperating entity.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “cooperating person” does not include—

(i) a responsible owner or operator with respect to the abandoned hardrock mine site described in the permit application;

(ii) a person that had a role in the creation of historic mine residue at the abandoned hardrock mine site described in the permit application; or

(iii) a Federal agency.

(6) COVERED PERMIT.—The term “covered permit” means—

(A) a Good Samaritan permit; and

(B) an investigative sampling permit.

(7) FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—The term “Federal land management agency” means any Federal agency authorized by law or executive order to exercise jurisdiction, custody, or control over land owned by the United States.

(8) GOOD SAMARITAN.—The term “Good Samaritan” means a person that, with respect to historic mine residue, as determined by the Administrator—

(A) is not a past or current owner or operator of—

(i) the abandoned hardrock mine site at which the historic mine residue is located; or

(ii) a portion of that abandoned hardrock mine site;

(B) had no role in the creation of the historic mine residue; and

(C) is not potentially liable under any Federal, State, Tribal, or local law for the remediation, treatment, or control of the historic mine residue.

(9) GOOD SAMARITAN PERMIT.—The term “Good Samaritan permit” means a permit granted by the Administrator under section 5004(a)(1).

(10) HISTORIC MINE RESIDUE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “historic mine residue” means mine residue or any condition at an abandoned hardrock mine site resulting from hardrock mining activities.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “historic mine residue” includes—

(i) previously mined ores and minerals other than coal that contribute to acid mine drainage or other pollution;

(ii) equipment (including materials in equipment);

(iii) any tailings facilities, heap leach piles, dump leach piles, waste rock, overburden, slag piles, or other waste or material resulting from any extraction, beneficiation, or other processing activity that occurred during the active operation of an abandoned hardrock mine site;

(iv) any acidic or otherwise polluted flow in surface water or groundwater that originates from, or is pooled and contained in, an inactive or abandoned hardrock mine site, such as underground workings, open pits, in-situ leaching operations, ponds, or impoundments;

(v) any hazardous substance (as defined in section 101 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601));

(vi) any pollutant or contaminant (as defined in section 101 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601)); and

(vii) any pollutant (as defined in section 502 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1362)).

(11) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in—

(A) section 518(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1377(h)); or

(B) section 101 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601).

(12) INVESTIGATIVE SAMPLING PERMIT.—The term “investigative sampling permit” means a permit granted by the Administrator under section 5004(d)(1).

(13) PERSON.—The term “person” means any entity described in—

(A) section 502(5) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1362(5)); or

(B) section 101(21) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601(21)).

(14) REMEDIATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “remediation” means any action taken to investigate, characterize, or cleanup, in whole or in part, a discharge, release, or threat of release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant into the environment at or from an abandoned hardrock mine site, or to otherwise protect and improve human health and the environment.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term “remediation” includes any action to remove, treat, or contain historic mine residue to prevent, minimize, or reduce—

(i) the release or threat of release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant that would harm human health or the environment; or

(ii) a migration or discharge of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant that would harm human health or the environment.

(C) EXCLUSION.—The term “remediation” does not include any action that requires plugging, opening, or otherwise altering the portal or adit of the abandoned hardrock mine site.

(15) RESERVATION.—The term “reservation” has the meaning given the term “Indian country” in section 1151 of title 18, United States Code.

(16) RESPONSIBLE OWNER OR OPERATOR.—The term “responsible owner or operator” means a person that is—

(A)(i) legally responsible under section 301 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311) for a discharge that originates from an abandoned hardrock mine site; and

(ii) financially able to comply with each requirement described in that section; or

(B)(i) a present or past owner or operator or other person that is liable with respect to a release or threat of release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant associated with the historic mine residue at or from an abandoned hardrock mine site under section 104, 106, 107, or 113 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604, 9606, 9607, 9613); and

(ii) financially able to comply with each requirement described in those sections, as applicable.

SEC. 5003. SCOPE.

Nothing in this division—

(1) except as provided in section 5004(n), reduces any existing liability under Federal, State, or local law;

(2) except as provided in section 5004(n), releases any person from liability under Federal, State, or local law, except in compliance with this division;

(3) authorizes the conduct of any mining or processing other than the conduct of any processing of previously mined ores, minerals, wastes, or other materials that is authorized by a Good Samaritan permit;

(4) imposes liability on the United States or a Federal land management agency pursuant to section 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9607) or section 301 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311); or

(5) relieves the United States or any Federal land management agency from any liability under section 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9607) or section 301 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311) that exists apart from any action undertaken pursuant to this division.

SEC. 5004. ABANDONED HARDROCK MINE SITE GOOD SAMARITAN PILOT PROJECT AUTHORIZATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish a pilot program under which the Administrator shall grant not more than 15 Good Samaritan permits to carry out projects to remediate historic mine residue at any portions of abandoned hardrock mine sites in accordance with this division.

(2) OVERSIGHT OF PERMITS.—The Administrator may oversee the remediation project under paragraph (1), and any action taken by the applicable Good Samaritan or any cooperating person under the applicable Good Samaritan permit, for the duration of the Good Samaritan permit, as the Administrator determines to be necessary to review the status of the project.

(3) SUNSET.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the pilot program described in paragraph (1) shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the Administrator may grant a Good Samaritan permit pursuant to this division after the date identified in subparagraph (A) if the application for the Good Samaritan permit—

(i) was submitted not later than 180 days before that date; and

(ii) was completed in accordance with subsection (c) by not later than 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(C) EFFECT ON CERTAIN PERMITS.—Any Good Samaritan permit granted by the deadline prescribed in subparagraph (A) or (B), as applicable, that is in effect on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act shall remain in effect after that date in accordance with—

(i) the terms and conditions of the Good Samaritan permit; and

(ii) this division.

(b) GOOD SAMARITAN PERMIT ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a Good Samaritan permit to carry out a project to remediate an abandoned hardrock mine site, a person shall demonstrate that, as determined by the Administrator—

(A) the abandoned hardrock mine site that is the subject of the application for a Good Samaritan permit is located in the United States;

(B) the purpose of the proposed project is the remediation at that abandoned hardrock mine site of historic mine residue;

(C) the proposed activities are designed to result in the partial or complete remediation of historic mine residue at the abandoned hardrock mine site within the term of the Good Samaritan permit;

(D) the proposed project poses a low risk to the environment, as determined by the Administrator;

(E) to the satisfaction of the Administrator, the person—

(i) possesses, or has the ability to secure, the financial and other resources necessary—

(I) to complete the permitted work, as determined by the Administrator; and

(II) to address any contingencies identified in the Good Samaritan permit application described in subsection (c);

(ii) possesses the proper and appropriate experience and capacity to complete the permitted work; and

(iii) will complete the permitted work; and

(F) the person is a Good Samaritan with respect to the historic mine residue proposed to be covered by the Good Samaritan permit.

(2) IDENTIFICATION OF ALL RESPONSIBLE OWNERS OR OPERATORS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A Good Samaritan shall make reasonable and diligent efforts to identify, from a review of publicly available information in land records or on internet websites of Federal, State, and local regulatory authorities, all responsible owners or operators of an abandoned hardrock mine site proposed to be remediated by the Good Samaritan under this section.

(B) EXISTING RESPONSIBLE OWNER OR OPERATOR.—If the Administrator determines, based on information provided by a Good Samaritan or otherwise, that a responsible owner or operator exists for an abandoned hardrock mine site proposed to be remediated by the Good Samaritan, the Administrator shall deny the application for a Good Samaritan permit.

(c) APPLICATION FOR PERMITS.—To obtain a Good Samaritan permit, a person shall submit to the Administrator an application, signed by the person and any cooperating person, that provides, to the extent known or reasonably discoverable by the person on the date on which the application is submitted—

(1) a description of the abandoned hardrock mine site (including the boundaries of the abandoned hardrock mine site) proposed to be covered by the Good Samaritan permit;

(2) a description of all parties proposed to be involved in the remediation project, including any cooperating person and each member of an applicable corporation, association, partnership, consortium, joint venture, commercial entity, or nonprofit association;

(3) evidence that the person has or will acquire all legal rights or the authority necessary to enter the relevant abandoned

hardrock mine site and perform the remediation described in the application;

(4) a detailed description of the historic mine residue to be remediated;

(5) a detailed description of the expertise and experience of the person and the resources available to the person to successfully implement and complete the remediation plan under paragraph (7);

(6) to the satisfaction of the Administrator and subject to subsection (d), a description of the baseline conditions caused by the historic mine residue to be remediated that includes—

(A) the nature and extent of any adverse impact on the water quality of any body of water caused by the drainage of historic mine residue or other discharges from the abandoned hardrock mine site;

(B) the flow rate and concentration of any drainage of historic mine residue or other discharge from the abandoned hardrock mine site in any body of water that has resulted in an adverse impact described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) any other release or threat of release of historic mine residue that has resulted in an adverse impact to human health or the environment;

(7) subject to subsection (d), a remediation plan for the abandoned hardrock mine site that describes—

(A) the nature and scope of the proposed remediation activities, including—

(i) any historic mine residue to be addressed by the remediation plan; and

(ii) a description of the goals of the remediation including, if applicable, with respect to—

(I) the reduction or prevention of a release, threat of release, or discharge to surface waters; or

(II) other appropriate goals relating to water or soil;

(B) each activity that the person proposes to take that is—

(i) designed to—

(I) improve or enhance water quality or site-specific soil or sediment quality relevant to the historic mine residue addressed by the remediation plan, including making measurable progress toward achieving applicable water quality standards; or

(II) otherwise protect human health and the environment (including through the prevention of a release, discharge, or threat of release to water, sediment, or soil); and

(ii) otherwise necessary to carry out an activity described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (i);

(C) a plan describing the monitoring or other forms of assessment that will be undertaken by the person to evaluate the success of the activities described in subparagraph (A) during and after the remediation, with respect to the baseline conditions, as described in paragraph (6);

(D) to the satisfaction of the Administrator, detailed engineering plans for the project;

(E) detailed plans for any proposed recycling or reprocessing of historic mine residue to be conducted by the person (including a description of how all proposed recycling or reprocessing activities contribute to the remediation of the abandoned hardrock mine site); and

(F) identification of any proposed contractor that will perform any remediation activity;

(8) subject to subsection (d), a schedule for the work to be carried out under the project, including a schedule for periodic reporting by the person on the remediation of the abandoned hardrock mine site;

(9) a health and safety plan that is specifically designed for mining remediation work;

(10) a specific contingency plan that—

(A) includes provisions on response and notification to Federal, State, Tribal, and local authorities with jurisdiction over downstream waters that have the potential to be impacted by an unplanned release or discharge of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants; and

(B) is designed to respond to unplanned adverse events (such as adverse weather events or a potential fluid release that may result from addressing pooled water or hydraulic pressure situations), including the sudden release of historic mine residue;

(11) subject to subsection (d), a project budget and description of financial resources that demonstrate that the permitted work, including any operation and maintenance, will be completed;

(12) subject to subsection (d), information demonstrating that the applicant has the financial resources to carry out the remediation (including any long-term monitoring that may be required by the Good Samaritan permit) or the ability to secure an appropriate third-party financial assurance, as determined by the Administrator, to ensure completion of the permitted work, including any long-term operations and maintenance of remediation activities that may be—

(A) proposed in the application for the Good Samaritan permit; or

(B) required by the Administrator as a condition of granting the permit;

(13) subject to subsection (d), a detailed plan for any required operation and maintenance of any remediation, including a timeline, if necessary;

(14) subject to subsection (d), a description of any planned post-remediation monitoring, if necessary; and

(15) subject to subsection (d), any other appropriate information, as determined by the Administrator or the applicant.

(d) INVESTIGATIVE SAMPLING.—

(1) INVESTIGATIVE SAMPLING PERMITS.—The Administrator may grant an investigative sampling permit for a period determined by the Administrator to authorize a Good Samaritan to conduct investigative sampling of historic mine residue, soil, sediment, or water to determine—

(A) baseline conditions; and

(B) whether the Good Samaritan—

(i) is willing to perform further remediation to address the historic mine residue; and

(ii) will proceed with a permit conversion under subsection (e)(1).

(2) NUMBER OF PERMITS.—

(A) LIMITATION.— Subject to subparagraph (B), the Administrator may grant not more than 15 investigative sampling permits.

(B) APPLICABILITY TO CONVERTED PERMITS.—An investigative sampling permit that is not converted to a Good Samaritan permit pursuant to paragraph (5) may be eligible for reissuance by the Administrator subject to the overall total of not more than 15 investigative sampling permits allowed at any 1 time described in subparagraph (A).

(3) APPLICATION.—If a Good Samaritan proposes to conduct investigative sampling, the Good Samaritan shall submit to the Administrator an investigative sampling permit application that contains, to the satisfaction of the Administrator—

(A) each description required under paragraphs (1), (2), and (5) of subsection (c);

(B) to the extent reasonably known to the applicant, any previously documented water quality data describing conditions at the abandoned hardrock mine site;

(C) the evidence required under subsection (c)(3);

(D) each plan required under paragraphs (9) and (10) of subsection (c); and

(E) a detailed plan of the investigative sampling.

(4) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If a person submits an application that proposes only investigative sampling of historic mine residue, soil, sediment, or water that only includes the requirements described in paragraph (1), the Administrator may grant an investigative sampling permit that authorizes the person only to carry out the plan of investigative sampling of historic mine residue, soil, sediment, or water, as described in the investigative sampling permit application under paragraph (3).

(B) REPROCESSING.—An investigative sampling permit—

(i) shall not authorize a Good Samaritan or cooperating person to conduct any reprocessing of material; and

(ii) may authorize metallurgical testing of historic mine residue to determine whether reprocessing under subsection (f)(4)(B) is feasible.

(C) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SAMPLES.—In conducting investigative sampling of historic mine residue, soil, sediment, or water, a Good Samaritan shall—

(i) collect samples that are representative of the conditions present at the abandoned hardrock mine site that is the subject of the investigative sampling permit; and

(ii) retain publicly available records of all sampling events for a period of not less than 3 years.

(5) PERMIT CONVERSION.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the investigative sampling under the investigative sampling permit concludes, a Good Samaritan to whom an investigative sampling permit is granted under paragraph (1) may apply to convert an investigative sampling permit into a Good Samaritan permit under subsection (e)(1).

(6) PERMIT NOT CONVERTED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B)(ii)(I), a Good Samaritan who obtains an investigative sampling permit may decline—

(i) to apply to convert the investigative sampling permit into a Good Samaritan permit under paragraph (5); and

(ii) to undertake remediation activities on the site where investigative sampling was conducted on conclusion of investigative sampling.

(B) EFFECT OF LACK OF CONVERSION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding a refusal by a Good Samaritan to convert an investigative sampling permit into a Good Samaritan permit under subparagraph (A), but subject to clause (ii), the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (n) shall continue to apply to the Good Samaritan and any cooperating persons after the refusal to convert.

(ii) DEGRADATION OF SURFACE WATER QUALITY.—

(I) OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT.—If, before the date on which a Good Samaritan refuses to convert an investigative sampling permit under subparagraph (A), actions by the Good Samaritan or any cooperating person have caused conditions at the abandoned hardrock mine site to be measurably worse, as determined by the Administrator, when compared to conditions described pursuant to paragraph (3)(B), if applicable, the Administrator shall provide the Good Samaritan or cooperating person, as applicable, the opportunity to return the conditions at the abandoned hardrock mine site to those conditions.

(II) EFFECT.—If, pursuant to subclause (I), the applicable Good Samaritan or cooperating person does not return the surface water quality at the abandoned hardrock mine site to conditions described pursuant to paragraph (3)(B), if applicable, as determined by the Administrator, clause (i) shall not apply to the Good Samaritan or any cooperating persons.

(e) INVESTIGATIVE SAMPLING CONVERSION.—
 (1) IN GENERAL.—A person to which an investigative sampling permit was granted may submit to the Administrator an application in accordance with paragraph (2) to convert the investigative sampling permit into a Good Samaritan permit.

(2) APPLICATION.—

(A) INVESTIGATIVE SAMPLING.—An application for the conversion of an investigative sampling permit under paragraph (1) shall include any requirement described in subsection (c) that was not included in full in the application submitted under subsection (d)(3).

(B) PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.—An application for permit conversion under this paragraph shall be subject to—

(i) environmental review and public comment procedures required by subsection (1); and

(ii) a public hearing, if requested.

(f) CONTENT OF PERMITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A Good Samaritan permit shall contain—

(A) the information described in subsection (c), including any modification required by the Administrator;

(B) (i) a provision that states that the Good Samaritan is responsible for securing, for all activities authorized under the Good Samaritan permit, all authorizations, licenses, and permits that are required under applicable law except for—

(I) section 301, 302, 306, 307, 402, or 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311, 1312, 1316, 1317, 1342, 1344); and

(II) authorizations, licenses, and permits that would not need to be obtained if the remediation was conducted pursuant to section 121 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9621); or

(ii) in the case of an abandoned hardrock mine site in a State that is authorized to implement State law pursuant to section 402 or 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342, 1344) or on land of an Indian tribe that is authorized to implement Tribal law pursuant to that section, a provision that states that the Good Samaritan is responsible for securing, for all activities authorized under the Good Samaritan permit, all authorizations, licenses, and permits that are required under applicable law, except for—

(I) the State or Tribal law, as applicable; and

(II) authorizations, licenses, and permits that would not need to be obtained if the remediation was conducted pursuant to section 121 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9621);

(C) specific public notification requirements, including the contact information for all appropriate response centers in accordance with subsection (o);

(D) in the case of a project on land owned by the United States, a notice that the Good Samaritan permit serves as an agreement for use and occupancy of Federal land that is enforceable by the applicable Federal land management agency; and

(E) any other terms and conditions determined to be appropriate by the Administrator or the Federal land management agency, as applicable.

(2) FORCE MAJEURE.—A Good Samaritan permit may include, at the request of the Good Samaritan, a provision that a Good Samaritan may assert a claim of force majeure for any violation of the Good Samaritan permit caused solely by—

(A) an act of God;

(B) an act of war;

(C) negligence on the part of the United States;

(D) an act or omission of a third party, if the Good Samaritan—

(i) exercises due care with respect to the actions of the Good Samaritan under the Good Samaritan permit, as determined by the Administrator;

(ii) took precautions against foreseeable acts or omissions of the third party, as determined by the Administrator; and

(iii) uses reasonable efforts—

(I) to anticipate any potential force majeure; and

(II) to address the effects of any potential force majeure; or

(E) a public health emergency declared by the Federal Government or a global government, such as a pandemic or an epidemic.

(3) MONITORING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Good Samaritan shall take such actions as the Good Samaritan permit requires to ensure appropriate baseline conditions monitoring, monitoring during the remediation project, and post-remediation monitoring of the environment under paragraphs (7) and (14) of subsection (c).

(B) MULTIPARTY MONITORING.—The Administrator may approve in a Good Samaritan permit the monitoring by multiple cooperating persons if, as determined by the Administrator—

(i) the multiparty monitoring will effectively accomplish the goals of this section; and

(ii) the Good Samaritan remains responsible for compliance with the terms of the Good Samaritan permit.

(4) OTHER DEVELOPMENT.—

(A) NO AUTHORIZATION OF MINING ACTIVITIES.—No mineral exploration, processing, beneficiation, or mining shall be—

(i) authorized by this division; or

(ii) covered by any waiver of liability provided by this division from applicable law.

(B) REPROCESSING OF MATERIALS.—A Good Samaritan may reprocess materials recovered during the implementation of a remediation plan only if—

(i) the project under the Good Samaritan permit is on land owned by the United States;

(ii) the applicable Federal land management agency has signed a decision document under subsection (1)(2)(G) approving reprocessing as part of a remediation plan;

(iii) the proceeds from the sale or use of the materials are used—

(I) to defray the costs of the remediation; and

(II) to the extent required by the Good Samaritan permit, to reimburse the Administrator or the head of a Federal land management agency for the purpose of carrying out this division;

(iv) any remaining proceeds are deposited into the appropriate Good Samaritan Mine Remediation Fund established by section 5005(a); and

(v) the materials only include historic mine residue.

(C) CONNECTION WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES.—The commingling or association of any other discharge of water or historic mine residue or any activity, project, or operation conducted on or after the date of enactment of this Act with any aspect of a project subject to a Good Samaritan permit shall not limit or reduce the liability of any person associated with the other discharge of water or historic mine residue or activity, project, or operation.

(g) ADDITIONAL WORK.—A Good Samaritan permit may (subject to subsection (r)(5) in the case of a project located on Federal land) allow the Good Samaritan to return to the abandoned hardrock mine site after the completion of the remediation to perform operations and maintenance or other work—

(1) to ensure the functionality of completed remediation activities at the abandoned hardrock mine site; or

(2) to protect public health and the environment.

(h) TIMING.—Work authorized under a Good Samaritan permit—

(1) shall commence, as applicable—

(A) not later than the date that is 18 months after the date on which the Administrator granted the Good Samaritan permit, unless the Administrator grants an extension under subsection (r)(2)(A); or

(B) if the grant of the Good Samaritan permit is the subject of a petition for judicial review, not later than the date that is 18 months after the date on which the judicial review, including any appeals, has concluded; and

(2) shall continue until completed, with temporary suspensions permitted during adverse weather or other conditions specified in the Good Samaritan permit.

(i) TRANSFER OF PERMITS.—A Good Samaritan permit may be transferred to another person only if—

(1) the Administrator determines that the transferee qualifies as a Good Samaritan;

(2) the transferee signs, and agrees to be bound by the terms of, the permit;

(3) the Administrator includes in the transferred permit any additional conditions necessary to meet the goals of this section; and

(4) in the case of a project under the Good Samaritan permit on land owned by the United States, the head of the applicable Federal land management agency approves the transfer.

(j) ROLE OF ADMINISTRATOR AND FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.—In carrying out this section—

(1) the Administrator shall—

(A) consult with prospective applicants;

(B) convene, coordinate, and lead the application review process;

(C) maintain all records relating to the Good Samaritan permit and the permit process;

(D) in the case of a proposed project on State, Tribal, or private land, provide an opportunity for cooperating persons and the public to participate in the Good Samaritan permit process, including—

(i) carrying out environmental review and public comment procedures pursuant to subsection (1); and

(ii) a public hearing, if requested; and

(E) enforce and otherwise carry out this section; and

(2) the head of an applicable Federal land management agency shall—

(A) in the case of a proposed project on land owned by the United States, provide an opportunity for cooperating persons and the public to participate in the Good Samaritan permit process, including—

(i) carrying out environmental review and public comment procedures pursuant to subsection (1); and

(ii) a public hearing, if requested; and

(B) in coordination with the Administrator, enforce Good Samaritan permits issued under this section for projects on land owned by the United States.

(k) STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—As soon as practicable, but not later than 14 days after the date on which the Administrator receives an application for the remediation of an abandoned hardrock mine site under this section that, as determined by the Administrator, is complete and meets all applicable requirements of subsection (c), the Administrator shall provide notice and a copy of the application to—

(1) each local government with jurisdiction over a drinking water utility, and each Indian tribe with reservation or off-reservation

treaty rights to land or water, located downstream from or otherwise near a proposed remediation project that is reasonably anticipated to be impacted by the remediation project or a potential release of contaminants from the abandoned hardrock mine site, as determined by the Administrator;

(2) each Federal, State, and Tribal agency that may have an interest in the application; and

(3) in the case of an abandoned hardrock mine site that is located partially or entirely on land owned by the United States, the Federal land management agency with jurisdiction over that land.

(1) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND PUBLIC COMMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Before the issuance of a Good Samaritan permit to carry out a project for the remediation of an abandoned hardrock mine site, the Administrator shall ensure that environmental review and public comment procedures are carried out with respect to the proposed project.

(2) RELATION TO NEPA.—

(A) MAJOR FEDERAL ACTION.—Subject to subparagraph (F), the issuance or modification of a Good Samaritan permit by the Administrator shall be considered a major Federal action for purposes of section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

(B) LEAD AGENCY.—The lead agency for purposes of an environmental assessment and public comment under this subsection shall be—

(i) in the case of a proposed project on land owned by the United States that is managed by only 1 Federal land management agency, the applicable Federal land management agency;

(ii) in the case of a proposed project entirely on State, Tribal, or private land, the Administrator;

(iii) in the case of a proposed project partially on land owned by the United States and partially on State, Tribal, or private land, the applicable Federal land management agency; and

(iv) in the case of a proposed project on land owned by the United States that is managed by more than 1 Federal land management agency, the Federal land management agency selected by the Administrator to be the lead agency, after consultation with the applicable Federal land management agencies.

(C) COORDINATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the lead agency described in subparagraph (B) shall coordinate procedures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with State, Tribal, and Federal cooperating agencies, as applicable.

(D) COOPERATING AGENCY.—In the case of a proposed project on land owned by the United States, the Administrator shall be a cooperating agency for purposes of an environmental assessment and public comment under this subsection.

(E) SINGLE NEPA DOCUMENT.—The lead agency described in subparagraph (B) may conduct a single environmental assessment for—

(i) the issuance of a Good Samaritan permit;

(ii) any activities authorized by a Good Samaritan permit; and

(iii) any applicable permits required by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture.

(F) NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A Good Samaritan permit may only be issued if, after an environmental assessment, the head of the lead agency issues a finding of no significant impact (as defined in section 111 of the National

Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336e)).

(ii) SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.—If the head of the lead agency is unable to issue a finding of no significant impact (as so defined), the head of the lead agency shall not issue a Good Samaritan permit for the proposed project.

(G) DECISION DOCUMENT.—An approval or denial of a Good Samaritan permit may be issued as a single decision document that is signed by—

(i) the Administrator; and

(ii) in the case of a project on land owned by the United States, the head of the applicable Federal land management agency.

(H) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this paragraph exempts the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior, as applicable, from any other requirements of section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

(m) PERMIT GRANT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may grant a Good Samaritan permit to carry out a project for the remediation of an abandoned hardrock mine site only if—

(A) the Administrator determines that—

(i) the person seeking the permit is a Good Samaritan;

(ii) the application described in subsection (c) is complete;

(iii) the project is designed to remediate historic mine residue at the abandoned hardrock mine site to protect human health and the environment;

(iv) the proposed project is designed to meet all other goals, as determined by the Administrator, including any goals set forth in the application for the Good Samaritan permit that are accepted by the Administrator;

(v) the proposed activities, as compared to the baseline conditions described in the permit, will make measurable progress toward achieving—

(I) applicable water quality standards;

(II) improved soil quality;

(III) improved sediment quality;

(IV) other improved environmental or safety conditions; or

(V) reductions in threats to soil, sediment, or water quality or other environmental or safety conditions;

(vi) the applicant has—

(I) demonstrated that the applicant has the proper and appropriate experience and capacity to complete the permitted work;

(II) demonstrated that the applicant will complete the permitted work;

(III) the financial and other resources to address any contingencies identified in the Good Samaritan permit application described in subsections (b) and (c);

(IV) granted access and provided the authority to review the records of the applicant relevant to compliance with the requirements of the Good Samaritan permit; and

(V) demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the Administrator, that—

(aa) the applicant has, or has access to, the financial resources to complete the project described in the Good Samaritan permit application, including any long-term monitoring and operations and maintenance that the Administrator may require the applicant to perform in the Good Samaritan permit; or

(bb) the applicant has established a third-party financial assurance mechanism, such as a corporate guarantee from a parent or other corporate affiliate, letter of credit, trust, surety bond, or insurance to assure that funds are available to complete the permitted work, including for operations and maintenance and to address potential contingencies, that—

(AA) establishes the Administrator or the head of the Federal land management agen-

cy as the beneficiary of the third-party financial assurance mechanism; and

(BB) allows the Administrator to retain and use the funds from the financial assurance mechanism in the event the Good Samaritan does not complete the remediation under the Good Samaritan permit; and

(vii) the project meets the requirements of this division;

(B) the State or Indian tribe with jurisdiction over land on which the abandoned hardrock mine site is located has been given an opportunity to review and, if necessary, comment on the grant of the Good Samaritan permit;

(C) in the case of a project proposed to be carried out under the Good Samaritan permit partially or entirely on land owned by the United States, pursuant to subsection (1), the head of the applicable Federal land management agency has signed a decision document approving the proposed project; and

(D) the Administrator or head of the Federal land management agency, as applicable, has provided—

(i) environmental review and public comment procedures required by subsection (1); and

(ii) a public hearing under that subsection, if requested.

(2) DEADLINE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall grant or deny a Good Samaritan permit by not later than—

(i) the date that is 180 days after the date of receipt by the Administrator of an application for the Good Samaritan permit that, as determined by the Administrator, is complete and meets all applicable requirements of subsection (c); or

(ii) such later date as may be determined by the Administrator with notification provided to the applicant.

(B) CONSTRUCTIVE DENIAL.—If the Administrator fails to grant or deny a Good Samaritan permit by the applicable deadline described in subparagraph (A), the application shall be considered to be denied.

(3) DISCRETIONARY ACTION.—The issuance of a permit by the Administrator and the approval of a project by the head of an applicable Federal land management agency shall be considered to be discretionary actions taken in the public interest.

(n) EFFECT OF PERMITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A Good Samaritan and any cooperating person undertaking remediation activities identified in, carried out pursuant to, and in compliance with, a covered permit—

(A) shall be considered to be in compliance with all requirements (including permitting requirements) under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) (including any law or regulation implemented by a State or Indian tribe under section 402 or 404 of that Act (33 U.S.C. 1342, 1344)) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) during the term of the covered permit, after the termination of the Good Samaritan permit, and after declining to convert an investigative sampling permit into a Good Samaritan permit, as applicable;

(B) shall not be required to obtain a permit under, or to comply with, section 301, 302, 306, 307, 402, or 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311, 1312, 1316, 1317, 1342, 1344), or any State or Tribal standards or regulations approved by the Administrator under those sections of that Act, during the term of the covered permit, after the termination of the Good Samaritan permit, and after declining to convert an investigative sampling permit into a Good Samaritan permit, as applicable; and

(C) shall not be required to obtain any authorizations, licenses, or permits that would

otherwise not need to be obtained if the remediation was conducted pursuant to section 121 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9621).

(2) UNAUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any person (including a Good Samaritan or any cooperating person) that carries out any activity, including activities relating to mineral exploration, processing, beneficiation, or mining, including development, that is not authorized by the applicable covered permit shall be subject to all applicable law.

(B) LIABILITY.—Any activity not authorized by a covered permit, as determined by the Administrator, may be subject to liability and enforcement under all applicable law, including—

(i) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.); and

(ii) the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.).

(3) NO ENFORCEMENT OR LIABILITY FOR GOOD SAMARITANS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (D) and (E), a Good Samaritan or cooperating person that is conducting a remediation activity identified in, pursuant to, and in compliance with a covered permit shall not be subject to enforcement or liability described in subparagraph (B) for—

(i) any actions undertaken that are authorized by the covered permit; or

(ii) any past, present, or future releases, threats of releases, or discharges of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants at or from the abandoned hardrock mine site that is the subject of the covered permit (including any releases, threats of releases, or discharges that occurred prior to the grant of the covered permit).

(B) ENFORCEMENT OR LIABILITY DESCRIBED.—Enforcement or liability referred to in subparagraph (A) is enforcement, civil or criminal penalties, citizen suits and any liabilities for response costs, natural resource damage, or contribution under—

(i) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) (including under any law or regulation administered by a State or Indian tribe under that Act); or

(ii) the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.).

(C) DURATION OF APPLICABILITY.—Subparagraph (A) shall apply during the term of the covered permit, after the termination of the Good Samaritan permit, and after declining to convert an investigative sampling permit into a Good Samaritan permit, as applicable.

(D) OTHER PARTIES.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) limits the liability of any person that is not described in that subparagraph.

(E) DECLINE IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), if a Good Samaritan or cooperating person fails to comply with any term, condition, or limitation of a covered permit and that failure results in surface water quality or other environmental conditions that the Administrator determines are measurably worse than the baseline conditions as described in the permit (in the case of a Good Samaritan permit) or the conditions as described pursuant to subsection (d)(3)(B), if applicable (in the case of an investigative sampling permit), at the abandoned hardrock mine site, the Administrator shall—

(i) notify the Good Samaritan or cooperating person, as applicable, of the failure to comply; and

(ii) require the Good Samaritan or the cooperating person, as applicable, to undertake reasonable measures, as determined by the Administrator, to return surface water qual-

ity or other environmental conditions to those conditions.

(F) FAILURE TO CORRECT.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to a Good Samaritan or cooperating person that fails to take any actions required under subparagraph (E)(ii) within a reasonable period of time, as established by the Administrator.

(G) MINOR OR CORRECTED PERMIT VIOLATIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph, the failure to comply with a term, condition, or limitation of a Good Samaritan permit or investigative sampling permit shall not be considered a permit violation or noncompliance with that permit if—

(i) that failure or noncompliance does not result in a measurable adverse impact, as determined by the Administrator, on water quality or other environmental conditions; or

(ii) the Good Samaritan or cooperating person complies with subparagraph (E)(ii).

(O) PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF ADVERSE EVENT.—A Good Samaritan shall notify all appropriate Federal, State, Tribal, and local entities of any unplanned or previously unknown release of historic mine residue caused by the actions of the Good Samaritan or any cooperating person in accordance with—

(1) section 103 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9603);

(2) section 304 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 11004);

(3) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

(4) any other applicable provision of Federal law; and

(5) any other applicable provision of State, Tribal, or local law.

(P) GRANT ELIGIBILITY.—A remediation project conducted under a Good Samaritan permit shall be eligible for funding pursuant to—

(1) section 319 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1329), for activities that are eligible for funding under that section; and

(2) section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)), subject to the condition that the recipient of the funding is otherwise eligible under that section to receive a grant to assess or remediate contamination at the site covered by the Good Samaritan permit.

(Q) EMERGENCY AUTHORITY AND LIABILITY.—

(1) EMERGENCY AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section affects the authority of—

(A) the Administrator to take any responsive action authorized by law; or

(B) a Federal, State, Tribal, or local agency to carry out any emergency authority, including an emergency authority provided under Federal, State, Tribal, or local law.

(2) LIABILITY.—Except as specifically provided in this division, nothing in this division, a Good Samaritan permit, or an investigative sampling permit limits the liability of any person (including a Good Samaritan or any cooperating person) under any provision of law.

(R) TERMINATION OF GOOD SAMARITAN PERMIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A Good Samaritan permit shall terminate, as applicable—

(A) on inspection and notice from the Administrator to the recipient of the Good Samaritan permit that the permitted work has been completed in accordance with the terms of the Good Samaritan permit, as determined by the Administrator;

(B) if the Administrator terminates a permit under paragraph (4)(B); or

(C) except as provided in paragraph (2)—

(i) on the date that is 18 months after the date on which the Administrator granted the Good Samaritan permit, if the permitted work has not commenced by that date; or

(ii) if the grant of the Good Samaritan permit was the subject of a petition for judicial review, on the date that is 18 months after the date on which the judicial review, including any appeals, has concluded, if the permitted work has not commenced by that date.

(2) EXTENSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator is otherwise required to terminate a Good Samaritan permit under paragraph (1)(C), the Administrator may grant an extension of the Good Samaritan permit.

(B) LIMITATION.—Any extension granted under subparagraph (A) shall be not more than 180 days for each extension.

(3) EFFECT OF TERMINATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the termination of a Good Samaritan permit under paragraph (1), but subject to subparagraph (B), the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (n) shall continue to apply to the Good Samaritan and any cooperating persons after the termination, including to any long-term operations and maintenance pursuant to the agreement under paragraph (5).

(B) DEGRADATION OF SURFACE WATER QUALITY.—

(i) OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN TO BASELINE CONDITIONS.—If, at the time that 1 or more of the conditions described in paragraph (1) are met but before the Good Samaritan permit is terminated, actions by the Good Samaritan or cooperating person have caused surface water quality at the abandoned hardrock mine site to be measurably worse, as determined by the Administrator, when compared to baseline conditions described in the permit, the Administrator shall, before terminating the Good Samaritan permit, provide the Good Samaritan or cooperating person, as applicable, the opportunity to return surface water quality to those baseline conditions.

(ii) EFFECT.—If, pursuant to clause (i), the applicable Good Samaritan or cooperating person does not return the surface water quality at the abandoned hardrock mine site to the baseline conditions described in the permit, as determined by the Administrator, subparagraph (A) shall not apply to the Good Samaritan or any cooperating persons.

(4) UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The recipient of a Good Samaritan permit may seek to modify or terminate the Good Samaritan permit to take into account any event or condition that—

(i) significantly reduces the feasibility or significantly increases the cost of completing the remediation project that is the subject of the Good Samaritan permit;

(ii) was not—

(I) reasonably contemplated by the recipient of the Good Samaritan permit; or

(II) taken into account in the remediation plan of the recipient of the Good Samaritan permit; and

(iii) is beyond the control of the recipient of the Good Samaritan permit, as determined by the Administrator.

(B) TERMINATION.—The Administrator shall terminate a Good Samaritan permit if—

(i) the recipient of the Good Samaritan permit seeks termination of the permit under subparagraph (A);

(ii) the factors described in subparagraph (A) are satisfied; and

(iii) the Administrator determines that remediation activities conducted by the Good Samaritan or cooperating person pursuant to the Good Samaritan permit may result in surface water quality conditions, or any

other environmental conditions, that will be worse than the baseline conditions, as described in the Good Samaritan permit, as applicable.

(5) **LONG-TERM OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE.**—In the case of a project that involves long-term operations and maintenance at an abandoned hardrock mine site located on land owned by the United States, the project may be considered complete and the Administrator, in coordination with the applicable Federal land management agency, may terminate the Good Samaritan permit under this subsection if the applicable Good Samaritan has entered into an agreement with the applicable Federal land management agency or a cooperating person for the long-term operations and maintenance that includes sufficient funding for the long-term operations and maintenance.

(s) **REGULATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and appropriate State, Tribal, and local officials, may promulgate any regulations that the Administrator determines to be necessary to carry out this division.

(2) **GUIDANCE IF NO REGULATIONS PROMULGATED.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Administrator does not initiate a regulatory process to promulgate regulations under paragraph (1) within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and appropriate State, Tribal, and local officials, shall issue guidance establishing specific requirements that the Administrator determines would facilitate the implementation of this section.

(B) **PUBLIC COMMENTS.**—Before finalizing any guidance issued under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall hold a 30-day public comment period.

SEC. 5005. SPECIAL ACCOUNTS.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a Good Samaritan Mine Remediation Fund (referred to in this section as a “Fund”) for—

(1) each Federal land management agency that authorizes a Good Samaritan to conduct a project on Federal land under the jurisdiction of that Federal land management agency under a Good Samaritan permit; and

(2) the Environmental Protection Agency.

(b) **DEPOSITS.**—Each Fund shall consist of—

(1) amounts provided in appropriation Acts;

(2) any proceeds from reprocessing deposited under section 5004(f)(4)(B)(iv);

(3) any financial assurance funds collected from an agreement described in section 5004(m)(1)(A)(vi)(V)(bb);

(4) any funds collected for long-term operations and maintenance under an agreement under section 5004(r)(5);

(5) any interest earned under an investment under subsection (c);

(6) any proceeds from the sale or redemption of investments held in the Fund; and

(7) any amounts donated to the Fund by any person.

(c) **UNUSED FUNDS.**—Amounts in each Fund not currently needed to carry out this division shall be—

(1) maintained as readily available or on deposit;

(2) invested in obligations of the United States or guaranteed by the United States; or

(3) invested in obligations, participations, or other instruments that are lawful investments for a fiduciary, a trust, or public funds.

(d) **RETAIN AND USE AUTHORITY.**—The Administrator and each head of a Federal land

management agency, as appropriate, may, notwithstanding any other provision of law, retain and use money deposited in the applicable Fund without fiscal year limitation for the purpose of carrying out this division.

SEC. 5006. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 8 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the heads of Federal land management agencies, shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce, and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report evaluating the Good Samaritan pilot program under this division.

(b) **INCLUSIONS.**—The report under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a description of—

(A) the number, types, and objectives of Good Samaritan permits granted pursuant to this division; and

(B) each remediation project authorized by those Good Samaritan permits;

(2) interim or final qualitative and quantitative data on the results achieved under the Good Samaritan permits before the date of issuance of the report;

(3) a description of—

(A) any problems encountered in administering this division; and

(B) whether the problems have been or can be remedied by administrative action (including amendments to existing law);

(4) a description of progress made in achieving the purposes of this division; and

(5) recommendations on whether the Good Samaritan pilot program under this division should be continued, including a description of any modifications (including amendments to existing law) required to continue administering this division.

SA 2083. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. HEALTH ENGAGEMENT HUB DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM UNDER MEDICAID.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1903 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(cc) **HEALTH ENGAGEMENT HUB DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**—

“(1) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary shall conduct a demonstration program (referred to in this subsection as the ‘demonstration program’) for the purpose of increasing access to treatment for opiate use disorder and other drug use treatment through the establishment of Health Engagement Hubs that meet the criteria published by the Secretary under paragraph (2)(A).

“(2) **PUBLICATION OF GUIDANCE.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall publish the following:

“(A) **CERTIFICATION CRITERIA.**—The criteria described in paragraph (3) for an organization to be certified by a State as a Health Engagement Hub for purposes of participating in the demonstration program.

“(B) **PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM.**—Guidance for States selected to participate in the

demonstration program to use to establish a prospective payment system for services permitted under paragraph (3)(B) that are provided by a certified Health Engagement Hub participating in the demonstration program.

“(3) **CRITERIA FOR CERTIFICATION OF HEALTH ENGAGEMENT HUBS.**—

“(A) **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.**—In order to be certified as a Health Engagement Hub, an organization shall—

“(i) demonstrate that the organization is able to serve as an all-in-one location where individuals who are eligible for medical assistance under a State plan under this title or under a waiver of such plan who seek treatment for opiate use disorder or other drug use may access a range of social and medical services, in a drop-in manner and without prior appointment or proof of payment;

“(ii) provide the services specified in subparagraph (B) (in a manner reflecting person-centered care) which, if not available directly through the organization, shall be provided through formal relationships with other providers;

“(iii) demonstrate that in selecting the location for the Health Engagement Hub, the organization prioritized placement in communities disproportionately impacted by overdose, health issues, and other harms related to drug use, as well as areas that are medically underserved, rural, geographically isolated areas, tribal areas, or urban centers with under-resourced behavioral health infrastructure, including disadvantaged communities based on race, individuals experiencing homelessness, and communities negatively impacted by the criminal-legal system;

“(iv) give priority to establishing or adopting evidence-based models to increase engagement or improve outcomes for individuals with active, ongoing substance use, such as social work empowerment models approved by the Secretary, motivational interviewing models approved by the Secretary, or shared decision making models approved by the Secretary; and

“(v) meet—

“(I) the minimum staffing requirements described in subparagraph (C);

“(II) the experience requirement described in subparagraph (D); and

“(III) the community advisory board requirement described in subparagraph (E).

“(B) **SCOPE OF SERVICES.**—The services specified in this subparagraph are the following:

“(i) **REQUIRED SERVICES.**—

“(I) Harm reduction services and supplies provided directly by the organization or under an arrangement with an organization that offers harm reduction services (which may include a syringe service program, a Federally-qualified health center, a community health center, a Tribal health program, or an opioid treatment program that offers such services), that include—

“(aa) overdose education and naloxone distribution;

“(bb) safer drug use education and supplies;

“(cc) safer-sex supplies;

“(dd) emotional support and counseling services to reduce harms associated with substance use, including trauma-informed care; and

“(ee) access or referral to medications and drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration for treatment of opioid use disorder with a strong evidence base of significantly reducing mortality (such as methadone and buprenorphine) and other substances, including stimulants, within 4 hours.

“(II) Substance use disorder screening and brief intervention.

“(III) Patient-centered and patient-driven physical and behavioral health care that has walk-in availability, is offered during non-traditional hours, including evenings and weekends, and includes—

“(aa) shared decision making for patients and providers for opioid use disorder, stimulant use disorder, or both, under which a patient and provider discuss the patient’s diagnosis and condition together and evaluate treatment options together;

“(bb) primary mental health and substance use disorder services, including screening, assessment, and referrals to higher levels of care;

“(cc) wound care;

“(dd) infectious disease vaccination, screening, testing, and, to the extent practicable, treatment (including for HIV, sexually transmitted infections, and hepatitis testing and treatment);

“(ee) access or referral to sexual and reproductive health services;

“(ff) assessment and linkage or referrals to psychiatric services and other specialty care; and

“(gg) secure medication storage and inventory policies and procedures for patients experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

“(IV) Care coordination, complex case management, and other case management, care navigation, and care coordination services that may include—

“(aa) education and assistance with obtaining housing, transportation, and other public assistance benefits, including enrollment in the State plan under this title or under a waiver of such plan;

“(bb) identification services (such as assistance with obtaining a government-recognized form of identification);

“(cc) employment counseling;

“(dd) recovery support counseling;

“(ee) family reunification services; and

“(ff) criminal-legal services.

“(V) All services that may be provided under the Outreach Site/Street Place of Service code (POS Code 27 as of October 1, 2023) (or a successor place of service code).

“(VI) Community health outreach and navigation services to engage with and conduct outreach to community members that is provided by outreach and engagement staff described in subparagraph (C)(i)(IV).

“(ii) OPTIONAL SERVICES.—

“(I) Services and supplies to meet basic needs, including food, clothing, and hygiene supplies.

“(II) Evidence-based and culturally appropriate behavioral health services.

“(III) Medication management for physical and mental health conditions.

“(C) MINIMUM STAFFING REQUIREMENTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The minimum staffing requirements specified in this subparagraph are the following:

“(I) At least 1 part-time or full-time health care provider who is licensed to practice in the State and is licensed, registered, or otherwise permitted, by the United States to prescribe controlled substances (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act) in the course of professional practice.

“(II) At least 1 part-time or full-time registered professional nurse or licensed practical nurse who can provide medication management, medical case management, care coordination, wound care, vaccine administration, and community-based outreach.

“(III) At least 1 part-time or full-time licensed behavioral health staff who is qualified to assess and provide counseling and treatment recommendations for substance use and mental health diagnoses.

“(IV) Full-time outreach, engagement, and ongoing care navigation staff, including peer counselors, community health workers, and

recovery coaches. At least 50 percent of such staff shall be individuals with a personal history of drug use.

“(ii) STAFFING THROUGH ARRANGEMENTS WITH PARTNER AGENCIES.—An organization may enter into an arrangement with a partner agency, such as a Federally-qualified health center, to satisfy the minimum staffing requirements specified in clause (i).

“(D) EXPERIENCE.—An organization shall have a demonstrated history of at least 12 months of service provision to individuals who use drugs, including those who continue with substance use while receiving health and social services.

“(E) COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD.—An organization shall have a community advisory board composed of individuals with a history of substance use, or who continue with substance use, that meets, at a minimum, on—

“(i) a monthly basis, to review program utilization data and provide feedback to the organization; and

“(ii) on a quarterly basis, with the executives or board of directors of the organization to provide input on service delivery and receive feedback on actions taken based on previous feedback provided by the community advisory board.

“(4) PLANNING GRANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall award planning grants to States for the purpose of developing proposals to participate in the demonstration program.

“(B) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of a grant awarded to a State under this paragraph shall be sufficient to pay 100 percent of the actual costs expended by a State to carry out the activities required under subparagraph (C).

“(C) USE OF FUNDS.—A State awarded a planning grant under this paragraph shall solicit input on the development of a proposal to participate in the demonstration program from patients, providers, harm reduction service providers, social service providers, and other stakeholders, with respect to—

“(i) identifying and certifying organizations as Health Engagement Hubs for purposes of participating in the demonstration program; and

“(ii) establishing a prospective payment system for services provided by a certified Health Engagement Hub participating in the demonstration program, in accordance with the guidance issued under paragraph (2)(B).

“(D) FUNDING.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary to carry out this paragraph, to remain available until expended.

“(5) STATE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall solicit applications solely from the States awarded a planning grant under paragraph (4) to participate in the demonstration program.

“(B) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—An application to participate in the demonstration program shall include the following:

“(i) A description of, including the estimated number of individuals in, the target population to be served by the State under the demonstration program.

“(ii) An assurance that at least ½ of the Health Engagement Hubs in the State shall be located in—

“(I) a county (or a municipality, if not contained within any county) where the mean drug overdose death rate per 100,000 people over the past 3 years for which official data is available from the State, is higher than the most recent available national average overdose death rate per 100,000 people, as re-

ported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; or

“(II) an area of the State that is designated under section 332(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act as a mental health professional shortage area.

“(iii) A description of the prospective payment system that is to be tested under the demonstration program.

“(iv) A list of the certified Health Engagement Hubs located in the State that will participate in the demonstration program.

“(v) Verification that each such certified Health Engagement Hub satisfies the requirements described in paragraph (3)(A).

“(vi) A description of the scope of the services that will be paid for under the prospective payment system (which includes at a minimum the required services described in paragraph (3)(B)(i)) that is to be tested under the demonstration program.

“(vii) Verification that the State has agreed to pay for such services at the rate established under the prospective payment system.

“(viii) Any other information that the Secretary may require relating to the demonstration program with respect to determining the soundness of the proposed prospective payment system.

“(C) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall select from among the applications submitted at least 10 States to participate in the demonstration program based on geographic and demographic diversity.

“(ii) PRIORITY.—In addition to the criteria specified in clause (i), the Secretary shall prioritize selecting States with the highest rates of opioid- or stimulant-involved overdose death rates.

“(D) LENGTH OF DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS.—A State selected to participate in the demonstration program shall participate in the program for a 2-year period.

“(E) WAIVER OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall waive section 1902(a)(1) (relating to statewideness), section 1902(a)(10)(B) (relating to comparability), and any other provision of this title which would be directly contrary to the authority under this subsection as may be necessary for a State to participate in the demonstration program in accordance with this paragraph.

“(F) PAYMENTS TO STATES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall pay a State participating in the demonstration program the Federal matching percentage specified in clause (ii) for amounts expended by the State for medical assistance for services provided through certified Health Engagement Hubs to individuals enrolled under the State plan (or under a waiver of such plan) consisting of medications and drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration for treatment of opioid use disorder and other substances, including stimulants, and the services specified by the State in its application under subparagraph (B)(vi), at the rate established under the prospective payment system established by the State for purposes of the demonstration program.

“(ii) FEDERAL MATCHING PERCENTAGE.—The Federal matching percentage specified in this clause is—

“(I) with respect to medical assistance described in clause (i) that is furnished to a newly eligible individual described in paragraph (2) of section 1905(y), the matching rate applicable under paragraph (1) of that section; and

“(II) with respect to medical assistance described in clause (i) that is furnished to an individual who is not a newly eligible individual (as so described), but who is eligible for medical assistance under the State plan under this title or under a waiver of such

plan, the enhanced FMAP applicable to the State under section 2105(b).

“(iii) APPLICATION.—Payments to States made under this subparagraph shall be considered to have been made under, and are subject to, the requirements of this section.

“(6) REPORTS.—

“(A) ANNUAL STATE REPORTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Each State selected to participate in the demonstration program under paragraph (5) shall submit an annual report to the Secretary on the demonstration program that includes the following:

“(I) An assessment of the extent to which Health Engagement Hubs funded under the demonstration program have increased access to treatment for opiate use disorder and other drug use treatment, health services for individuals who use drugs, and other social services under State plans under this title or under waivers of such plans in the area or areas of States targeted by the demonstration program compared to other areas of the State.

“(II) An assessment on the impact of Health Engagement Hubs on reducing opioid and stimulant overdose mortality rates and the rate of adherence to prescribed medication for opioid use, hospitalization rates, and housing status for the population served by a Health Engagement Hub as compared to populations that are not served by a Health Engagement Hub.

“(III) A description of the successes of the demonstration program.

“(IV) Recommendations for improvements to the demonstration program, including whether the demonstration program should be continued, expanded, modified, or terminated.

“(ii) FUNDING.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated such sums as are necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes of making payments to States for expenditures attributable to collecting and reporting the information required under this subparagraph.

“(B) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit an annual report to Congress that describes the information, findings, and recommendations in the annual State reports submitted to the Secretary under subparagraph (A).

“(ii) IMPLEMENTATION EVALUATION RESULTS.—The Secretary shall include with the first 3 annual reports submitted by the Secretary under this subparagraph the findings and conclusions of the implementation evaluation required by paragraph (7).

“(7) IMPLEMENTATION EVALUATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall solicit public input and fund an implementation evaluation of the planning grants awarded under paragraph (4) and the initial set of States selected for the demonstration program under paragraph (5) to determine the reach, effectiveness, adoption, and implementation of the demonstration program in each such State to document the degree to which the services were implemented as intended and allow for a complete assessment of the impact of the Health Engagement Hubs in each such State.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(i) INFORMATION.—The evaluation shall include information on the characteristics of the individuals who receive services, service utilization metrics over time (including by staff role), and input from interviews with such individuals and staff.

“(ii) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In order to be eligible to conduct the evaluation, an entity shall have documented experience conducting implementation evaluations of health and social services programs for individuals who use drugs.

“(C) FUNDING.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary to carry out this paragraph, to remain available until expended.”.

(b) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the conclusion of the demonstration program established under subsection (c) of section 1903 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b), as added by subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct and publish a comparative analysis on the impacts of the health engagement hubs certified under such program (in this section referred to as “health engagement hubs”) compared to the impacts of other opioid treatment programs and health care organizations that offer behavioral health care or substance use disorder services.

(2) CONTENT OF ANALYSIS.—The analysis required under this section shall include the following:

(A) Data and information analyzing differences in rates among individuals who receive behavioral health care or substance use disorder services through a health engagement hub and among individuals who receive such care or services through a program or organization referred to in paragraph (1) for each of the following factors:

(i) Changes in rates of mortality.

(ii) Changes in rates of recidivism.

(iii) Rates of relapse.

(iv) Rates of hospital and emergency department utilization.

(v) Frequency of visits for care or services.

(vi) Rates of successful intervention through the administration of buprenorphine or other medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of substance use disorder.

(B) Data and information comparing the racial and socioeconomic demographics, housing status, employment, and other metrics, as recommended by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, of the population groups that receive behavioral health care or substance use disorder services through a health engagement hub or through a program or organization referred to in paragraph (1).

SA 2084. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

**SEC. ____ . DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.**

(a) HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 3699C. High technology program

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—(1) The Secretary shall carry out a program under which the Secretary provides covered individuals with the opportunity to enroll in high technology programs of education that the Secretary determines provide training or skills sought by employers in a relevant field or industry.

“(2) Not more than 6,000 covered individuals may participate in the program under this section in any fiscal year.

“(b) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—(1) The Secretary shall provide, to each covered individual who pursues a high technology program of education under this section, educational assistance in amounts equal to the amounts provided under section 3313(c)(1) of this title, including with respect to the housing stipend described in that section and in accordance with the treatment of programs that are distance learning and programs that are less than half-time.

“(2) Under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide such amounts of educational assistance to a covered individual for each of the following:

“(A) A high technology program of education.

“(B) A second such program if—

“(i) the second such program begins at least 18 months after the covered individual graduates from the first such program; and

“(ii) the covered individual uses educational assistance under chapter 33 of this title to pursue the second such program.

“(3) No covered individual may receive a housing stipend under this subsection for any month if such individual is in receipt of a housing stipend under chapter 33 of this title for that month.

“(c) CONTRACTS.—(1) For purposes of carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall seek to enter into contracts with any number of qualified providers of high technology programs of education for the provision of such programs to covered individuals. Each such contract shall provide for the conditions under which the Secretary may terminate the contract with the provider and the procedures for providing for the graduation of students who were enrolled in a program provided by such provider in the case of such a termination.

“(2) A contract under this subsection shall provide that the Secretary shall pay to a provider—

“(A) upon the enrollment of a covered individual in the program, 25 percent of the cost of the tuition and other fees for the program of education for the individual;

“(B) upon graduation of the individual from the program, 25 percent of such cost; and

“(C) 50 percent of such cost upon—

“(i) the successful employment of the covered individual for a period—

“(I) of 180 days in the field of study of the program; and

“(II) that begins not later than 180 days following graduation of the covered individual from the program;

“(ii) the employment of the individual by the provider for a period of one year; or

“(iii) the enrollment of the individual in a program of education to continue education in such field of study.

“(3) For purposes of this section, a provider of a high technology program of education is qualified if—

“(A) the provider employs instructors whom the Secretary determines are experts in their respective fields in accordance with paragraph (5);

“(B) the provider has successfully provided the high technology program for at least one year;

“(C) the provider does not charge tuition and fees to a covered individual who receives assistance under this section to pursue such program that are higher than the tuition and fees charged by such provider to another individual; and

“(D) the provider meets the approval criteria developed by the Secretary under paragraph (4).

“(4)(A) The Secretary shall prescribe criteria for approving providers of a high technology program of education under this section.

“(B) In developing such criteria, the Secretary may consult with State approving agencies.

“(C) Such criteria are not required to meet the requirements of section 3672 of this title.

“(D) Such criteria shall include the job placement rate, in the field of study of a program of education, of covered individuals who complete such program of education.

“(5) The Secretary shall determine whether instructors are experts under paragraph (3)(A) based on evidence furnished to the Secretary by the provider regarding the ability of the instructors to—

“(A) identify professions in need of new employees to hire, tailor the programs to meet market needs, and identify the employers likely to hire graduates;

“(B) effectively teach the skills offered to covered individuals;

“(C) provide relevant industry experience in the fields of programs offered to incoming covered individuals; and

“(D) demonstrate relevant industry experience in such fields of programs.

“(6) In entering into contracts under this subsection, the Secretary shall give preference to a provider of a high technology program of education—

“(A) from which at least 70 percent of graduates find full-time employment in the field of study of the program during the 180-day period beginning on the date the student graduates from the program; or

“(B) that offers tuition reimbursement for any student who graduates from such a program and does not find employment described in subparagraph (A).

“(d) EFFECT ON OTHER ENTITLEMENT.—(1) If a covered individual enrolled in a high technology program of education under this section has remaining entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 30, 32, 33, 34, or 35 of this title, entitlement of the individual to educational assistance under this section shall be charged at the rate of one month of such remaining entitlement for each such month of educational assistance under this section.

“(2) If a covered individual enrolled in a high technology program of education under this section does not have remaining entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 30, 32, 33, 34, or 35 of this title, any educational assistance provided to such individual under this section shall be provided in addition to the entitlement that the individual has used.

“(3) The Secretary may not consider enrollment in a high technology program of education under this section to be assistance under a provision of law referred to in section 3695 of this title.

“(4)(A) An application for enrollment in a high technology program of education under this section shall include notice of the requirements relating to use of entitlement under paragraphs (1) and (2), including—

“(i) in the case of the enrollment of an individual referred to under paragraph (1), the amount of entitlement that is typically charged for such enrollment;

“(ii) an identification of any methods that may be available for minimizing the amount of entitlement required for such enrollment; and

“(iii) an element requiring applicants to acknowledge receipt of the notice under this subparagraph.

“(B) If the Secretary approves the enrollment of a covered individual in a high technology program of education under this section, the Secretary shall deliver electronically to the individual an award letter that provides notice of such approval and includes specific information describing how paragraphs (1) and (2) will be applied to the individual if the individual chooses to enroll in the program.

“(e) REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—(1) The Secretary shall not approve the enrollment of any covered individual, not already enrolled, in any high technology programs of education under this section for any period during which the Secretary finds that more than 85 percent of the students enrolled in the program are having all or part of their tuition, fees, or other charges paid to or for them by the educational institution or by the Department of Veterans Affairs under this title or under chapter 1606 or 1607 of title 10, except with respect to tuition, fees, or other charges that are paid under a payment plan at an educational institution that the Secretary determines has a history of offering payment plans that are completed not later than 180 days after the end of the applicable term, quarter, or semester.

“(2) The Secretary may waive a requirement of paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines, pursuant to regulations which the Secretary shall prescribe, such waiver to be in the interest of the covered individual and the Federal Government. Not later than 30 days after the Secretary waives such a requirement, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report regarding such waiver.

“(3)(A)(i) The Secretary shall establish and maintain a process by which an educational institution may request a review of a determination that the educational institution does not meet the requirements of paragraph (1).

“(ii) The Secretary may consult with a State approving agency regarding such process or such a review.

“(iii) Not later than 180 days after the Secretary establishes or revises a process under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report regarding such process.

“(B) An educational institution that requests a review under subparagraph (A)—

“(i) shall request the review not later than 30 days after the start of the term, quarter, or semester for which the determination described in subparagraph (A) applies; and

“(ii) may include any information that the educational institution believes the Department should have taken into account when making the determination, including with respect to any mitigating circumstances.

“(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter until the termination date specified in subsection (i), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the operation of programs under this section during the year covered by the report. Each such report shall include each of the following:

“(1) The number of covered individuals enrolled in the program, disaggregated by type of educational institution, during the year covered by the report.

“(2) The number of covered individuals who completed a high technology program of education under the program during the year covered by the report.

“(3) The average employment rate of covered individuals who completed such a program of education during such year, as of 180 days after the date of completion.

“(4) The average length of time between the completion of such a program of education and employment.

“(5) The total number of covered individuals who completed a program of education under the program and who, as of the date of the submission of the report, are employed in a position related to technology.

“(6) The average salary of a covered individual who completed a program of education under the program and who is employed in a position related to technology, in various geographic areas determined by the Secretary.

“(7) The average salary of all individuals employed in positions related to technology in the geographic areas determined under subparagraph (F), and the difference, if any, between such average salary and the average salary of a covered individual who completed a program of education under the program and who is employed in a position related to technology.

“(8) The number of covered individuals who completed a program of education under the program and who subsequently enrolled in a second program of education under the program.

“(g) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION; CONSULTATION.—(1) The Secretary shall develop practices to use to collect information about covered individuals and providers of high technology programs of education.

“(2) For the purpose of carrying out program under this section, the Secretary may consult with providers of high technology programs of education and may establish an advisory group made up of representatives of such providers, private employers in the technology field, and other relevant groups or entities, as the Secretary determines necessary.

“(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘covered individual’ means any of the following:

“(A) A veteran whom the Secretary determines—

“(i) served an aggregate of at least 36 months on active duty in the Armed Forces (including service on active duty in entry level and skill training) and was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable; and

“(ii) has not attained the age of 62.

“(B) A member of the Armed Forces that the Secretary determines will become a veteran described in subparagraph (A) fewer than 180 days after the date of such determination.

“(2) The term ‘high technology program of education’ means a program of education—

“(A) offered by a public or private educational institution;

“(B) if offered by an institution of higher learning, that is provided directly by such institution rather than by an entity other than such institution under a contract or other agreement;

“(C) that does not lead to a degree;

“(D) that has a term of not less than six and not more than 28 weeks; and

“(E) that provides instruction in computer programming, computer software, media application, data processing, or information sciences.

“(i) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out a program under this section shall terminate on September 30, 2028.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3699B the following new item:

“3699C. High technology program.”

(b) EFFECT ON HIGH TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 116 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-48; 38 U.S.C. 3001 note) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) HOUSING STIPEND.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall pay to each eligible veteran (not including an individual described in the second sentence of

subsection (b)) who is enrolled in a high technology program of education under the pilot program on a full-time or part-time basis a monthly housing stipend equal to the product—

“(A) of—

“(i) in the case of a veteran pursuing resident training, the monthly amount of the basic allowance for housing payable under section 403 of title 37, United States Code, for a member with dependents in pay grade E-5 residing in the military housing area that encompasses all or the majority portion of the ZIP code area in which is located the campus of the institution where the individual physically participates in a majority of classes; or

“(ii) in the case of a veteran pursuing a program of education through distance learning, a monthly amount equal to 50 percent of the national average of the monthly amount of the basic allowance for housing payable under section 403 of title 37, United States Code, for a member with dependents in pay grade E-5, multiplied by

“(B) the lesser of—

“(i) 1.0; or

“(ii) the number of course hours borne by the individual in pursuit of the program of education involved, divided by the minimum number of course hours required for full-time pursuit of such program of education, rounded to the nearest multiple of 10.

“(2) **BAR TO DUAL ELIGIBILITY.**—No covered individual may receive a housing stipend under this subsection for any month if such individual is in receipt of a housing stipend under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, for that month.”;

(2) in subsection (g), by striking paragraph (6); and

(3) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the following new subsection (h):

“(h) **TERMINATION.**—The authority to carry out a pilot program under this section shall terminate on September 30, 2023.”.

(c) **APPROVAL OF CERTAIN HIGH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.**—Section 3680A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) Any independent study program except—

“(A) an independent study program (including such a program taken over open circuit television) that—

“(i) is accredited by an accrediting agency or association recognized by the Secretary of Education under subpart 2 of part H of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1099b);

“(ii) leads to—

“(I) a standard college degree;

“(II) a certificate that reflects educational attainment offered by an institution of higher learning; or

“(III) a certificate that reflects graduation from a course of study offered by—

“(aa) an area career and technical education school (as defined in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of section 3(3) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302(3))) that provides education at the postsecondary level; or

“(bb) a postsecondary vocational institution (as defined in section 102(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(c))) that provides education at the postsecondary level; and

“(iii) in the case of a program described in clause (ii)(III)—

“(I) provides training aligned with the requirements of employers in the State or local area where the program is located, which may include in-demand industry sectors or occupations;

“(II) provides a student, upon graduation from the program, with a recognized postsec-

ondary credential that is recognized by employers in the relevant industry, which may include a credential recognized by industry or sector partnerships in the State or local area where the industry is located; and

“(III) meets such content and instructional standards as may be required to comply with the criteria under sections 3676(c)(14) and (15) of this title; or

“(B) an online high technology program of education (as defined in subsection (h)(2) of section 3699C of this title)—

“(i) the provider of which has entered into a contract with the Secretary under subsection (c) of such section;

“(ii) that has been provided to covered individuals (as defined in subsection (h)(1) of such section) under such contract for a period of at least five years;

“(iii) regarding which the Secretary has determined that the average employment rate of covered individuals who graduated from such program of education is 65 percent or higher for the year preceding such determination; and

“(iv) that satisfies the requirements of subsection (e) of such section.”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

“(8) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the enrollment of a veteran in an online high technology program described in subsection (a)(4)(B).”.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (c) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2085. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle I—FISH Act of 2024

SEC. 1096. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests Act of 2024” or the “FISH Act of 2024”.

SEC. 1096A. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—Unless otherwise provided, the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the designee of the Administrator.

(2) **BENEFICIAL OWNER.**—The term “beneficial owner” means, with respect to a vessel, a person that, directly or indirectly, through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship, or otherwise—

(A) exercises substantial control over the vessel; or

(B) owns not less than 50 percent of the ownership interests in the vessel.

(3) **FISH.**—The term “fish” means finfish, crustaceans, and mollusks.

(4) **FORCED LABOR.**—The term “forced labor” has the meaning given that term in section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307).

(5) **IUU FISHING.**—The term “IUU fishing” has the meaning given the term “illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing” in the implementing regulations or any subsequent regulations issued pursuant to section 609(e) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826j(e)).

(6) **REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION.**—The terms “regional fisheries

management organization” and “RFMO” have the meaning given the terms in section 303 of the Port State Measures Agreement Act of 2015 (16 U.S.C. 7402).

(7) **SEAFOOD.**—The term “seafood” means fish, shellfish, processed fish, fish meal, shellfish products, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds.

(8) **SECRETARY.**—Unless otherwise provided, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the designee of the Administrator.

SEC. 1096B. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to partner, consult, and coordinate with foreign governments (at the national and sub-national levels), civil society, international organizations, international financial institutions, subnational coastal communities, commercial and recreational fishing industry leaders, communities that engage in artisanal or subsistence fishing, fishers, and the private sector, in a concerted effort—

(1) to continue the broad effort across the Federal Government to counter IUU fishing, including any potential links to forced labor, human trafficking, and other threats to maritime security, as outlined in sections 3533 and 3534 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8002 and 8003); and

(2) to, additionally—

(A) prioritize efforts to prevent IUU fishing at its sources; and

(B) support continued implementation of the Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries agreement, as well as joint research and follow-on actions that ensure sustainability of fish stocks in Arctic international waters.

SEC. 1096C. ESTABLISHMENT OF A BLACK LIST.

Section 608 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i) is amended by striking subsections (c) and (d) and inserting the following:

“(c) **BLACK LIST (IUU VESSEL LIST).**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of State, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Secretary of Labor, shall develop, maintain, and make public a list of vessels, fleets, and beneficial owners of vessels or fleets engaged in IUU fishing or fishing-related activities in support of IUU fishing (referred to in this section as the ‘IUU vessel list’).

“(2) **INCLUSION ON LIST.**—The IUU vessel list shall include any vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet for which the Secretary determines there is a strong basis to believe that a vessel is any of the following (even if the Secretary has only partial information regarding the vessel):

“(A) A vessel listed on an IUU vessel list of an international fishery management organization.

“(B) A vessel taking part in fishing that undermines the effectiveness of an international fishery management organization’s conservation and management measures, including a foreign vessel (defined in section 110 of title 46, United States Code)—

“(i) exceeding applicable international fishery management organization catch limits; or

“(ii) that is operating inconsistent with relevant catch allocation arrangements of the international fishery management organization, even if operating under the authority of a foreign country that is not a member of the international fishery management organization.

“(C) A vessel, either on the high seas or in the exclusive economic zone of another country, identified and reported by United States authorities to an international fishery management organization to be conducting IUU

fishing when the United States has reason to believe the foreign country to which the vessel is registered or documented is not addressing the allegation.

“(D) A vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet on the high seas identified by United States authorities to be conducting IUU fishing or fishing that involves the use of forced labor, including individuals and entities subject to a withhold release order issued by U.S. Customs and Border Protection pursuant to section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307) or any other U.S. Customs and Border Protection enforcement action, sanctions imposed by the Department of the Treasury under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.), or any other United States Government forced labor prevention or enforcement action that has not been subsequently revoked.

“(E) A vessel that provides services (excluding emergency or enforcement services) to a vessel that is on the IUU vessel list, including transshipment, resupply, refueling, or pilotage.

“(F) A foreign vessel (defined in section 110 of title 46, United States Code) that is a fishing vessel engaged in commercial fishing within the exclusive economic zone of the United States without a permit issued under title II of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1821 et seq.).

“(G) A vessel that has the same beneficial owner as a vessel on the IUU vessel list at the time of the infraction.

“(H) A vessel or beneficial owner of a vessel subject to economic sanctions administered by the Department of the Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control for transnational criminal activity associated with IUU fishing under Executive Order 13581 (76 Fed. Reg. 44757, 84 Fed. Reg. 10255; relating to blocking property of transnational criminal organizations), or any other applicable economic sanctions program, including sanctions imposed by the Department of the Treasury under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.).

“(3) NOMINATIONS TO BE PUT ON THE BLACK LIST.—The Secretary shall accept nominations for putting a vessel on the IUU vessel list from—

“(A) the head of an executive branch agency that is a member of the Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing established under section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031);

“(B) a country that is a member of the Combined Maritime Forces; or

“(C) civil organizations that have data-sharing agreements with a member of the Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing.

“(4) PROCEDURES FOR ADDITION.—The Secretary may put a vessel on the IUU vessel list only after notification to the vessel’s beneficial owner and a review of any information that the owner provides within 90 days of the notification.

“(5) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall publish its procedures for adding vessels on, and removing vessels from, the IUU vessel list. The Secretary shall publish the IUU vessel list itself in the Federal Register annually and on a website, which shall be updated any time a vessel is added to the IUU vessel list, and include the following information (as much as is available and confirmed) for each vessel on the IUU vessel list:

“(A) The name of the vessel and previous names of the vessel.

“(B) The International Maritime Organization (IMO) number of the vessel, or other Unique Vessel Identifier (such as the flag state permit number or authorized vessel

number issued by an international fishery management organization).

“(C) The maritime mobile service identity number and call sign of the vessel.

“(D) The address of each beneficial owner of the vessel.

“(E) The country where the vessel is registered or documented, and where it was previously registered if known.

“(F) The date of inclusion on the IUU vessel list of the vessel.

“(G) An indication of whether the vessel is part of the Food and Agriculture Organization’s global record.

“(H) Any other identifying information on the vessel, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(I) The basis for the Secretary’s inclusion of the vessel on the IUU vessel list under paragraph (2).

“(d) CONSEQUENCES OF BEING ON BLACK LIST.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except for the purposes of inspection and enforcement or in case of force majeure, a vessel on the IUU vessel list is prohibited from—

“(A) accessing United States ports and using port services;

“(B) traveling through the United States territorial sea unless it is conducting innocent passage in accordance with customary international law; and

“(C) delivering or receiving supplies or services, or transshipment, within waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, unless such actions are in accordance with customary international law.

“(2) SERVICING PROHIBITED.—No vessel of the United States may service a vessel that is on the IUU vessel list, except in an emergency involving life and safety or to facilitate enforcement.

“(3) IMPORTS PROHIBITED.—The import of seafood or seafood products caught, processed, or transported by vessels on the IUU vessel list is prohibited and shall be subject to the enforcement provisions of section 606.

“(e) ENFORCEMENT OF BLACK LIST.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a vessel of the United States on the IUU vessel list and the cargo of such vessel shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture to the United States in the same manner as merchandise is forfeited for violation of the customs revenue laws.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—The cargo of seafood of a vessel of the United States on the IUU vessel list shall not be subject to seizure and forfeiture to the United States if the cargo of seafood is in the possession of an importer who has paid for the cargo of seafood and did not know, or did not have any reason to know, that the seafood was the product of IUU fishing.

“(f) PERMANENCY OF BLACK LIST.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) through (4), a vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet that is put on the IUU vessel list shall remain on the IUU vessel list.

“(2) REVOCATION OF WRO.—The Secretary shall remove a vessel or fleet from the IUU vessel list if the vessel was added to the IUU vessel list because it was found by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to have had a withhold release order issued pursuant to section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307) and the withhold release order was subsequently revoked.

“(3) APPLICATION BY OWNER FOR POTENTIAL REMOVAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—With the concurrence of the Secretary of State and consultation with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Secretary may remove a vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet from the IUU vessel list if the beneficial owner of the vessel submits an application for removal to

the Secretary that meets the standards that the Secretary has set out for removal.

“(B) STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall include in the standards set out for removal a determination that the vessel or vessel owner has not engaged in IUU fishing or forced labor during the 5-year period preceding the date of the application for removal. The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall determine whether each application for removal demonstrates that sufficient corrective action has been taken to remediate the violations and infractions that led to the inclusion on the IUU vessel list.

“(C) CONSIDERATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION.—In considering an application for removal, the Secretary shall consider relevant information from all sources.

“(4) REMOVAL DUE TO INTERNATIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION ACTION.—The Secretary may remove a vessel from the IUU vessel list if the vessel was put on the list because it was a vessel listed on an IUU vessel list of an international fishery management organization, pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(A), and the international fishery management organization removed the vessel from its IUU vessel list.

“(g) REGULATIONS AND PROCESS.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests Act of 2024, the Secretary shall issue regulations to set a process for establishing, maintaining, implementing, and publishing the IUU vessel list. The Administrator may add or remove a vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet from the IUU vessel list on the date the vessel becomes eligible for such addition or removal.

“(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—Unless otherwise provided, the term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the designee of the Administrator.

“(2) BENEFICIAL OWNER.—The term ‘beneficial owner’ means, with respect to a vessel, a person that, directly or indirectly, through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship, or otherwise—

“(A) exercises substantial control over the vessel; or

“(B) owns not less than 50 percent of the ownership interests in the vessel.

“(3) FORCED LABOR.—The term ‘forced labor’ has the meaning given that term in section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307).

“(4) INTERNATIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘international fishery management organization’ means an international organization established by any bilateral or multilateral treaty, convention, or agreement for the conservation and management of fish.

“(5) IUU FISHING.—The term ‘IUU fishing’ has the meaning given the term ‘illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing’ in the implementing regulations or any subsequent regulations issued pursuant to section 609(e).

“(6) SEAFOOD.—The term ‘seafood’ means fish, shellfish, processed fish, fish meal, shellfish products, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds.

“(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Commerce to carry out this section \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2030.”

SEC. 1096D. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION FOR SANCTIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury may impose the measures described in subsection (b) with respect to—

(1) any foreign person or foreign vessel, regardless of ownership, that the Secretary of the Treasury determines has participated in—

(A) the sale, supply, purchase, or transfer (including transportation) of a fish species that is an endangered species, as defined in section of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1532), directly or indirectly; or

(B) IUU fishing;

(2) a leader or official of an entity that has engaged in, or whose members have engaged in, any of the activities described in paragraph (1);

(3) an entity determined to have owned, operated, chartered, or controlled a vessel whose personnel are engaged in the activities described in paragraph (1) at a time period relating to the activities;

(4) an entity that commits any action described in section 608(c) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i) as a basis to be put on the IUU vessel list under such section; and

(5) an entity that has materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, a foreign person or foreign vessel described in paragraph (1).

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions to be imposed under subsection (a) are the following:

(1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—Notwithstanding section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701), the exercise of all powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a foreign person or entity described in subsection (a) including, to the extent appropriate, the vessel of which the person is the beneficial owner, if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—A foreign person described in subsection (a) is—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other entry documentation of a foreign person described in subsection (a) shall be revoked, regardless of when such visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under clause (i) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i))—

(I) take effect; and

(II) cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the person's possession.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of this section or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out this section shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an un-

lawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(d) NATIONAL INTEREST WAIVER.—The President may waive the imposition of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign person or entity.

(e) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) EXCEPTIONS FOR AUTHORIZED INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—This section shall not apply with respect to activities subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence, law enforcement, or national security activities of the United States.

(2) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—Sanctions under subsection (b)(2) shall not apply with respect to the admission of an alien to the United States if such admission is necessary to comply with the obligations of the United States under the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967, or other international obligations.

(3) EXCEPTION FOR SAFETY OF VESSELS AND CREW.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to a person or entity providing provisions to a vessel identified under section 608(c) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i) if such provisions are intended for the safety and care of the crew aboard the vessel, or the maintenance of the vessel to avoid any environmental or other significant damage.

(4) HUMANITARIAN EXCEPTION.—The President may not impose sanctions under this section with respect to any person or entity for conducting or facilitating a transaction for the sale of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, or medical devices or for the provision of humanitarian assistance.

(f) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section (which may include regulatory exceptions), including under section 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1704).

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or in any amendment made by this section, may be construed to limit the authority of the President pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN; LAWFULLY ADMITTED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE.—The terms “admission”, “admitted”, “alien”, and “lawfully admitted for permanent residence” have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign person” means an individual or entity that is not a United States person.

(3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person in the United States.

SEC. 1096E. AGREEMENTS.

(a) PRESIDENTIAL NEGOTIATION.—In negotiating any relevant agreement with a foreign

nation or nations after the date of enactment of this Act, the President is encouraged to consider the impacts on or to IUU fishing and forced labor and strive to ensure that the agreement strengthens efforts to combat IUU fishing and forced labor.

(b) SECRETARY OF STATE ENCOURAGEMENT.—Together with other government partners, if appropriate, the Secretary of State should encourage other nations to ratify treaties and agreements that address IUU fishing to which the United States is a party, including the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, the High Seas Fishing Compliance Agreement, the Port State Measures Agreement, and other applicable agreements, and pursue bilateral and multilateral initiatives to raise international ambition to combat IUU fishing, including in the G7 and G20, the United Nations, the International Labor Organization (ILO), and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and through voluntary multilateral efforts. The bilateral and multilateral initiatives should address underlying drivers of IUU fishing and forced labor, such as the practice of transshipment, flags of convenience vessels, and government subsidies of the distant water fishing industry.

SEC. 1096F. ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.

(a) INCREASE BOARDING OF VESSELS SUSPECTED OF IUU FISHING.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall strive, in accordance with the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, to increase, from year to year, its observation of vessels on the high seas that are suspected of IUU fishing and related harmful practices, and is encouraged to consider boarding these vessels to the greatest extent practicable.

(b) FOLLOW UP.—The Administrator shall, in consultation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard and the Secretary of State, coordinate regularly with regional fisheries management organizations to determine what corrective measures each country has taken after vessels that are registered or documented by the country have been boarded for suspected IUU fishing.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act and in accordance with information management rules of the relevant regional fisheries management organizations, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit a report to Congress on—

(1) the total number of bilateral agreements utilized or enacted during Coast Guard counter-IUU patrols and future patrol plans for operations with partner nations where bilateral agreements are required to effectively execute the counter-IUU mission and any changes to IUU provisions in bilateral agreements;

(2) incidents of IUU fishing observed while conducting High Seas Boarding and Inspections (HSBI), how the conduct is tracked after referral to the respective country where the vessel is registered or documented, and what actions are taken to document or otherwise act on the enforcement, or lack thereof, taken by the country;

(3) the country where the vessel is registered or documented, the country where the vessel was previously registered and documented if known, and status of a vessel interdicted or observed to be engaged in IUU fishing on the high seas by the Coast Guard;

(4) incident details on vessels observed to be engaged in IUU fishing on the high seas, boarding refusals, and what action was taken; and

(5) any other potential enforcement actions that could decrease IUU fishing on the high seas.

SEC. 1096G. IMPROVED MANAGEMENT AT THE REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON IUU FISHING.—Section 3551(c) of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(15) developing a strategy for leveraging enforcement capacity against IUU fishing, particularly focusing on nations identified under section 609(a) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826j(a)); and

“(16) developing a strategy for leveraging enforcement capacity against associated abuses, such as forced labor and other illegal labor practices, and increasing enforcement and other actions across relevant import control and assessment programs, using as resources—

“(A) the List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor produced pursuant to section 105 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (22 U.S.C. 7112);

“(B) the Trafficking in Persons Report required under section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107); and

“(C) United States Customs and Border Protection’s Forced Labor Division and enforcement activities and regulations authorized under section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307).”

(b) SECRETARY OF STATE IDENTIFICATION.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Commandant of the Coast Guard and the Administrator, shall—

(1) identify regional fisheries management organizations that the United States is party to that do not have a high seas boarding and inspection program; and

(2) identify obstacles, needed authorities, or existing efforts to increase implementation of these programs, and take action as appropriate.

SEC. 1096H. STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE DATA COLLECTION, SHARING, AND ANALYSIS.

Section 3552 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8032) is amended by adding at the end:

“(c) STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE DATA COLLECTION, SHARING, AND ANALYSIS.—Not later than 3 years after the publication of the strategic plan submitted under subsection (a), the Working Group shall identify information and resources to prevent fish and fish products from IUU fishing and forced labor from entering United States commerce without increasing burden or trade barriers on seafood not produced from IUU fishing. The report shall include the following:

“(1) Identification of relevant data streams collected by Working Group members.

“(2) Identification of legal, jurisdictional, or other barriers to the sharing of such data.

“(3) In consultation with the Secretary of Defense, recommendations for joint enforcement protocols, collaboration, and information sharing between Federal agencies and States.

“(4) Recommendations for sharing and developing forensic resources between Federal agencies and States.

“(5) Recommendations for enhancing capacity for United States Customs and Border Protection and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct more effective field investigations and enforcement efforts with U.S. state enforcement officials.

“(6) Recommendations for improving data collection and automated risk-targeting of seafood imports within the United States’ International Trade Data System and Automated Commercial Environment.

“(7) Recommendations for the dissemination of IUU fishing and forced labor analysis and information to those governmental and non-governmental entities that could use it for action and awareness, with the aim to es-

tablish an IUU fishing information sharing center.

“(8) Recommendations for an implementation strategy, including measures for ensuring that trade in seafood not linked to IUU fishing and forced labor is not impeded.

“(9) An analysis of the IUU fishing policies and regulatory regimes of other countries in order to develop policy and regulatory alternatives for United States consideration.”

SEC. 1096I. INVESTMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the heads of relevant agencies, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, are encouraged to increase support to programs that provide technical assistance, institutional capacity, and investment to nations’ fisheries sectors for sustainable fisheries management and combating IUU fishing and forced labor. The focus of such support is encouraged to be on priority regions and priority flag states identified under section 3552(b) of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8032(b)).

(b) ANALYSIS OF US CAPACITY-BUILDING EXPERTISE AND RESOURCES.—In order to maximize efforts on preventing IUU fishing at its sources, the Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing established under section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031) shall analyze United States capacity-building expertise and resources to provide support to nations’ fisheries sectors. This analysis may include an assessment of potential avenues for in-country public-private collaboration and multilateral collaboration on developing local fisheries science, fisheries management, maritime enforcement, and maritime judicial capabilities.

SEC. 1096J. PREVENTING IMPORTATION OF SEAFOOD AND SEAFOOD PRODUCTS FROM FOREIGN VESSELS USING FORCED LABOR.

The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in coordination with the Secretary shall—

(1) develop a strategy for utilizing relevant United States Government data to identify imports of seafood harvested on foreign vessels using forced labor; and

(2) publish information regarding the strategy developed under paragraph (1) on the website of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

SEC. 1096K. REPORTS.

(a) IMPACT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Administrator and the Working Group established under section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031), shall conduct a study to assess the impact of new technology (such as remote observing, the use of drones, development of risk assessment tools and data-sharing software, immediate containerization of fish on fishing vessels, satellite Wi-Fi technology on fishing vessels, and other technology-enhanced new fishing practices) on IUU fishing and associated crimes (such as trafficking and forced labor) and propose ways to integrate these technologies into global fisheries enforcement and management.

(b) RUSSIAN AND CHINESE FISHING INDUSTRIES’ INFLUENCE ON EACH OTHER AND ON THE UNITED STATES SEAFOOD AND FISHING INDUSTRY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, with support from the Secretary of Commerce and the Office of the United States Trade Representative, shall—

(1) conduct a study on the collaboration between the Russian and Chinese fishing industries and on the role of seafood reprocessing in China (including that of raw materials originating in Russia) in global seafood markets and its impact on United States seafood importers, processors, and consumers; and

(2) complete a report on the study that includes classified and unclassified portions, as the Secretary of State determines necessary.

(c) FISHERMEN CONDUCTING UNLAWFUL FISHING IN THE ECONOMIC EXCLUSION ZONE.—Section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) THE IMPACTS OF IUU FISHING AND FORCED LABOR.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with relevant members of the Working Group, shall seek to enter into an arrangement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under which the National Academies will undertake a multifaceted study that includes the following:

“(A) An analysis that quantifies the occurrence and extent of IUU fishing and forced labor among flag states.

“(B) An evaluation of the costs to the United States economy of IUU fishing and forced labor.

“(C) An assessment of the costs to the global economy of IUU fishing and forced labor.

“(D) An assessment of the effectiveness of response strategies to counter IUU fishing, including both domestic programs and foreign capacity-building and partnering programs.

“(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$4,000,000.”

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (d) of section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act that includes—

(1) the findings of the National Academies; and

(2) recommendations on knowledge gaps that warrant further scientific inquiry.

SA 2086. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3. STORMWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS AND TESTING AT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FACILITIES.

(a) REQUEST FOR MODIFICATION.—Except as provided in subsection (b), not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, with respect to each permit under section 402(p) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(p)) that applies to a facility of the Department of Defense, request from the State that issued the permit, or the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, as applicable, a modification to such permit to require—

(1) monitoring of discharges of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances not less frequently than quarterly; and

(2) implementation of appropriate best management practices or control technologies to reduce such discharges consistent with the requirements of such Act.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary of Defense is not required to request a modification to a permit under subsection (a) if such permit contains the elements specified under paragraphs (1) and (2) of such subsection.

(c) FUNDING FOR MONITORING AND REDUCTION OF DISCHARGES.—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available to the Secretary of Defense in each fiscal year for remediation efforts relating to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, not less than one percent shall be obligated or expended annually to carry out activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).

SA 2087. Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 605. INCREASE IN BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING INSIDE THE UNITED STATES FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.

Paragraph (3) of section 403(b) of title 37, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(3) The monthly amount of the basic allowance for housing for an area of the United States for a member of a uniformed service shall be the amount of the monthly cost of adequate housing in that area, as determined by the Secretary of Defense, for members of the uniformed services serving in the same pay grade and with the same dependency status as the member.”.

SA 2088. Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. VANCE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. JUSTICE FOR UNITED STATES VICTIMS OF STATE SPONSORED TERRORISM.

Subsection (d)(4)(D)(iv)(IV) of the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act (34 U.S.C. 20144(d)(4)(D)(iv)(IV)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating item (bb) as item (dd);

(2) by inserting after item (aa) the following:

“(bb) IRAN HOSTAGES.—There are authorized to be appropriated and there are appropriated to the Fund such sums as are necessary to make full and complete payments for amounts outstanding and unpaid on claims under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (c)(2), which shall be paid by the Fund on the claims not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this item.

“(cc) LIMITATION.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to item (bb) may not be used for a

purpose other than to make payments under this clause.”;

(3) in item (cc), as so redesignated, by inserting “item (bb) or” before “subclauses”; and

(4) in item (aa), by striking “disperses” and inserting “disburses”.

SA 2089. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1095. GAO REPORT ON VESSEL FIRES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the state of marine fire-fighting authorities, jurisdiction, plan review, and other considerations with respect to vessel fires at waterfront facilities and within the navigable waters of the United States up to 3 nautical miles from the shoreline.

(b) CONTENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall—

(1) examine factors that affect Federal and non-Federal collaboration aimed at reducing vessel and waterfront facility fire risk to local communities;

(2) focus on the prevalence and frequency of vessel fires described in subsection (a); and

(3) make recommendations for preparedness, responses to, training for, and other items for consideration.

SA 2090. Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1266. CHINA GRAND STRATEGY COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a commission, to be known as the “China Grand Strategy Commission” (in this section referred to as the “Commission”), to develop a consensus on a comprehensive grand strategy and whole-of-government approach with respect to the United States relationship with the People’s Republic of China for purposes of—

(1) ensuring a holistic approach toward the People’s Republic of China across all Federal departments and agencies; and

(2) defining specific steps necessary to build a stable international order that accounts for the People’s Republic of China’s participation in that order; and

(3) providing actionable recommendations with respect to the United States relationship with the People’s Republic of China, which are aimed at protecting and strengthening United States national security interests.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be composed of the following members:

(i) The Deputy National Security Advisor.

(ii) The Deputy Secretary of Defense.

(iii) The Deputy Secretary of State.

(iv) The Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

(v) The Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

(vi) The Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence.

(vii) Three members appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, in consultation with the chairperson of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, one of whom shall be a Member of the Senate and two of whom shall not be.

(viii) Three members appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, in consultation with the ranking member of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, one of whom shall be a Member of the Senate and two of whom shall not be.

(ix) Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the chairperson of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a Member of the House of Representatives and two of whom shall not be.

(x) Three members appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the ranking member of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a Member of the House of Representatives and two of whom shall not be.

(B) QUALIFICATIONS.—The members described in clauses (vii) through (x) of subparagraph (A) who are not Members of Congress shall be individuals who are nationally recognized and have well-documented expertise, knowledge, or experience in—

(i) the history, culture, economy, or national security policies of the People’s Republic of China;

(ii) the United States economy;

(iii) the use of intelligence information by national policymakers and military leaders;

(iv) the implementation, funding, or oversight of the foreign and national security policies of the United States; or

(v) the implementation, funding, or oversight of economic and trade policies of the United States.

(C) AVOIDANCE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—An official who appoints members of the Commission may not appoint an individual as a member of the Commission if such individual possesses any personal or financial interest in the discharge of any of the duties of the Commission.

(2) CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall have two co-chairpersons, selected from among the members of the Commission, of whom—

(i) one co-chairperson shall be a member of the Democratic Party; and

(ii) one co-chairperson shall be a member of the Republican Party.

(B) CONSENSUS.—The individuals selected to serve as the co-chairpersons of the Commission shall be jointly agreed upon by the President, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and

the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(c) APPOINTMENT; INITIAL MEETING.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—Members of the Commission shall be appointed not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) INITIAL MEETING.—The Commission shall hold its initial meeting on or before the date that is 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) MEETINGS; QUORUM; VACANCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After its initial meeting, the Commission shall meet upon the call of the co-chairpersons of the Commission.

(2) QUORUM.—Ten members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for purposes of conducting business, except that two members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for purposes of receiving testimony.

(3) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy on the Commission shall not affect its powers, and shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(4) QUORUM WITH VACANCIES.—If vacancies on the Commission occur on any day after the date that is 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, a quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of the Commission as of such day.

(e) ACTIONS OF COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall act by resolution agreed to by a majority of the members of the Commission voting and present.

(2) PANELS.—The Commission may establish panels composed of less than the full membership of the Commission for purposes of carrying out the duties of the Commission under this section. The actions of any such panel shall be subject to the review and control of the Commission. Any findings and determinations made by such a panel shall not be considered to be the findings and determinations of the Commission unless approved by the Commission.

(3) DELEGATION.—Any member, agent, or staff member of the Commission may, if authorized by the co-chairpersons of the Commission, take any action that the Commission is authorized to take pursuant to this section.

(f) DUTIES OF COMMISSION.—The duties of the Commission are as follows:

(1) To define the core objectives and priorities of the strategy described in subsection (a).

(2) To provide definitions of the terms “grand strategy” and “stable international order” as such terms relate to United States national security interests and policy toward the People’s Republic of China.

(3) To recommend steps toward a stable international order that includes the People’s Republic of China that accounts for the People’s Republic of China’s participation in that order.

(4) To consider the manner in which the United States and the allies and partners of the United States cooperate and compete with the People’s Republic of China and to identify areas for such cooperation and competition.

(5) To consider methods for recalibrating economic ties with the People’s Republic of China, and any necessary modifications to such ties that may be undertaken by the United States Government.

(6) To consider methods for recalibrating additional non-economic ties with the People’s Republic of China, and any necessary modifications to such ties to be undertaken by the United States Government, including research, political, and security ties.

(7) To understand the linkages across multiple levels of the Federal Government with

respect to United States policy toward the People’s Republic of China.

(8) To seek to protect and strengthen global democracy and democratic norms.

(9) To understand the history, culture, and goals of the People’s Republic of China and to consider the manner in which the People’s Republic of China defines and seeks to implement its goals.

(10) To review—

(A) the strategies and intentions of the People’s Republic of China that affect United States national and global interests;

(B) the purpose and efficacy of current programs for the defense of the United States; and

(C) the capabilities of the Federal Government for understanding whether, and the manner in which, the People’s Republic of China is currently being deterred or thwarted in its aims and ambitions, including in cyberspace.

(11) To detail and evaluate current United States policy and strategic interests, including the pursuit of a free and open Indo-Pacific region, with respect to the People’s Republic of China, and the manner in which United States policy affects the policy of the People’s Republic of China.

(12) To assess the manner in which the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation may have impacted the People’s Republic of China’s calculations on an invasion of Taiwan and the implications of such impact on the prospects for short-term, medium-term, and long-term stability in the Taiwan Strait.

(13) In evaluating options for such strategy, to consider possible structures and authorities that need to be established, revised, or augmented within the Federal Government to maintain United States national security interests in relation to policy toward the People’s Republic of China.

(g) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

(1) HEARINGS AND EVIDENCE.—The Commission or, as delegated by the co-chairpersons of the Commission, any panel or member thereof, may, for the purpose of carrying out this section—

(A) hold such hearings and sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, receive such evidence, and administer such oaths as the Commission, or such designated panel or designated member, considers necessary; and

(B) subject to paragraph (2), require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, and documents, as the Commission or such designated panel or designated member considers necessary.

(2) SUBPOENAS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subpoenas may be issued under paragraph (1)(B) under the signature of the co-chairpersons of the Commission, and may be served by any person designated by such co-chairpersons.

(B) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—The provisions of sections 102 through 104 of the Revised Statutes (2 U.S.C. 192–194) shall apply in the case of any failure of a witness to comply with any subpoena or to testify when summoned under authority of this section.

(3) CONTRACTS.—The Commission may, to such extent and in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriations Acts, enter into contracts to enable the Commission to discharge its duties under this section.

(4) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may secure directly from any executive department, agency, bureau, board, commission, office, independent establishment, or instrumentality of the Government information, suggestions, estimates, and statistics for the purposes of this section.

(B) FURNISHING INFORMATION.—Each such department, agency, bureau, board, commission, office, establishment, or instrumentality shall, to the extent authorized by law, furnish such information, suggestions, estimates, and statistics directly to the Commission, upon request made by a co-chairperson of the Commission.

(C) HANDLING OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—The Commission shall handle and protect all classified information provided to it under this section in accordance with applicable law.

(5) ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(A) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—The Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Commission, on a nonreimbursable basis, such administrative services, funds, staff, facilities, and other support services as are necessary for the performance of the Commission’s duties under this section.

(B) OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—Other Federal departments and agencies may provide the Commission such services, funds, facilities, staff, and other support as such departments and agencies consider advisable and as may be authorized by law.

(C) COOPERATION.—The Commission shall receive the full and timely cooperation of any official, department, or agency of the Federal Government whose assistance is necessary, as jointly determined by the co-chairpersons of the Commission, for the fulfillment of the duties of the Commission, including the provision of full and current briefings and analyses.

(6) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as the departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

(7) GIFTS.—A member or staff of the Commission may not receive a gift or benefit by reason of the service of such member or staff to the Commission.

(h) STAFF AND COMPENSATION.—

(1) STAFF.—

(A) COMPENSATION.—The co-chairpersons of the Commission, in accordance with rules agreed upon by the Commission, shall appoint and fix the compensation of a staff director and such other personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its duties, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code governing appointments in the competitive service, and without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title, relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that no rate of pay fixed under this paragraph may exceed the equivalent of that payable to a person occupying a position at level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(B) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—A Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall retain the rights, status, and privileges of his or her regular employment without interruption.

(2) COMMISSION MEMBERS.—

(A) COMPENSATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii) and except as provided in subparagraph (B), each member of the Commission may be compensated at a rate not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay in effect for a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day during which the member is engaged in the actual performance of the duties of the Commission under this section.

(ii) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Members of the Commission who are Members of Congress or officers or employees of the Federal Government may

not receive additional pay by reason of their service on the Commission.

(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—While away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission, members of the Commission may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service are allowed expenses under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) CONSULTANT SERVICES.—The Commission may procure the services of experts and consultants in accordance with section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, but at rates not to exceed the daily rate paid a person occupying a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of such title.

(4) SECURITY CLEARANCES FOR COMMISSION MEMBERS, STAFF, AND CONSULTANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The appropriate Federal agencies or departments shall cooperate with the Commission in expeditiously providing to Commission members, staff, and consultants appropriate security clearances to the extent possible pursuant to existing procedures and requirements, except that no person shall be provided access to classified information under this Act without the appropriate security clearances.

(B) EXPEDITED PROCESSING.—The Office of Senate Security and the Office of House Security shall ensure the expedited processing of appropriate security clearances for personnel appointed to the Commission by their respective Senate and House of Representatives offices under processes developed for the clearance of legislative branch employees.

(i) TREATMENT OF INFORMATION RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of National Intelligence shall assume responsibility for the handling and disposition of any information related to the national security of the United States that is received, considered, or used by the Commission under this section.

(2) APPROVAL REQUIRED.—Information related to the national security of the United States that is provided to the Commission by the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, or the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives may not be further provided or released without the approval of the chairperson of such committee.

(3) ACCESS AFTER TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, after the termination of the Commission under subsection (k), only the members and designated staff of the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, the Director of National Intelligence (and the designees of the Director), and such other officials of the executive branch as the President may designate shall have access to information related to the national security of the United States that is received, considered, or used by the Commission.

(j) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 1, 2027, the Commission shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Director of National Intelligence a final report on the findings and recommendations of the Commission.

(2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form and shall include a classified annex.

(k) TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission, and all the authorities of this section, shall terminate at the end of the 120-day period beginning on the date on which the final report is submitted under subsection (j).

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES BEFORE TERMINATION.—The Commission may use the 120-day period referred to in paragraph (1) for the purpose of concluding its activities, including providing testimony to Congress concerning the final report required by subsection (j) and disseminating such report.

(l) ASSESSMENTS OF FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the final report required by subsection (j) is submitted, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Director of National Intelligence shall each submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an assessment of the final report that includes such comments on the findings and recommendations contained in the final report as the Director or Secretary, as applicable, considers appropriate.

(m) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

(1) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The provisions chapter 10 of part I of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Federal Advisory Committee Act”), shall not apply to the Commission.

(2) FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.—The provisions of section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Freedom of Information Act”), shall not apply to the activities, records, and proceedings of the Commission under this section.

(n) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated by this Act for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Defense, \$5,000,000 shall be made available to carry out this section, to remain available until the termination of the Commission.

(o) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and

(2) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

SA 2091. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 324. MODIFICATION OF RESTRICTION ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROCUREMENT OF CERTAIN ITEMS CONTAINING PERFLUOROOCCTANE SULFONATE OR PERFLUOROOCCTANOIC ACID.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 333 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 10 U.S.C. 3062 note) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 333. RESTRICTION ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROCUREMENT OF CERTAIN ITEMS CONTAINING PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.

“(a) RESTRICTION ON PROCUREMENT OF CERTAIN ITEMS.—The Department of Defense may not procure any covered item that contains or is produced using any of the following:

- “(1) Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS).
- “(2) Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).
- “(3) Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS).
- “(4) Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS).
- “(5) Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA).
- “(6) GenX.

“(b) INCLUSION IN CONTRACTS.—The Secretary of Defense shall include the prohibition under subsection (a) in any contract entered into by the Department of Defense to procure a covered item.

“(c) NO OBLIGATION TO TEST.—In carrying out the prohibition under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall not have an obligation to test a covered item to confirm the absence of perfluoroalkyl substances or polyfluoroalkyl substances.

“(d) EXISTING INVENTORY.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to impact existing inventories of covered items procured by the Secretary of Defense before the effective date of this section.

“(e) COVERED ITEM DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘covered item’ means—

- “(1) non-stick cookware or food service ware for use in galleys or dining facilities;
- “(2) food packaging materials;
- “(3) cleaning products;
- “(4) carpeting; and
- “(5) rugs and upholstered furniture.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on April 1, 2026.

SA 2092. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 891. PROCUREMENT OF CLEANING PRODUCTS.

The Secretary of Defense shall, to the maximum extent practicable, only procure cleaning products that are identified by—

- (1) the Safer Choice program; or
- (2) an independent third-party organization that provides certifications in a manner consistent with the Safer Choice program.

SA 2093. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle G—Supporting Democracy and the Rule of Law in the Republic of Georgia

SEC. 1291. SHORT TITLES.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Georgian People’s Act” or the “GPA Act”.

SEC. 1292. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On April 9, 1991, the Republic of Georgia declared independence from the Soviet Union, and on March 24, 1992, the United States and Georgia established formal diplomatic relations.

(2) Since 1993, the territorial integrity of Georgia has been reaffirmed by the international community and numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions.

(3) At the 2008 Summit in Bucharest, NATO recognized the aspirations of Georgia to join NATO and committed that Georgia would become a member of the Alliance.

(4) On August 7, 2008, the Russian Federation invaded Georgia and thereafter occupied 20 percent of its territory, all of which it continues to occupy.

(5) On January 9, 2009, the United States and Georgia signed the United States-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership, affirming the close relationship between the United States and Georgia based on the shared principles of democracy, free markets, defense and security cooperation, and cultural exchanges.

(6) Georgia made significant contributions to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and was the largest troop contributor among NATO partners to the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan.

(7) The United States and Georgia have maintained a strong security partnership, including the U.S.-Georgia Security Cooperation Framework, signed in November 2019, and the Georgia Defense and Deterrence Enhancement Initiative, launched in October 2021.

(8) The United States supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders and condemns the continued occupation by Russia of the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

(9) The United States has continuously supported the democratic wishes of the Georgian people, who have long maintained their aspirations to join the European Union and NATO.

(10) During and following her tenure as United States Ambassador and Plenipotentiary to Georgia between 2020 and 2023, Kelly Degnan has been the subject of slander and verbal abuse from members of the Government of Georgia.

(11) As recently as October 2023, reputable polling indicates that 86 percent of the Georgian public support Georgia becoming a member of the European Union.

(12) Since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Georgia—

(A) has not imposed its own sanctions on Russia; and

(B) has increased economic ties, including initiating many direct flights to and from Russia;

(C) has eased visa requirements for Russians visiting Georgia; and

(D) is perceived as a conduit of Russia’s sanctions evasion endeavors.

(13) Since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, and the subsequent rounds of international sanctions placed on Russia as a result of such invasion, Georgia saw its trade with Russia grow by 34 percent between January and June 2023.

(14) Georgia’s geographic position as both a Black Sea littoral nation and its proximity

to the Caspian Sea could further strengthen Georgia’s economy by transporting natural gas through the Trans-Caspian Gas Pipeline Project.

(15) In June 2022, when the Governments of Ukraine and Moldova received candidate status for membership in the European Union, the European Council stated it would only be ready to grant Georgia candidate status once the country has addressed the 12 priorities outlined by the European Commission.

(16) In December 2023, the European Union granted Georgia the status of candidate country, with the understanding that Georgia would act consistent with the recommendations of the European Commission by continuing to advance the outlined reform priorities and increasing its alignment with the European Union’s foreign and security policy positions.

(17) On February 24, 2023, a foreign agents bill was introduced in the Parliament of Georgia—

(A) to impose restrictions on civil society organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and independent media organizations; and

(B) to stigmatize such organizations as “foreign agents”.

(18) On March 7, 2023, the Parliament of Georgia accelerated the passage of that bill, which led to—

(A) large-scale protests that Georgian authorities confronted by deploying tear gas and water cannons; and

(B) the withdrawal of the bill by the Parliament.

(19) On April 15, 2024, the foreign agents bill, which was renamed “the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence”, was reintroduced in the Parliament of Georgia with minor changes that did not reflect the express wishes of the Georgian people, which provoked—

(A) large-scale protests in Tbilisi and around the country; and

(B) the ejection of opposition parliamentarians from parliamentary hearings.

(20) On April 29, 2024, former Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili, who is currently the Honorary Chairman of the ruling Georgian Dream Party, gave a speech in which he—

(A) harshly attacked American and European partners;

(B) alleged that the goal of foreign funding of civil society and nongovernmental organizations in Georgia is to deprive Georgia of its state sovereignty; and

(C) promised to punish opposition political groups.

(21) In the face of massive, nation-wide protests against the foreign agents bill, Georgian authorities have, in some cases, deployed disproportionate force against largely peaceful protestors, including—

(A) reportedly attacking journalists covering the protests and members of the political opposition; and

(B) threatening civil society leaders and family members of protestors at their homes.

(22) On May 14, 2024, the Parliament of Georgia passed the foreign agents bill against the wishes of the Georgian people.

(23) On May 21, 2024, the Venice Commission issued an opinion regarding Georgia’s foreign influence law in which it “strongly recommend[ed] repealing the Law in its current form, as its fundamental flaws will involve significant negative consequences for the freedoms of association and expression, the right to privacy, the right to participate in public affairs as well as the prohibition of discrimination.”.

SEC. 1293. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to call on all political parties and elected Members of the Parliament of Georgia to continue working on addressing the reform plan outlined by the European Commission to advance Georgia’s recently granted candidate status, which the people of Georgia have freely elected to pursue;

(2) to call on the Government of Georgia to institute the required reforms, which are to be developed through an inclusive and transparent consultation process with opposition parties and civil society organizations;

(3) to express serious concern that impediments to strengthening the democratic institutions and processes of Georgia, including the foreign agents bill, will slow or halt Georgia’s progress toward achieving its Euro-Atlantic aspirations, be perceived as stagnating the democratic trajectory of Georgia, and result in negative domestic and international consequences for the Government of Georgia;

(4) to impose swift consequences on individuals who are directly responsible for leading or have directly and knowingly engaged in leading, actions or policies that significantly undermine the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Georgia;

(5) to emphasize the importance of contributing to international efforts—

(A) to combat Russian aggression, including through sanctions on trade with Russia and the implementation and enforcement of worldwide sanctions on Russia; and

(B) to reduce, rather than increase, trade ties between Georgia and Russia;

(6) to call on all political parties, elected Members of the Parliament of Georgia, and officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia to respect the freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, and expression, including for the press, and the rule of law, and encourage a vibrant and inclusive civil society;

(7) to call on the Government of Georgia to release all persons detained or imprisoned on politically motivated grounds and drop any pending charges against them;

(8) to call on the Government of Georgia to ensure that the national elections scheduled for October 2024 are free, fair, and reflective of the will of the Georgian people; and

(9) to continue impressing upon the Government of Georgia that the United States is committed to sustaining and deepening bilateral relations and supporting Georgia’s Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

SEC. 1294. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) FOREIGN AGENTS BILL.—The term “foreign agents bill” means the “On Transparency of Foreign Influence” bill, which was reintroduced in the Parliament of Georgia in April 2024.

(3) GEORGIA.—The term “Georgia” means the Republic of Georgia.

(4) NATO.—The term “NATO” means the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of State.

CHAPTER 1—CONDITIONS ON ENGAGEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA

Subchapter A—Sanctions

SEC. 1295. DEFINITIONS.

In this chapter:

(1) ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms “admission”, “admitted”, and “alien” have the meanings given such terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(3) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign person” means any individual or entity that is not a United States person.

(4) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS.—The term “immediate family members” has the meaning given the term “immediate relatives” in section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(b)(2)(A)(i)).

(5) KNOWINGLY.—The term “knowingly”, with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(6) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person within the United States.

SEC. 1295A. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be the policy of the United States to support the constitutionally stated aspirations of Georgia to become a member of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which—

(1) is made clear under Article 78 of the Constitution of Georgia; and

(2) is supported by 86 percent of the citizens of Georgia.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) acts of blocking Euro-Atlantic integration in Georgia, due to undue influence from corrupt or oligarchic forces, constitute a form of corruption;

(2) the United States should consider travel restrictions or sanctions on individuals responsible for any actions preventing Georgia from moving toward Euro-Atlantic integration, which include acts of violence or intimidation against Georgian citizens, members of civil society, and members of an opposition political party;

(3) the United States, in response to recent events in Georgia, should reassess whether recent actions undertaken by individuals in Georgia should result in the imposition of sanctions by the United States for acts of significant corruption and human rights abuses; and

(4) the United States should consider revoking the visas of nationals of Georgia and their family members who—

(A) live in the United States; and

(B) are determined to meet the criteria described in section 103(a).

SEC. 1295B. INADMISSIBILITY OF OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA AND CERTAIN OTHER INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN BLOCKING EURO-ATLANTIC INTEGRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall identify and make a determination as to whether any of the following foreign persons has knowingly engaged in significant acts of corruption, or

acts of violence or intimidation in relation to the blocking of Euro-Atlantic integration in Georgia:

(1) Any individual who, on or after January 1, 2012, has served as a member of the Parliament of the Government of Georgia, as a senior staff member of the Parliament of the Government of Georgia, or as a current or former senior official of a Georgian political party.

(2) Any individual who is serving as an official in a leadership position working on behalf of the Government of Georgia, including law enforcement, intelligence, judicial, or local or municipal government.

(3) An immediate family member of an official described in paragraph (1) or a person described in paragraph (2).

(b) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other entry documentation of any alien described in subsection (a) is subject to immediate revocation regardless of the issue date of such visa or documentation.

(2) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation of a visa or other entry documentation of any alien pursuant to paragraph (1) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i))—

(A) take effect immediately; and

(B) cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the possession of such alien.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a written report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that—

(1) lists any foreign person for whom the Secretary has determined has knowingly engaged in an activity described in subsection (a); and

(2) a detailed justification for each such positive determination.

(d) FORM.—The report required under subsection (c) shall be submitted in accordance with the reporting requirements outlined in 703(c) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Appropriations Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law 118-47; 8 U.S.C. 1182 note).

(e) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the application of subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that—

(1) such waiver would serve a compelling national interest; or

(2) the circumstances which caused the individual to be ineligible have sufficiently changed.

SEC. 1295C. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO UNDERMINING PEACE, SECURITY, STABILITY, SOVEREIGNTY, OR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF GEORGIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in subsection (b) shall be applied to any foreign person the President determines, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) is responsible for, complicit in, or has directly or indirectly engaged in or attempted to engage in, actions or policies, including ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing acts that are intended to undermine the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Georgia;

(2) is or has been a leader or official of an entity that has, or whose members have, engaged in any activity described in paragraph (1); or

(3) is an immediate family member of a person subject to sanctions for conduct described in paragraph (1) or (2) who benefitted from such conduct.

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—Notwithstanding the requirements under section 202

of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701), the President shall exercise all authorities granted under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of a foreign person subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An alien described in subsection (a) shall be—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other entry documentation of any alien described in subsection (a) is subject to revocation regardless of the issue date of the visa or other entry documentation.

(ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under clause (i) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i))—

(I) take effect immediately; and

(II) cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the possession of the alien.

(c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign person for renewable periods not to exceed 180 days if, not later than 15 days before the date on which such waiver is to take effect, the President submits to the appropriate committees of Congress a written determination and justification that the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of subsection (b)(1) or any regulation, license, or order issued under that subsection shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subtitle, or in any amendment made by this subtitle, may be construed to limit the authority of the President to designate or sanction persons pursuant to an applicable Executive order or otherwise pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(e) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall prescribe such regulations as are necessary for the implementation of this section.

(2) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 10 days before prescribing regulations pursuant to paragraph (1), the President shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress of the proposed regulations and the provisions of this section that the regulations are implementing.

(f) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—Any sanctions imposed on a foreign person pursuant

to this section shall terminate on the earlier of—

(1) the date on which the President certifies to the appropriate committees of Congress that the conditions requiring such sanctions no longer apply; or

(2) December 31, 2029.

(g) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective on December 31, 2029.

SEC. 1295D. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO BROADER CORRUPTION IN GEORGIA.

(a) DETERMINATION AND REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes—

(A) a list of all foreign persons about whom the Secretary has made a positive determination pursuant to section 103(a); and

(B) a determination as to whether any foreign person on the list described in subparagraph (A) qualifies under existing sanctions authorities described in subsection (b).

(2) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be provided in unclassified form, but a classified annex may be provided separately containing additional contextual information pertaining to the justification for the issuance of any waiver, as described in paragraph (1)(B)(iii).

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are sanctions applicable with respect to a person for acts of significant corruption, involvement in human rights abuses, or harmful foreign activities in Georgia under—

(1) Executive Order 14024 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of certain persons with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation); or

(2) Executive Order 13818 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking the property of persons involved in serious human rights abuse or corruption).

(c) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—Not later than 120 days after receiving a request from the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate or of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives with respect to whether a foreign person meets the criteria for the imposition of sanctions described in subsection (b), the President shall—

(1) determine if the person meets such criteria; and

(2) submit a written justification to such chairman and ranking member detailing whether the President imposed or intends to impose sanctions described in this section with respect to such person.

SEC. 1295E. EXCEPTIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term “agricultural commodity” has the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602).

(2) GOOD.—The term “good” means any article, natural or man-made substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment and excluding technical data.

(3) MEDICAL DEVICE.—The term “medical device” has the meaning given the term “device” in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

(4) MEDICINE.—The term “medicine” has the meaning given the term “drug” in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) EXCEPTION RELATING TO INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this subtitle shall not apply to—

(A) any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.); or

(B) any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(2) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this subtitle shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling such alien into the United States is necessary—

(A) to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations of the United States; or

(B) to carry out or assist authorized law enforcement activity in the United States.

(3) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—The requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under this subtitle shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(4) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions under this subtitle shall not apply to—

(A) the conduct or facilitation of a transaction for the provision of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, medical devices, or humanitarian assistance, or for humanitarian purposes; or

(B) transactions that are necessary for, or related to, the activities described in subparagraph (A).

Subchapter B—Improving Bilateral Relations With Georgia

SEC. 1296. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TOWARD GEORGIA.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY ON GEORGIA.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to express that if the Government of Georgia proceeds to pass the foreign agents law and other legislation further inhibiting its ability to advance its accession into the European Union—

(A) the United States Government’s policy toward Georgia should take into consideration these updated circumstances; and

(B) the United States should review all forms of foreign and security assistance made available to the Government of Georgia; and

(2) to reevaluate its policy toward the Government of Georgia if the Government of Georgia takes the required steps—

(A) to reorient itself toward its European Union accession agenda; and

(B) to advance policy or legislation reflecting the express wishes of the Georgian people.

(b) 5-YEAR UNITED STATES STRATEGY FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH GEORGIA.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed strategy which shall—

(1) outline specific objectives for enhancing bilateral ties which reflect the current domestic political environment in Georgia;

(2) determine what tools, resources, and funding should be available and assess whether Georgia should remain the second-highest recipient of United States funding in the Europe and Eurasia region;

(3) determine the extent to which the United States should continue to invest in its defense partnership with Georgia;

(4) explore how the United States can continue to support civil society and independent media organizations in Georgia; and

(5) determine whether the Government of Georgia remains committed to expanding trade ties with the United States and Europe and whether the United States Government should continue to invest in Georgian projects.

SEC. 1296A. REPORT ON REVIEW OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the USAID Administrator and other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that outlines all assistance provided by any United States Government agency to the Government of Georgia that are not explicitly focused on democracy or rule of law and shall include—

(1) a detailed overview of each project; and

(2) associated funding allocations, including projected funding for each project.

(b) SUSPENSION OF PROJECTS.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the report required under subsection (a) is submitted, the Secretary shall—

(1) suspend all projects in Georgia carried out by the Department of State or other United States Government agencies that primarily provide material aid, reputational advantage, or sustenance to state actors, officials, or their proxies who undermine the democracy of Georgia and enable Russian aggression within and outside of Georgia; and

(2) consult with the appropriate congressional committees before any programming actions are taken in response to such review.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) REPROGRAMMING.—The Secretary may reprogram any amounts that cannot be absorbed to support democracy and rule-of-law initiatives in Georgia to other initiatives taking place in other countries in the Europe and Eurasia region after notifying the appropriate congressional committees.

(2) LIMITATION.—No amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by the Act entitled “An Act Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes”, approved April 24, 2024 (Public Law 118-50) may be obligated or expended for any assistance to Georgia unless the Secretary certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(A) such obligation or expenditure is in the vital national security interest of the United States; or

(B) the Government of Georgia is taking measures—

(i) to represent the democratic wishes of the citizens of Georgia; and

(ii) to uphold its constitutional obligation to advance membership in the European Union and NATO.

SEC. 1296B. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING SUSPENSION OF UNITED STATES-GEORGIA STRATEGIC DIALOGUE.

It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary should suspend the United States-Georgia Strategic Partnership Commission, established through the United States-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership on January 9, 2009, until after the Government of Georgia takes measures—

(1) to represent the democratic wishes of the citizens of Georgia; and

(2) to uphold its constitutional obligation to advance the country towards membership in the European Union and NATO.

SEC. 1296C. DEFENSE COOPERATION WITH GEORGIA.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States—

(1) is proud of the strong defense relationship between the United States and Georgia, which was—

(A) cemented in 2002 through a Defense Cooperation Agreement; and

(B) further enhanced in October 2021 by the Georgia Defense and Deterrence Enhancement Initiative.

(2) is grateful to the Georgian Defense forces for their contributions to international peacekeeping missions, including—

(A) the NATO-led Kosovo Force mission;

(B) the European Union Military Operation in the Central African Republic; and

(C) its deployment of forces in support of United States forces in Iraq from 2006 to 2008;

(3) is grateful to the Georgian Ministry of Defense's contributions toward the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (referred to in this section as the "ISAF") in Afghanistan, whereby—

(A) Georgia was one of the largest contributors of troops per capita for a non-NATO country; and

(B) 32 Georgian soldiers died and 280 Georgian soldiers were wounded in support of the ISAF mission; and

(4) should, to the extent possible, sustain strong ties between the United States military and the Georgian Ministry of Defense.

(b) DEFENSE REVIEW.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall conduct a defense review to determine whether the United States, in response to recent political developments in Georgia, should continue to support the military needs of Georgia.

CHAPTER 2—ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO SUPPORT THE GEORGIAN PEOPLE

SEC. 1297. STATEMENT OF POLICY IN SUPPORT OF THE GEORGIAN PEOPLE.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to continue supporting the ongoing development of democratic values in Georgia, including free and fair elections, freedom of association, an independent and accountable judiciary, an independent media, public-sector transparency and accountability, the rule of law, countering malign influence, and anticorruption efforts;

(2) to support the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders;

(3) to continue to support the Georgian people and civil society organizations that reflect the aspirations of the Georgian people for democracy and a future with the people of Europe;

(4) to continue supporting the capacity of the Government of Georgia to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity from further Russian aggression or encroachment;

(5) to support domestic and international efforts, including polling, pre-election and election-day observation efforts, to support the execution of free and fair elections in Georgia in October 2024;

(6) to continue supporting the right of the Georgian people to freely engage in peaceful protest, determine their future, and make independent and sovereign choices on foreign and security policy, including regarding Georgia's relationship with other countries and international organizations, without interference, intimidation, or coercion by other countries or those acting on their behalf; and

(7) to underscore the unwavering bipartisan support from Congress in supporting the democratic aspirations of the Georgian people.

SEC. 1297A. DEMOCRACY AND RULE-OF-LAW PROGRAMMING.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING EFFECT OF NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN GEORGIA.—It is the policy of the United States to under-

take efforts, in partnership with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, to ensure that the national elections in Georgia that are scheduled to be held in October 2024 are conducted in a manner that is free, fair, and reflective of the will of the Georgian people and show evidence of a broader and sustainable democratic trajectory.

(b) FUNDING.—From the amounts appropriated to the Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia account under the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024, or under the comparable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2025, not less than \$50,000,000 shall be made available—

(1) to strengthen democracy and civil society in Georgia, including for transparency, independent media, rule of law, anti-corruption efforts, countering malign influence, and good governance initiatives; and

(2) to support the Georgian people's efforts to advance their aspirations for membership in the European Union and Euro-Atlantic integration.

(c) REVIEW OF SUPPORT.—In response to the passage of the foreign agents law, the Secretary and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall undertake a review of efforts to determine—

(1) how best to continue providing support to civil society and independent media organizations in Georgia; and

(2) whether additional funds should be allocated to the National Endowment for Democracy for initiatives in Georgia.

SEC. 1297B. REPORT ON DISINFORMATION AND CORRUPTION IN GEORGIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with such agencies as the Secretary considers relevant, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) an assessment of efforts within and outside of Georgia to spread disinformation within Georgia to mischaracterize or undermine the bilateral relationships between the United States and Georgia and the European Union and Georgia;

(2) a list of—

(A) sources that have played an active role in advancing disinformation campaigns to erode public support for the United States, the European Union, and NATO within Georgia; and

(B) efforts undertaken by the Government of Georgia to sanction actors involved in the spread of disinformation that limits its Euro-Atlantic aspirations;

(3) an assessment of the extent to which corrupt actors are undermining the ability of political parties and democratic institutions in Georgia to uphold and adhere to the principles of transparency and good governance;

(4) a list of policy options to assist the Government of Georgia in helping protect democracy and the rule of law by punishing bad actors;

(5) an overview of efforts in Georgia designed—

(A) to suppress a free and independent media; or

(B) to harass and intimidate civil society;

(6) a list of actors responsible for—

(A) the suppression of a free and independent media in Georgia; or

(B) harassment and intimidation of civil society in Georgia;

(7) an assessment of—

(A) the Russian Federation's influence and information operations in Georgia; and

(B) connections between the influence and operations described in subparagraph (A) and

the broader agenda of the Russian Federation in the region; and

(8) an assessment of—

(A) the People's Republic of China's influence and information operations in Georgia; and

(B) connections between the influence and operations described in subparagraph (A) and the broader agenda of the People's Republic of China in the region.

(b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, with a classified annex.

SEC. 1297C. REPORT ON POLITICAL PRISONERS IN GEORGIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with relevant Federal agencies, as determined by the Secretary, shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that includes—

(1) a list of prisoners within the Georgian prison system that the Department of State considers to be imprisoned for political reasons or otherwise wrongfully detained, especially those who have been detained since March 2024; and

(2) a description of efforts to work with Georgian authorities to advocate for the release of such prisoners.

(b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form.

SEC. 1297D. SUNSET.

This subtitle, except for section 1295C, shall cease to have any force or effect beginning on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2094. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1095. AUTHORITY TO REIMBURSE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE SALARIES FOR CERTAIN ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Section 503(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2311(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively;

(2) by striking "(a) The" and inserting "(a)(1) The";

(3) in the matter following subparagraph (C) (as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this section), by striking "Sales which" and inserting the following:

"(2)(A) Sales that"; and

(4) in paragraph (2) (as designated by paragraph (3) of this section)—

(A) by striking "paragraph (3)" and inserting "paragraph (1)(C)"; and

(B) by striking "United States" and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: "United States other than members of—

"(i) the Coast Guard; and

"(ii) the reserve components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps who are ordered to active duty pursuant to chapter 1209 of title 10, United States Code, and at the request of the Secretary of State, including units of the Air National Guard providing support to such missions under the

Air Force Security Assistance Training Squadron.

“(B) Members of reserve components described in subparagraph (A)(ii) shall, pursuant to section 515(e), serve under the direction and supervision of the Chief of the appropriate United States Diplomatic Mission and are not part of any State Partnership Program established under section 341 of title 10, United States Code.”.

SA 2095. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 10 . . . SMALL BUSINESS PROCUREMENT.

Section 15 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)—
 (A) by inserting after “(g)” the following: “GOALS FOR PARTICIPATION OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS IN PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS.—”; and

(B) in paragraph (1)—
 (i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking the second sentence; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following: “(C) REQUIREMENT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—In meeting each of the goals under subparagraph (A), the Government shall—

“(i) increase the number of small business concerns awarded contracts; and
 “(ii) ensure the participation of a broad spectrum of small business concerns from a wide variety of industries.”; and

(2) in subsection (y)—
 (A) in paragraph (2)—
 (i) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F); and
 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

“(E) The number of new small business entrants, including new small business entrants that are small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and small business concerns owned and controlled by women awarded prime contracts in each North American Industry Classification System code during the fiscal year, and a comparison to the number awarded prime contracts during the prior fiscal year, if available.”;

(B) in paragraph (3)(B)—
 (i) by striking “(E)” and inserting “(F)”;

(ii) by striking “award of” and all that follows through “owned and controlled by women” and inserting the following: “award of—

“(i) prime contracts to an increasing number of small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and small business concerns owned and controlled by women, from a wide variety of industries; and

“(ii) subcontracts to small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, small business concerns owned and con-

trolled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and small business concerns owned and controlled by women”;

(C) in paragraph (6)—
 (i) by striking the heading and inserting “DEFINITIONS.—”;
 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively; and
 (iii) by striking “subsection, the” and inserting: “subsection:

“(A) NEW SMALL BUSINESS ENTRANT.—The term ‘new small business entrant’ means a small business concern that—
 “(i) has been awarded a prime contract; and
 “(ii) has not previously been awarded a prime contract.
 “(B) SCORECARD.—The”.

SA 2096. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 10 . . . ACCOUNTABILITY IN WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.
 (2) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.—The term “small business concern owned and controlled by women” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).
 (b) ELIMINATING SELF-CERTIFICATION FOR WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES.—
 (1) ELIMINATING SELF-CERTIFICATION IN PRIME CONTRACTING AND SUBCONTRACTING FOR WOSBS.—
 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each prime contract award and subcontract award that is counted for the purpose of meeting the goals for participation by small business concerns owned and controlled by women in procurement contracts for Federal agencies, as established in section 15(g)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)(2)), shall be entered into with small business concerns certified by the Administrator or by a national certifying entity approved by the Administrator under section 8(m) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)) to meet the requirements under section 3(n) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 632(n)) to be a small business concern owned and controlled by women.
 (B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subparagraph (A) shall take effect on October 1 of the second fiscal year beginning after the Administrator promulgates the regulations required under paragraph (3).
 (2) PHASED APPROACH TO ELIMINATING SELF-CERTIFICATION FOR WOSBS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any small business concern that self-certified as a small business concern owned and controlled by women may—
 (A) if the small business concern files a certification application with the Administrator before the end of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the final rulemaking by the Administrator in accordance with paragraph (3), maintain such self-certification until the Administrator makes a determination with respect to such certification; and

(B) if the small business concern does not file a certification application before the end of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the final rulemaking by the Administrator in accordance with paragraph (3), lose, at the end of such 1-year period, any self-certification of the small business concern as a small business concern owned and controlled by women.

(3) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall promulgate regulations to carry out this subsection.

SA 2097. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 10 . . . LIMITATION ON FEDERAL AGENCY CREDIT FOR MEETING CONTRACTING GOALS.

Section 15(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) LIMITATION ON CREDIT FOR MEETING CONTRACTING GOALS.—

“(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—
 “(i) the term ‘covered category of small business concern’ means—
 “(I) a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans;
 “(II) a qualified HUBZone small business concern;
 “(III) a small business concern owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals; or
 “(IV) a small business concern owned and controlled by women; and
 “(ii) the term ‘credit’ means the value of a prime contract.
 “(B) GENERAL RULE.—A Federal agency may allocate credit for a single prime contract awarded to a small business concern not more than 2 times for purposes of demonstrating compliance with the goals of the Federal agency established under paragraph (2)(A).
 “(C) ALLOCATION OF CREDIT.—
 “(i) FIRST ALLOCATION.—The first allocation of credit described in subparagraph (B) shall be applied towards the goal of the Federal agency established under paragraph (2)(A) for participation by small business concerns.
 “(ii) SECOND ALLOCATION.—A second allocation of credit described in subparagraph (B) shall be applied as follows:
 “(I) If the prime contract was awarded as a sole-source contract or through competition restricted to a covered category of small business concern, the credit shall be applied towards the goal of the Federal agency established under paragraph (2)(A) for participation by a covered category of small business concern.
 “(II) If the prime contract was not awarded as a sole-source contract or through competition restricted to a covered category of small business concern, the credit may only be applied towards a single goal of the Federal agency established under paragraph (2)(A), determined at the election of the contracting officer, for participation by a covered category of small business concern that is applicable to the recipient of the prime contract, without regard to whether the recipient of the prime contract qualifies as

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each prime contract award and subcontract award that is counted for the purpose of meeting the goals for participation by small business concerns owned and controlled by women in procurement contracts for Federal agencies, as established in section 15(g)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)(2)), shall be entered into with small business concerns certified by the Administrator or by a national certifying entity approved by the Administrator under section 8(m) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)) to meet the requirements under section 3(n) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 632(n)) to be a small business concern owned and controlled by women.

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subparagraph (A) shall take effect on October 1 of the second fiscal year beginning after the Administrator promulgates the regulations required under paragraph (3).

(2) PHASED APPROACH TO ELIMINATING SELF-CERTIFICATION FOR WOSBS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any small business concern that self-certified as a small business concern owned and controlled by women may—

(A) if the small business concern files a certification application with the Administrator before the end of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the final rulemaking by the Administrator in accordance with paragraph (3), maintain such self-certification until the Administrator makes a determination with respect to such certification; and

(B) if the small business concern does not file a certification application before the end of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the final rulemaking by the Administrator in accordance with paragraph (3), lose, at the end of such 1-year period, any self-certification of the small business concern as a small business concern owned and controlled by women.

(3) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall promulgate regulations to carry out this subsection.

(B) if the small business concern does not file a certification application before the end of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the final rulemaking by the Administrator in accordance with paragraph (3), lose, at the end of such 1-year period, any self-certification of the small business concern as a small business concern owned and controlled by women.

(3) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall promulgate regulations to carry out this subsection.

SA 2097. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 10 . . . LIMITATION ON FEDERAL AGENCY CREDIT FOR MEETING CONTRACTING GOALS.

Section 15(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) LIMITATION ON CREDIT FOR MEETING CONTRACTING GOALS.—

“(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—
 “(i) the term ‘covered category of small business concern’ means—
 “(I) a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans;
 “(II) a qualified HUBZone small business concern;
 “(III) a small business concern owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals; or
 “(IV) a small business concern owned and controlled by women; and
 “(ii) the term ‘credit’ means the value of a prime contract.
 “(B) GENERAL RULE.—A Federal agency may allocate credit for a single prime contract awarded to a small business concern not more than 2 times for purposes of demonstrating compliance with the goals of the Federal agency established under paragraph (2)(A).
 “(C) ALLOCATION OF CREDIT.—
 “(i) FIRST ALLOCATION.—The first allocation of credit described in subparagraph (B) shall be applied towards the goal of the Federal agency established under paragraph (2)(A) for participation by small business concerns.
 “(ii) SECOND ALLOCATION.—A second allocation of credit described in subparagraph (B) shall be applied as follows:
 “(I) If the prime contract was awarded as a sole-source contract or through competition restricted to a covered category of small business concern, the credit shall be applied towards the goal of the Federal agency established under paragraph (2)(A) for participation by a covered category of small business concern.
 “(II) If the prime contract was not awarded as a sole-source contract or through competition restricted to a covered category of small business concern, the credit may only be applied towards a single goal of the Federal agency established under paragraph (2)(A), determined at the election of the contracting officer, for participation by a covered category of small business concern that is applicable to the recipient of the prime contract, without regard to whether the recipient of the prime contract qualifies as

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each prime contract award and subcontract award that is counted for the purpose of meeting the goals for participation by small business concerns owned and controlled by women in procurement contracts for Federal agencies, as established in section 15(g)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)(2)), shall be entered into with small business concerns certified by the Administrator or by a national certifying entity approved by the Administrator under section 8(m) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)) to meet the requirements under section 3(n) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 632(n)) to be a small business concern owned and controlled by women.

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subparagraph (A) shall take effect on October 1 of the second fiscal year beginning after the Administrator promulgates the regulations required under paragraph (3).

(2) PHASED APPROACH TO ELIMINATING SELF-CERTIFICATION FOR WOSBS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any small business concern that self-certified as a small business concern owned and controlled by women may—

(A) if the small business concern files a certification application with the Administrator before the end of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the final rulemaking by the Administrator in accordance with paragraph (3), maintain such self-certification until the Administrator makes a determination with respect to such certification; and

(B) if the small business concern does not file a certification application before the end of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the final rulemaking by the Administrator in accordance with paragraph (3), lose, at the end of such 1-year period, any self-certification of the small business concern as a small business concern owned and controlled by women.

(3) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall promulgate regulations to carry out this subsection.

SA 2097. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 10 . . . LIMITATION ON FEDERAL AGENCY CREDIT FOR MEETING CONTRACTING GOALS.

Section 15(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) LIMITATION ON CREDIT FOR MEETING CONTRACTING GOALS.—
 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—
 “(i) the term ‘covered category of small business concern’ means—
 “(I) a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans;
 “(II) a qualified HUBZone small business concern;
 “(III) a small business concern owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals; or
 “(IV) a small business concern owned and controlled by women; and
 “(ii) the term ‘credit’ means the value of a prime contract.
 “(B) GENERAL RULE.—A Federal agency may allocate credit for a single prime contract awarded to a small business concern not more than 2 times for purposes of demonstrating compliance with the goals of the Federal agency established under paragraph (2)(A).
 “(C) ALLOCATION OF CREDIT.—
 “(i) FIRST ALLOCATION.—The first allocation of credit described in subparagraph (B) shall be applied towards the goal of the Federal agency established under paragraph (2)(A) for participation by small business concerns.
 “(ii) SECOND ALLOCATION.—A second allocation of credit described in subparagraph (B) shall be applied as follows:
 “(I) If the prime contract was awarded as a sole-source contract or through competition restricted to a covered category of small business concern, the credit shall be applied towards the goal of the Federal agency established under paragraph (2)(A) for participation by a covered category of small business concern.
 “(II) If the prime contract was not awarded as a sole-source contract or through competition restricted to a covered category of small business concern, the credit may only be applied towards a single goal of the Federal agency established under paragraph (2)(A), determined at the election of the contracting officer, for participation by a covered category of small business concern that is applicable to the recipient of the prime contract, without regard to whether the recipient of the prime contract qualifies as

more than 1 covered category of small business concern.

“(D) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall promulgate regulations to carry out this paragraph.

“(E) PHASE-IN.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—This paragraph shall apply with respect to the fourth fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and each fiscal year thereafter.

“(ii) INTERIM SCORING.—For the first, second, and third full fiscal years beginning after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall submit to each Federal agency and to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives an assessment of the agency, providing—

“(I) an evaluation of whether the Federal agency met the contracting goals under this subsection for the fiscal year; and

“(II) an evaluation of whether the Federal agency would have met the contracting goals under this subsection for the fiscal year, if this paragraph had been in effect.

“(iii) CONSULTATIONS.—The Administrator may consult with, and make recommendations to, a Federal agency if the evaluation under clause (ii)(I) identifies that the agency would not have met the contracting goals under this subsection, if this paragraph had been in effect.

“(iv) PUBLIC NOTICE.—For the third full fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall also make the information in subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (ii) available to the public.”.

SA 2098. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 10. PLAIN LANGUAGE IN CONTRACTING.

(a) ACCESSIBILITY AND CLARITY IN COVERED NOTICES FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each covered notice shall be written—

(A) in a manner that is clear, concise, and accessible to a small business concern; and

(B) in a manner consistent, to the extent practicable, with the Federal plain language guidelines established pursuant to the Plain Writing Act of 2010 (5 U.S.C. 301 note).

(2) INCLUSION OF KEY WORDS IN COVERED NOTICES.—Each covered notice shall, to the maximum extent practicable, include key words in the description of the covered notice such that a small business concern seeking contract opportunities using the single governmentwide point of entry described under section 1708 of title 41, United States Code, can easily identify and understand such covered notice.

(3) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall issue rules to carry out this subsection.

(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) COVERED NOTICE.—The term “covered notice” means a notice pertaining to small business concerns published by a Federal agency on the single governmentwide point of entry described under section 1708 of title 41, United States Code.

(B) SMALL BUSINESS ACT DEFINITIONS.—The terms “Federal agency” and “small business concern” have the meanings given those terms, respectively, in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

SA 2099. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . . . PILOT PROGRAM FOR SMALL BUSINESSES TO SCALE TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM FOR SMALL BUSINESSES TO SCALE TECHNOLOGIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 9(aa) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(aa)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) PILOT PROGRAM FOR SMALL BUSINESSES TO SCALE TECHNOLOGIES.—Upon request by a Federal agency, the Administrator shall grant a waiver from the requirement under paragraph (1) with respect to a Phase II award under the SBIR program or STTR program of the Federal agency if the Federal agency ensures that—

“(A) the total funding associated with the Phase II award under the SBIR program and the STTR program does not exceed \$20,000,000;

“(B) not more than 33 percent of the total funding, public or private, included or required by the funding agreement may be paid with funding under the SBIR program or the STTR program of the Federal agency;

“(C) for the Department of Defense, the Phase II award directly supports a Department of Defense operational need and has a clearly defined transition path to support military capabilities; and

“(D) if the waiver is granted—

“(i) not more than 25 percent of the SBIR program budget of the Federal agency for any fiscal year will be expended on Phase II awards for which a waiver is granted under this paragraph; and

“(ii) not more than 25 percent of the STTR program budget of the Federal agency for any fiscal year will be expended on Phase II awards for which a waiver is granted under this paragraph.”.

(2) SUNSET.—Effective on October 1, 2025, section 9(aa) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(aa)) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (5); and

(B) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (5).

(b) REQUIREMENT FOR DEFENSE INNOVATION UNIT; PILOT PROGRAM FOR ACCELERATION OF HIGH PRIORITY TECHNOLOGIES.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

(A) the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(i) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate;

(ii) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(iii) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives;

(iv) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(v) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives;

(B) the terms “armed forces” and “Secretary concerned” have the meanings given

those terms in section 101 of title 10, United States Code;

(C) the term “major system” has the meaning given the term in section 3041 of title 10, United States Code;

(D) the terms “Phase I”, “Phase II”, “Phase III”, “SBIR”, and “STTR” have the meanings given those terms in section 9(e) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(e)); and

(E) the term “small business concern” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

(2) REQUIREMENT.—The Director of the Defense Innovation Unit of the Department of Defense shall establish a mechanism, such as a major system, to provide small business concerns with direct access to program and requirements offices throughout the Department of Defense that may purchase technology from small business concerns under Phase III of the SBIR or STTR program of the Department of Defense.

(3) PILOT PROGRAM FOR ADVANCING SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—

(i) SET ASIDE.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated by this Act, or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2025, to carry out an SBIR program of a component of the armed forces, that component shall use 1 percent of those amounts to provide for the procurement of high priority technologies (as so identified by the chief acquisition officer of the component), specifically the procurement of systems that have been supported through Phase I or Phase II awards of that program but have not become programs of record.

(ii) COMBINING FUNDING.—For the purposes of clause (i), multiple components of the armed forces may combine amounts that each component is required to use as described in that clause to jointly provide for the procurement of high priority technologies.

(B) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the chief acquisition officer of each component of the armed forces shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of which technologies that officer has identified as high priority technologies under subparagraph (A).

(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, each Secretary concerned shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains policy change recommendations identified as a result of the pilot program carried out under this paragraph by the applicable component of the armed forces to facilitate the rapid adoption of technologies supported by the SBIR program of the component.

(c) LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF AWARDS AND NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS.—Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(yy) LIMITATIONS ON TOTAL SBIR AND STTR AWARD AMOUNTS AND APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) TOTAL AWARD AMOUNT.—A single small business concern, including any subsidiary or affiliated entity of the small business concern, may not receive more than \$50,000,000 in Phase I and Phase II awards, in the aggregate, from Federal agencies participating in the SBIR or STTR program.

“(2) APPLICATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A small business concern may not submit more than 10 applications to a single Federal agency for each SBIR or STTR program award solicitation of the Federal agency.

“(B) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the Department of Defense shall consist of 1 Federal agency.”.

SA 2100. Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle H of title X, insert the following:

SEC. __. AM RADIO FOR EVERY VEHICLE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(2) AM BROADCAST BAND.—The term “AM broadcast band” means the band of frequencies between 535 kilohertz and 1705 kilohertz, inclusive.

(3) AM BROADCAST STATION.—The term “AM broadcast station” means a broadcast station licensed for the dissemination of radio communications—

(A) intended to be received by the public; and

(B) operated on a channel in the AM broadcast band.

(4) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

(D) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(E) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(5) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The term “Comptroller General” means the Comptroller General of the United States.

(6) DEVICE.—The term “device” means a piece of equipment or an apparatus that is designed—

(A) to receive signals transmitted by a radio broadcast station (as defined in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153)); and

(B) to play back content or programming derived from those signals.

(7) DIGITAL AUDIO AM BROADCAST STATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “digital audio AM broadcast station” means an AM broadcast station that—

(i) is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission; and

(ii) uses an In-band On-channel system (as defined in section 73.402 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation)) for broadcasting purposes.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term “digital audio AM broadcast station” does not include an all-digital AM station (as defined in section 73.402 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation)).

(8) INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEM; IPAWS.—The terms “Integrated Public Alert and Warning System” and “IPAWS” mean the public alert and warning system of the United States described in section 526 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321o).

(9) MANUFACTURER.—The term “manufacturer” has the meaning given the term in section 30102(a) of title 49, United States Code.

(10) PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLE.—The term “passenger motor vehicle” has the meaning

given the term in section 32101 of title 49, United States Code.

(11) RECEIVE.—The term “receive” means to receive a broadcast signal via over-the-air transmission.

(12) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Transportation.

(13) SIGNAL.—The term “signal” means radio frequency energy that a holder of a radio station license granted or authorized by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to sections 301 and 307 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 301, 307) intentionally emits or causes to be emitted at a specified frequency for the purpose of transmitting content or programming to the public.

(14) STANDARD EQUIPMENT.—The term “standard equipment” means motor vehicle equipment (as defined in section 30102(a) of title 49, United States Code) that—

(A) is installed as a system, part, or component of a motor vehicle as originally manufactured; and

(B) the manufacturer of the motor vehicle recommends or authorizes to be included in the motor vehicle for no additional or separate monetary fee, payment, or surcharge, beyond the base price of a motor vehicle.

(b) AM BROADCAST STATIONS RULE.—

(1) RULE REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator and the Federal Communications Commission, shall issue a rule—

(A) requiring devices that can receive signals and play content transmitted by AM broadcast stations be installed as standard equipment in passenger motor vehicles—

(i) manufactured in the United States, imported into the United States, or shipped in interstate commerce; and

(ii) manufactured after the effective date of the rule;

(B) requiring access to AM broadcast stations in a manner that is easily accessible to a driver after the effective date of the rule; and

(C) allowing a manufacturer to comply with that rule by installing devices that can receive signals and play content transmitted by digital audio AM broadcast stations as standard equipment in passenger motor vehicles manufactured in the United States, imported into the United States, or shipped in interstate commerce after the effective date of the rule.

(2) COMPLIANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), in issuing the rule required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall establish an effective date for the rule that is not less than 2 years, but not more than 3 years, after the date on which the rule is issued.

(B) CERTAIN MANUFACTURERS.—In issuing the rule required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall establish an effective date for the rule that is at least 4 years after the date on which the rule is issued with respect to manufacturers that manufactured not more than 40,000 passenger motor vehicles for sale in the United States in 2022.

(3) INTERIM REQUIREMENT.—For passenger motor vehicles manufactured after the date of enactment of this Act and manufactured in the United States, imported into the United States, or shipped in interstate commerce between the period of time beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the effective date of the rule issued under paragraph (1) that do not include devices that can receive signals and play content transmitted by AM broadcast stations, the manufacturer of the passenger motor vehicle—

(A) shall provide clear and conspicuous labeling to inform purchasers of those pas-

senger motor vehicles that the passenger motor vehicles do not include devices that can receive signals and play content transmitted by AM broadcast stations; and

(B) may not charge an additional or separate monetary fee, payment, or surcharge, beyond the base price of the passenger motor vehicles, for access to AM broadcast stations for the period of time described in this paragraph.

(4) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—When the rule issued under paragraph (1) is in effect, a State or a political subdivision of a State may not prescribe or continue in effect a law, regulation, or other requirement applicable to access to AM broadcast stations in passenger motor vehicles.

(5) ENFORCEMENT.—

(A) CIVIL PENALTY.—Any person failing to comply with the rule issued under paragraph (1) shall be liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty in accordance with section 30165(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code.

(B) CIVIL ACTION.—The Attorney General may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court of the United States to enjoin a violation of the rule issued under paragraph (1) in accordance with section 30163 of title 49, United States Code.

(6) GAO STUDY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General shall conduct a comprehensive study on disseminating emergency alerts and warnings to the public.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The study required under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) an assessment of—

(I) the role of passenger motor vehicles in IPAWS communications, including by providing access to AM broadcast stations;

(II) the advantages, effectiveness, limitations, resilience, and accessibility of existing IPAWS communication technologies, including AM broadcast stations in passenger motor vehicles;

(III) the advantages, effectiveness, limitations, resilience, and accessibility of AM broadcast stations relative to other IPAWS communication technologies in passenger motor vehicles; and

(IV) whether other IPAWS communication technologies are capable of ensuring the President (or a designee) can reach at least 90 percent of the population of the United States at a time of crisis, including at night; and

(ii) a description of any ongoing efforts to integrate new and emerging technologies and communication platforms into the IPAWS framework.

(C) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In conducting the study required under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General shall consult with—

(i) the Secretary of Homeland Security;

(ii) the Federal Communications Commission;

(iii) the National Telecommunications and Information Administration;

(iv) the Secretary;

(v) Federal, State, Tribal, territorial, and local emergency management officials;

(vi) first responders;

(vii) technology experts in resilience and accessibility;

(viii) radio broadcasters;

(ix) manufacturers of passenger motor vehicles; and

(x) other relevant stakeholders, as determined by the Comptroller General.

(7) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—

(A) BRIEFING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the results of the study required by paragraph (6)(A), including

recommendations for legislation and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Comptroller General provides the briefing required under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the results of the study required under paragraph (6)(A), including recommendations for legislation and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

(8) REVIEW.—Not less frequently than once every 5 years after the date on which the Secretary issued the rule required by paragraph (1), the Secretary, in coordination with the Administrator and the Federal Communications Commission, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that shall include an assessment of—

(A) the impacts of the rule issued under that paragraph, including the impacts on public safety; and

(B) changes to IPAWS communication technologies that enable resilient and accessible alerts to drivers and passengers of passenger motor vehicles.

SA 2101. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 595(a), in the matter proposed to be inserted in section 503(c)(1)(A)(i) of chapter 31 of title 10, United States Code, as clause (i)(II), strike “one in-person recruitment event” and insert “four in-person recruitment events”.

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

SEC. 597B. STUDY ON SERVICE ELIGIBILITY.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall complete a study on the eligibility of United States citizens aged 17–24 for military service.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) An analysis of historical trends over at least 30 years preceding the date of the study of the eligibility of United States citizens aged 17–24 for military service.

(2) An analysis of the reasons for ineligibility, including an identification of the percentage of citizens who fail to meet eligibility standards for each of the following reasons:

- (A) Physical fitness.
- (B) Drug abuse.
- (C) Mental health.
- (D) Other medical issues.
- (E) Aptitude.
- (F) Conduct.

(3) An analysis of the potential impacts of increased rates of social media usage on the reasons described in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (2).

(4) An analysis of the number of individuals on a yearly basis who seek a waiver for one or more reasons of ineligibility, compared to the number of individuals who receive a waiver and join the relevant military service.

(5) An analysis of the average time it takes for each military service to process a request for a waiver.

(6) An analysis of the reasons that waivers are not processed more quickly.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include recommendations—

(1) suggesting measures that could be taken by Federal and State leaders to decrease the percentages of United States citizens failing to meet eligibility standards described in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of subsection (b)(2); and

(2) proposing measures that the Department of Defense, and Congress, could take to improve the waiver process and reduce wait times for decisions on waiver requests.

(d) FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER.—The Secretary of Defense may contract with a federally funded research and development center to support the completion of the study required under subsection (a).

(e) PUBLIC REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the completion of the study required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall publish on a public website of the Department of Defense a report containing the findings of the study.

(2) ANNEX.—The Secretary may submit to the congressional defense committees a classified or unclassified annex to the report required under paragraph (1).

SEC. 597C. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MARKETING REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall complete a review of the advertising and marketing models used by each of the military services in support of recruiting efforts.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The review required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) assess the efficacy of marketing across each type of platform used by each service, including print, television, radio, internet, and social media;

(2) assess the efficacy of the messaging used by each service; and

(3) include recommendations for each service on ways to better reach individuals who could be interested in military service.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the findings of the review described required under subsection (a).

SA 2102. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. —. INCREASE IN DOLLAR AMOUNT THRESHOLDS UNDER SECTIONS 3 AND 36 OF THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT RELATING TO PROPOSED TRANSFERS OR SALES OF DEFENSE ARTICLES OR SERVICES UNDER THAT ACT.

The Arms Export Control Act is amended—

(1) in section 3(d) (22 U.S.C. 2753(d))—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “\$14,000,000” and inserting “\$23,000,000”; and

(ii) by striking “\$50,000,000” and inserting “\$83,000,000”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A)—

(i) by striking “\$14,000,000” and inserting “\$23,000,000”; and

(ii) by striking “\$50,000,000” and inserting “\$83,000,000”;

(2) in section 36(b) (22 U.S.C. 2776(b))—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “\$50,000,000” and inserting “\$83,000,000”;

(ii) by striking “\$200,000,000” and inserting “\$332,000,000”; and

(iii) by striking “\$14,000,000” and inserting “\$23,000,000”; and

(B) in paragraph (5)(C)—

(i) by striking “\$14,000,000” and inserting “\$23,000,000”;

(ii) by striking “\$50,000,000” and inserting “\$83,000,000”; and

(iii) by striking “\$200,000,000” and inserting “\$332,000,000”; and

(C) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “\$25,000,000” and inserting “\$42,000,000”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “\$100,000,000” and inserting “\$166,000,000”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “\$300,000,000” and inserting “\$500,000,000”; and

(3) in section 36(c) (22 U.S.C. 2776(c))—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “\$14,000,000” and inserting “\$23,000,000”; and

(ii) by striking “\$50,000,000” and inserting “\$83,000,000”; and

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “\$25,000,000” and inserting “\$42,000,000”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “\$100,000,000” and inserting “\$166,000,000”.

SA 2103. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1027. EXCEPTION TO RESTRICTIONS ON REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF NAVAL VESSELS IN FOREIGN SHIPYARDS FOR SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR EXERCISES.

Section 8680(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), during each fiscal year, scheduled maintenance or repair may be performed on not more than six naval vessels described in paragraph (1) outside the United States or Guam if—

“(A) the period for the maintenance or repair is less than 90 consecutive days in duration; and

“(B) the maintenance or repair is performed as part of an exercise to develop and improve the ability to perform maintenance or repair during wartime or periods of increased international tension.”.

SA 2104. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle G—Coordinating AUKUS Engagement With Japan

SEC. 1291. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) **AUKUS OFFICIAL.**—The term “AUKUS official” means a government official with responsibilities related to the implementation of the AUKUS partnership.

(3) **AUKUS PARTNERSHIP.**—The term “AUKUS partnership” has the meaning given that term in section 1321 of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 10401).

(4) **COMMERCE CONTROL LIST.**—The term “Commerce Control List” means the list maintained pursuant to part 774 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(5) **STATE AUKUS COORDINATOR.**—The term “State AUKUS Coordinator” means the senior advisor at the Department of State designated under section 1331(a)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 10411(a)(1)).

(6) **DEFENSE AUKUS COORDINATOR.**—The term “Defense AUKUS Coordinator” means the senior civilian official of the Department of Defense designated under section 1332(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 10412(a)).

(7) **PILLAR TWO.**—The term “Pillar Two” has the meaning given that term in section 1321(2)(B) of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 10401(2)(B)).

(8) **UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.**—The term “United States Munitions List” means the list set forth in part 121 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

SEC. 1292. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should continue to strengthen relationships and cooperation with allies in order to effectively counter the People’s Republic of China;

(2) the United States should capitalize on the technological advancements allies have made in order to deliver more advanced capabilities at speed and at scale to the United States military and the militaries of partner countries;

(3) the historic announcement of the AUKUS partnership laid out a vision for future defense cooperation in the Indo-Pacific among Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States;

(4) Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership envisions cooperation on advanced technologies, including hypersonic capabilities, electronic warfare capabilities, cyber capabilities, quantum technologies, undersea capabilities, and space capabilities;

(5) trusted partners of the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, such as Japan, could benefit from and offer significant contributions to a range of projects related to Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership;

(6) Japan is a treaty ally of the United States and a technologically advanced country with the world’s third-largest economy;

(7) in 2022, Australia signed a Reciprocal Access Agreement with Japan to facilitate reciprocal access and cooperation between the Self-Defense Forces of Japan and the Australian Defence Force;

(8) in 2023, the United Kingdom signed a Reciprocal Access Agreement with Japan to facilitate reciprocal access and cooperation between the Self-Defense Forces of Japan and the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(9) in 2014, Japan relaxed its post-war constraints on the export of non-lethal defense equipment, and in March 2024, Japan further refined that policy to allow for the export of weapons to countries with which it has an agreement in place on defense equipment and technology transfers;

(10) in 2013, Japan passed a secrecy law obligating government officials to protect diplomatic and defense information, and in February 2024, the Cabinet approved a bill creating a new security clearance system covering economic secrets; and

(11) in April 2024, the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom announced they would consider cooperating with Japan on advanced capability projects under Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

SEC. 1293. ENGAGEMENT WITH JAPAN ON AUKUS PILLAR TWO COOPERATION.

(a) **ENGAGEMENT REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the State AUKUS Coordinator and the Defense AUKUS Coordinator shall jointly engage directly, at a technical level, with the relevant stakeholders in the Government of Japan—

(A) to better understand the export control system of Japan and the effects of the reforms the Government of Japan has made to that system since 2014;

(B) to determine overlapping areas of interest and the potential for cooperation with Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States on projects related to the AUKUS partnership and other projects;

(C) to identify areas in which the Government of Japan might need to adjust the export control system of Japan in order to guard against export control violations or other related issues in order to be a successful potential partner in Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership; and

(D) to assess the Government of Japan’s implementation and enforcement of export controls on sensitive technologies with respect to the People’s Republic of China, including the implementation of export controls on semiconductor manufacturing equipment.

(2) **CONSULTATION WITH AUKUS OFFICIALS.**—In carrying out the engagement required by paragraph (1), the State AUKUS Coordinator and the Defense AUKUS Coordinator shall consult with relevant AUKUS officials from the United Kingdom and Australia.

(b) **BRIEFING REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the engagement required by subsection (a), the State AUKUS Coordinator and the Defense AUKUS Coordinator shall jointly brief the appropriate congressional committees on the following:

(1) The findings of that engagement.

(2) A strategy for follow-on engagement.

SEC. 1294. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL FOR COOPERATION WITH JAPAN ON AUKUS PILLAR TWO.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report assessing the potential for cooperation with Japan on Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership, detailing the following:

(1) Projects the Government of Japan is engaged in related to the development of advanced defense capabilities under Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

(2) The average and median length of time it takes to approve licenses to export prod-

ucts on the United States Munitions List and the Commerce Control List to Japan.

(3) Areas of potential cooperation with Japan on advanced defense capabilities within and outside the scope of Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

(4) The Secretaries’ assessment of the current export control system of Japan, including—

(A) the procedures under that system for protecting classified and sensitive defense, diplomatic, and economic information;

(B) the effectiveness of that system in protecting such information; and

(C) such other matters as the Secretaries consider appropriate.

(5) Any reforms by Japan that the Secretary of State considers necessary before considering including Japan in the privileges provided under Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

(6) Any recommendations regarding the scope and conditions of potential cooperation with Japan under Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

(7) A strategy and forum for communicating the potential benefits of and requirements for engaging in projects related to Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership with the Government of Japan.

(8) Any views provided by AUKUS officials from the United Kingdom and Australia on issues relevant to the report, and a plan for cooperation with such officials on future engagement with the Government of Japan related to Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

SA 2105. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN ADVERSARY MARITIME MILITIA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—On and after the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President may impose the sanctions described in subsection (d) with respect to any foreign adversary entity that the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury, determines—

(1) has contributed to, engaged in, or directly or indirectly supports—

(A) the maritime militia of a foreign adversary;

(B) provision of logistical support to such a militia, including provision of at-sea or at-port refueling or any other on-shore services, such as repair and servicing;

(C) the construction of vessels used by such a militia;

(D) the direction or control of such a militia, including directing activities that inhibit or coerce another country from protecting its sovereign rights or access to vessels or territory under its control; or

(E) other activities that may support, sustain, or enable the activities of such a militia; or

(2) has materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to, or in support of, any person subject to sanctions pursuant to paragraph (1).

(b) **EXCEPTIONS.**—

(1) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply to any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(2) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority to impose sanctions under this section shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term “good” means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment and excluding technical data.

(C) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign adversary entity for renewable periods of not more than 180 days each if the President determines and reports to Congress that such a waiver is vital to the national security interests of the United States.

(d) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the exercise of the authorities provided to the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of a foreign adversary entity subject to subsection (a) if such property or interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise the authorities provided to the President under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to the extent necessary to carry out this section.

(2) PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES FOR SANCTIONS.—The President shall establish procedures and guidelines for the implementation and enforcement of sanctions imposed under this section.

(3) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of subsection (d) or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out that subsection shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(4) INAPPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT.—The requirements of section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply for purposes of subsection (d).

(f) ENGAGEMENT WITH ALLIES AND PARTNERS WITH RESPECT TO MARITIME MILITIA OF PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the efforts of the United States to engage with foreign allies and partners with territorial or security interests in the South China Sea, East China Sea, Philippine Sea, and other maritime areas of interest to coordinate efforts to counter malign activities of the maritime militia of the People’s Republic of China.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FOREIGN ADVERSARY.—The term “foreign adversary” means a country specified in section 7.4(a) of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) FOREIGN ADVERSARY ENTITY.—The term “foreign adversary entity” means an entity organized under the laws of or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of a foreign adversary.

(3) MARITIME MILITIA.—The term “maritime militia” means an organized civilian force that—

(A) operates primarily in maritime domains, including coastal waters, exclusive economic zones, and international waters, and may use a variety of vessels, including fishing boats, trawlers, and other commercial vessels;

(B) is acting under the authority of, or is funded by, the government of a country; and

(C) is equipped and trained for the purpose of supporting and advancing the geopolitical or strategic objectives of that government, including asserting territorial claims, safeguarding maritime interests of that country, and conducting activities such as surveillance, reconnaissance, intelligence gathering, and logistical support, and may engage in coordinated activities with naval and other military forces of that country.

(4) PERSON.—The term “person” means an individual or entity.

(5) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

SA 2106. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1216. IMPROVEMENTS TO SECURITY COOPERATION INFORMATION PORTAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall take steps—

(1) to review the Security Cooperation Information Portal (in this section referred to as “SCIP”); and

(2) to improve stakeholder access to, and data completeness and software functionality of, SCIP.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that—

(1) the functionality and software of SCIP adequately support the purpose of SCIP to reflect, accurately in real time, the status of individual foreign military sales cases within the foreign military sales process;

(2) SCIP—

(A) includes data that allows users to track the progress of all major milestones of a foreign military sales case;

(B) may be accessed by—

(i) relevant officials of the Department of State, including personnel of the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs and United States missions in foreign countries; and

(ii) relevant officials of the Department of Defense, including—

(I) Defense Security Cooperation Agency personnel;

(II) acquisitions personnel of the Program Executive Offices;

(III) acquisition program managers;

(IV) relevant contracting officers;

(V) personnel of the combatant commands; (VI) United States security cooperation organization personnel; and

(VII) defense attachés stationed at United States missions in foreign countries; and

(C) is equipped with a capability by which personnel described in subparagraph (B) may effectively input and access relevant information and data; and

(3) any other improvement the Secretary considers necessary to enhance the overall effectiveness and usefulness of SCIP is timely implemented.

(c) REPORT AND BRIEFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report and provide a briefing to the appropriate committees of Congress on the steps taken under subsections (a) and (b) to review and improve SCIP.

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SA 2107. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1266. REPORT ON ECONOMIC INTEGRATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND RISKS TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 3 years thereafter for 15 years, the President, acting through the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (in this section referred to as the “Director”), and in consultation with the officials specified in subsection (c), shall submit to Congress a report on—

(1) the state of economic integration between the United States and the People’s Republic of China; and

(2) the risks that integration poses to the national security interests of the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the current level of economic integration between the United States and the People’s Republic of China in each priority sector.

(2) An assessment of how economic integration between the United States and the People’s Republic of China has changed since 2000, and is predicted to change during the 3 years following submission of the report, for each priority sector.

(3) An analysis of the extent to which the degree of current or predicted economic integration between the United States and the People’s Republic of China in each priority sector presents significant risks to the national security of the United States. The

analysis with respect to each such sector shall address the following:

(A) The sector's reliance on entities organized under the laws of, or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of, the People's Republic of China, including entities owned or controlled by the Government of the People's Republic of China, for foreign direct investment and other sources of financial capital.

(B) The sector's reliance on supply chains that have a significant dependence on products or processes based in the People's Republic of China.

(C) An assessment of the risks of intellectual property theft or economic espionage by individuals or entities linked to or subject to the control of the Government of the People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party.

(D) An assessment of the risks to the defense industrial base of the United States.

(E) An assessment of the risks posed by the use of subsidies and the dumping of goods into the customs territory of the United States by entities in the People's Republic of China, including entities owned or controlled by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

(4) Recommendations for steps the United States Government should take to mitigate the risks identified under paragraph (3).

(5) Any other information the Director considers appropriate.

(c) OFFICIALS SPECIFIED.—The officials specified in this subsection are the following:

- (1) The Secretary of State.
- (2) The Secretary of the Treasury.
- (3) The Secretary of Defense.
- (4) The Attorney General.
- (5) The Secretary of the Interior.
- (6) The Secretary of Commerce.
- (7) The Secretary of Health and Human Services.
- (8) The Secretary of Energy.
- (9) The Secretary of Homeland Security.
- (10) The United States Trade Representative.

(11) The Director of National Intelligence.

(12) The Director of the National Science Foundation.

(13) The head of any other agency the Director considers appropriate.

(d) CONSULTATION AUTHORITY.—In developing a report required by subsection (a), the Director may consult with any nongovernmental entity that the Director considers necessary.

(e) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted to Congress in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(f) APPLICABILITY OF FOIA.—Nothing in this section, or in a report required by subsection (a), shall be construed to allow the disclosure of information or a record that is exempt from public disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the "Freedom of Information Act").

(g) APPLICABILITY OF PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.—Subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the "Paperwork Reduction Act"), shall not apply to this section.

(h) PRIORITY SECTOR DEFINED.—In this section, the term "priority sector" means one of the following elements of an economy:

- (1) Financial services.
- (2) Critical minerals (as defined in section 7002(a) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(a))), including rare-earth elements, that the Secretary of Defense determines to be important to the national security of the United States.
- (3) Semiconductors and microelectronics.
- (4) Artificial intelligence.
- (5) Communications, including telecommunications, social media applications,

satellites and other space-based systems, and undersea cables.

(6) Quantum computing.

(7) Cloud-based systems, including computing services and data storage.

(8) Biotechnology.

(9) Pharmaceuticals and medical technology, including medical devices.

(10) Manufacturing processes, particularly casting, machining, joining, and forming.

SA 2108. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title IX, add the following:

Subtitle C—Expansion of Authorities of Office of Strategic Capital

SEC. 931. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the "Investing in Our Defense Act of 2024".

SEC. 932. AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE EQUITY INVESTMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 149 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 913, is further amended—

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

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection (e):

“(e) EQUITY INVESTMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office may, as a minority investor, support eligible investments with funds or use other mechanisms for the purpose of purchasing, and may make and fund commitments to purchase, invest in, make pledges in respect of, or otherwise acquire, equity or quasi-equity securities or shares or financial interests of any entity, upon such terms and conditions as the Director may determine.

“(2) LIMITATIONS ON EQUITY INVESTMENTS.—

“(A) PER PROJECT LIMIT.—The aggregate amount of support provided under this subsection with respect to any eligible investment shall not exceed 20 percent of the aggregate amount of all equity investment made to the project at the time that the Office approves support for the eligible investment.

“(B) TOTAL LIMIT.—Support provided under this subsection shall be limited to not more than 35 percent of the aggregate exposure of the Office on the date on which the support is provided.

“(3) SALES AND LIQUIDATION OF SUPPORT.—The Office shall seek to sell and liquidate any support for an eligible investment provided under this subsection as soon as commercially feasible, commensurate with other similar investors in the project and taking into consideration the national security interests of the United States.

“(4) TIMETABLE.—The Office shall create an eligible investment-specific timetable for support provided under paragraph (1).

“(5) BUDGETARY TREATMENT OF EQUITY INVESTMENTS.—Support provided under this subsection shall constitute a credit program under the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.), and the budgetary cost of equity investments shall accordingly be calculated on a net-present basis.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (f)(1) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (a), is further amended by inserting “, equity investment” after “loan guarantee”.

SEC. 933. AUTHORIZATION TO COLLECT FEES FOR PROVIDING CAPITAL INVESTMENTS.

Section 149 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 932, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection (f):

“(f) FEE AUTHORITY.—The Director may charge and collect fees for providing capital assistance in amounts to be determined by the Director. Such fees, once collected, may be used only for the purposes and to the extent provided in advance by appropriations Acts.”.

SEC. 934. HIRING AUTHORITIES.

Section 149 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by sections 932 and 933, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection (g):

“(g) OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, officers, employees, and agents of the Office shall be selected and appointed by the Director, and shall be vested with such powers and duties as the Director may determine.

“(2) ADMINISTRATIVELY DETERMINED EMPLOYEES.—

“(A) APPOINTMENT; COMPENSATION; REMOVAL.—Of officers and employees employed by the Office under paragraph (1), not more than 50 may be appointed, compensated, or removed without regard to title 5.

“(B) REINSTATEMENT.—Under such regulations as the Secretary of Defense may prescribe, officers and employees appointed to a position under subparagraph (A) may be entitled, upon removal from such position (unless the removal was for cause), to reinstatement to the position occupied at the time of appointment or to a position of comparable grade and salary.

“(C) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS.—Positions authorized by subparagraph (A) shall be in addition to those otherwise authorized by law, including positions authorized under section 5108 of title 5.

“(D) RATES OF PAY FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—The Director may set and adjust rates of basic pay for officers and employees appointed under subparagraph (A) without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 or subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, respectively.”.

SA 2109. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . STUDY ON CYBER, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, AND DATA ANALYSIS EXPERIENCE OR KNOWLEDGE OF SENIOR OFFICERS IN CERTAIN ROLES.

(a) IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT SENIOR OFFICER ROLES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report that identifies a list of senior officer positions at the

O-7 level or higher that require significant experience in or knowledge of cyber, artificial intelligence, and data analysis.

(b) **STUDY.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall complete a study on the extent of experience in or knowledge of the cyber, artificial intelligence, and data analysis fields of the officers occupying the positions identified in the report required by subsection (a).

(c) **ELEMENTS OF THE STUDY.**—The study described in subsection (b) shall—

(1) assess what, if any, experience in or knowledge of the cyber, artificial intelligence, or data analysis fields are required before being eligible for the positions identified in the report required by subsection (a);

(2) evaluate the relevant training in cyber, artificial intelligence, and data analysis that each military department provides to prepare officers for such positions;

(3) assess whether each military department is placing adequate value on experience in or knowledge of the cyber, artificial intelligence, or data analysis fields when evaluating officers for the positions identified in the report required by subsection (a); and

(4) include recommendations for each Secretary concerned (as defined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code) regarding potential additional requirements to increase the value placed on experience in or knowledge of the cyber, artificial intelligence, or data analysis fields when individuals are being considered for the positions identified in the report required by subsection (a).

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the findings of the Secretary with respect to the study completed pursuant to subsection (b).

SA 2110. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . CYBER, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, AND DATA ANALYSIS TRAINING FOR CERTAIN SENIOR OFFICER ROLES.

(a) **IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT SENIOR OFFICER ROLES.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report that identifies a list of senior officer positions at the O-7 level or higher that require significant experience in or knowledge of cyber, artificial intelligence, and data analysis.

(b) **TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of each military department shall issue regulations requiring that for a senior officer to be eligible for a position identified in the report required by subsection (a), the officer must have received training on cyber, artificial intelligence, and data analysis tools and capabilities.

(c) **ELEMENTS.**—The training requirements issued pursuant to subsection (b) shall include information relating to—

(1) the cyber, artificial intelligence, and data analysis capabilities and tools for the

military departments and the Department of Defense;

(2) the potential value of cyber, artificial intelligence, and data analysis capabilities and tools for the position for which the officer is eligible for promotion and relevant use cases; and

(3) resources available to better understand cyber, artificial intelligence, and data analysis capabilities and tools.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the requirements issued pursuant to subsection (b).

SA 2111. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . TELEWORK.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 65 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 6502—

(A) in subsection (b)(2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) provides that, subject to subsection (d), an employee may not telework for more than 40 percent of the work days of the employee per pay period;

“(D) shall be reviewed on an annual basis by, and be subject to the annual approval of, the head of the executive agency; and

“(E) provides that the executive agency, by using remote technical means or other appropriate methods, will monitor and evaluate the applicable employee when the employee is engaged in telework;”;

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF TELEWORK DAYS.**—With respect to the limitation under subsection (b)(2)(C), the head of an executive agency may—

“(1) further limit the number of work days per pay period that an employee of the executive agency may telework based on the specific role of the employee or other circumstances determined appropriate by the head of the executive agency, including—

“(A) the frequency with which the employee needs to access classified information;

“(B) whether the employee is newly appointed; and

“(C) whether the employee occupies a managerial position within the executive agency; or

“(2) waive that limitation with respect to an employee of the executive agency if—

“(A) the employee is a spouse of—

“(i) a member of the Armed Forces; or

“(ii) a Federal law enforcement officer;

“(B) the employee occupies a position—

“(i) the duties of which require—

“(I) highly specialized expertise; or

“(II) frequent travel; or

“(ii) for which finding qualified candidates is challenging; or

“(C) inclement weather or other exigent circumstances prevent the employee from reaching the worksite of the employee during a pay period.”;

(2) in section 6506, by adding at the end the following:

“(e) **EXECUTIVE AGENCY REPORTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and annually thereafter, the head of each executive agency shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives a report that describes, for the period covered by the report, the following:

“(A) What metrics and methods the executive agency uses to determine the productivity of employees who telework.

“(B) What barriers, if any, prevent the executive agency from enforcing the limitation under section 6502(b)(2)(C) and any initiatives of the executive agency to address those barriers.

“(C) Any negative effects of telework, including whether telework results in increased costs, security vulnerabilities, lower employee morale, decreased employee productivity, or waste, fraud, or abuse.

“(D) Any actions taken by the executive agency (or a detailed justification for any lack of action) in response to any findings of, or recommendations made by, the Inspector General of the executive agency with respect to telework.

“(2) **GAO REPORT.**—With respect to each report submitted by the head of an executive agency under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit an accompanying report that evaluates the accuracy and thoroughness of the report submitted by the head of the executive agency with respect to the matters required to be included in the report of the executive agency under that paragraph.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 2112. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Ms. HASSAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division A, add the following:

TITLE XVII—EXPORT ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION

SEC. 1701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Export Controls Enforcement Improvement Act of 2024”.

SEC. 1702. ESTABLISHMENT OF EXPORT ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION CENTER.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish, within the Department of Homeland Security for administrative purposes, an interagency Federal Export Enforcement Coordination Center (in this title referred to as the “Center”).

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The Center shall coordinate on matters relating to export enforcement among the following:

(1) The Department of State.

(2) The Department of the Treasury.

(3) The Department of Defense.

(4) The Department of Justice.

(5) The Department of Commerce.

(6) The Department of Energy.

(7) The Department of Homeland Security.

(8) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

(9) Such other executive branch departments, agencies, or offices as the President, from time to time, may designate.

(c) FUNCTIONS.—The Center shall—

(1) serve as the primary forum within the Federal Government for executive departments and agencies—

(A) to coordinate and enhance the export control enforcement efforts of those departments and agencies; and

(B) to identify and resolve conflicts that have not been otherwise resolved in criminal and administrative investigations and actions involving violations of the export control laws of the United States;

(2) serve as a conduit between Federal law enforcement agencies and the intelligence community (as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4))) for the exchange of information related to potential violations of United States export controls;

(3) serve as a primary point of contact between enforcement authorities and agencies engaged in export licensing;

(4) coordinate law enforcement public outreach activities related to United States export controls; and

(5) establish governmentwide statistical tracking capabilities for United States criminal and administrative export control enforcement activities, to be conducted by the Department of Homeland Security with information provided by and shared with all relevant departments and agencies participating in the Center.

(d) DIRECTOR; OTHER PERSONNEL.—

(1) DIRECTOR.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall have a Director, who shall be a full-time senior officer or employee of the Department of Homeland Security, designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(B) FUNCTIONS OF DIRECTOR.—The Director shall—

(i) convene and preside at meetings of the Center;

(ii) determine the agenda for those meetings;

(iii) direct the work of the Center; and

(iv) as appropriate to particular subject matters, organize and coordinate subgroups of the members of the Center.

(2) DEPUTY DIRECTORS.—The Center shall have 2 Deputy Directors, who shall be full-time senior officers or employees of the Department of Commerce and the Department of Justice, designated by the Secretary of Commerce and the Attorney General, respectively, detailed to the Center and reporting to the Director.

(3) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY LIAISON.—The Center shall have an Intelligence Community Liaison, who shall be a full-time senior officer or employee of the Federal Government, designated by the Director of National Intelligence, and detailed or assigned to the Center.

(4) STAFF.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall have a full-time staff reporting to the Director.

(B) DETAILEES.—Executive departments and agencies specified in subsection (b) shall detail or assign their employees to the Center.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—The Department of Homeland Security shall operate and provide funding and administrative support for the Center to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(f) WEBSITE.—The Director of the Center may establish a publicly accessible website for the Center with a domain name that is independent of websites of the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 1703. UNLAWFUL TRANSSHIPMENT AND DIVERSION OF EXPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall—

(1) serve as a primary forum for the coordination of export control enforcement efforts focused on unlawful transshipment and diversion of exports; and

(2) develop best practices for executive departments and agencies to improve efforts to combat the unlawful transshipment and diversion of exports.

(b) AREAS OF FOCUS.—In carrying out the duties described in subsection (a), the Center shall focus its efforts on, among other matters—

(1) sensitive technologies, including technologies relating to—

(A) semiconductors;

(B) the development of advanced artificial intelligence capabilities; and

(C) the development of quantum technology components and capabilities; and

(2) the unlawful transshipment and diversion of exports to—

(A) the People's Republic of China;

(B) the Russian Federation;

(C) the Islamic Republic of Iran; and

(D) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

(c) NOTICE TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR.—In carrying out the duties described in subsection (a), the Center shall develop best practices for and support the dissemination of specific and actionable information about transshipment and diversion risks to relevant private sector entities on a timely basis, as appropriate.

SEC. 1704. REPORTS ON POSTINGS OF UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.

(a) REPORT ON FOREIGN POSTINGS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Center shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) an assessment of the value of increasing the number of law enforcement officials posted in foreign countries to enhance export control enforcement efforts focused on the unlawful transshipment and diversion of exports;

(2) an analysis of specific countries, regions, and shipping routes that pose a heightened risk with respect to such transshipment and diversion; and

(3) an assessment of resources required to increase the number of law enforcement officials posted in foreign countries pursuant to paragraph (1).

(b) REPORT ON POSTINGS OF FOREIGN OFFICIALS AT THE CENTER.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Center shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) an assessment of the value of hosting foreign law enforcement or other officials at the Center;

(2) an assessment of which countries would provide the most value for the United States Government in posting officials at the Center; and

(3) an assessment of what, if any, changes to statute, regulation, or policy would be required to host foreign officials at the Center.

SEC. 1705. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2025 \$25,000,000 for the costs of establishing the Center.

SA 2113. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. ESTABLISHMENT OF AVIATION SECURITY CHECKPOINT TECHNOLOGY FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 44923 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection (j); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (h) the following new subsection:

“(i) AVIATION SECURITY CHECKPOINT TECHNOLOGY FUND.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the Department of Homeland Security a fund to be known as the Aviation Security Checkpoint Technology Fund (in this subsection referred to as the ‘ASCT Fund’). The second \$250,000,000 from fees received under section 44940(a)(1) in each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028 shall be available to be deposited in the ASCT Fund. The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall impose the fee authorized by section 44940(a)(1) so as to collect not less than \$250,000,000 in each of such fiscal years for deposit into the ASCT Fund. Amounts in the ASCT Fund shall be available until expended to the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to fund the procurement, test, deployment, and post-deployment enhancements of aviation security checkpoint technology.

“(2) TSA BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection and quarterly thereafter for 5 years, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall brief the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate regarding planned procurement, test, deployment, and post-deployment enhancement efforts of aviation security checkpoint technology at airport checkpoints through amounts made available from the ASCT Fund.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 44940(i)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 44923(h)” and inserting “subsections (h) and (i) of section 44923”.

SA 2114. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. NBACC AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center Authorization Act of 2024” or the “NBACC Authorization Act of 2024”.

(b) NATIONAL BIODEFENSE ANALYSIS AND COUNTERMEASURES CENTER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following: “**SEC. 324. NATIONAL BIODEFENSE ANALYSIS AND COUNTERMEASURES CENTER.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and

Technology, shall designate the laboratory described in subsection (b) as an additional laboratory pursuant to the authority under section 308(c)(2), which shall be the lead Federal facility dedicated to defending the United States against biological threats by—

“(1) understanding the risks posed by intentional, accidental, and natural biological events; and

“(2) providing the operational capabilities to support the investigation, prosecution, and prevention of biocrimes and bioterrorism.

“(b) LABORATORY DESCRIBED.—The laboratory described in this subsection may be a federally funded research and development center—

“(1) known, as of the date of enactment of this section, as the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center;

“(2) that may include—

“(A) the National Bioforensic Analysis Center, which conducts technical analyses in support of Federal law enforcement investigations; and

“(B) the National Biological Threat Characterization Center, which conducts experiments and studies to better understand biological vulnerabilities and hazards; and

“(3) transferred to the Department pursuant to subparagraphs (A), (D), and (F) of section 303(1) and section 303(2).

“(c) LABORATORY ACTIVITIES.—The National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center shall—

“(1) conduct studies and experiments to better understand current and future biological threats and hazards and pandemics;

“(2) provide the scientific data required to assess vulnerabilities, conduct risk assessments, and determine potential impacts to guide the development of countermeasures;

“(3) conduct and facilitate the technical forensic analysis and interpretation of materials recovered following a biological attack, or in other law enforcement investigations requiring evaluation of biological materials, in support of the appropriate lead Federal agency;

“(4) coordinate with other national laboratories to enhance research capabilities, share lessons learned, and provide training more efficiently;

“(5) collaborate with the Homeland Security Enterprise, as defined in section 2200, to plan and conduct research to address gaps and needs in biodefense; and

“(6) carry out other such activities as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(d) WORK FOR OTHERS.—The National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center shall engage in a continuously operating Work for Others program to make the unique biocontainment and bioforensic capabilities of the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center available to other Federal agencies.

“(e) FACILITY REPAIR AND ROUTINE EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT.—The National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center shall—

“(1) perform regularly scheduled and required maintenance of laboratory infrastructure; and

“(2) procure mission-critical equipment and capability upgrades.

“(f) FACILITY MISSION NEEDS ASSESSMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To address capacity concerns and accommodate future mission needs and advanced capabilities, the Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall conduct a mission needs assessment, to include scoping for potential future needs or expansion, of the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center.

“(2) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section,

the Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall provide the assessment conducted under paragraph (1) to—

“(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Subcommittee on Homeland Security Appropriations of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and the Subcommittee on Homeland Security Appropriations of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

“(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to support the activities of the laboratory designated under this section.

“(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed as affecting in any manner the authorities or responsibilities of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office of the Department.”.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296; 116 Stat. 2135) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 323 the following:

“Sec. 324. National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center.”.

SA 2115. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 10. REPORTS ON CRITICAL MINERAL AND RARE EARTH ELEMENT RESOURCES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Critical Minerals Security Act of 2024”.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED NATION.—The term “covered nation” has the meaning given that term in section 4872 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) CRITICAL MINERAL.—The term “critical mineral” has the meaning given that term in section 7002(a) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(a)).

(3) FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—The term “foreign entity of concern” has the meaning given that term in section 40207 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (42 U.S.C. 18741)

(4) RARE EARTH ELEMENTS.—The term “rare earth elements” means cerium, dysprosium, erbium, europium, gadolinium, holmium, lanthanum, lutetium, neodymium, praseodymium, promethium, samarium, scandium, terbium, thulium, ytterbium, and yttrium.

(5) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

(c) REPORTS ON CRITICAL MINERAL AND RARE EARTH ELEMENT RESOURCES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to Congress a report on all critical mineral and rare earth element resources (including recyclable or recycled materials containing such resources) around the world that includes—

(A) an assessment of—

(i) which of such resources are under the control of a foreign entity of concern, including through ownership, contract, or economic or political influence;

(ii) which of such resources are owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of the United States or a country that is an ally or partner of the United States;

(iii) which of such resources are not owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of a foreign entity of concern or a country described in clause (ii); and

(iv) in the case of such resources not undergoing commercial mining, the reasons for the lack of commercial mining;

(B) for each mine from which significant quantities of critical minerals or rare earth elements are being extracted, as of the date that is one year before the date of the report—

(i) an estimate of the annual volume of output of the mine as of that date;

(ii) an estimate of the total volume of mineral or elements that remain in the mine as of that date;

(iii)(I) an identification of the country and entity operating the mine; or

(II) if the mine is operated by more than one country or entity, an estimate of the output of each mineral or element from the mine to which each such country or entity has access; and

(iv) an identification of the ultimate beneficial owners of the mine and the percentage of ownership held by each such owner;

(C) for each mine not described in subparagraph (B), to the extent practicable—

(i) an estimate of the aggregate annual volume of output of the mines as of the date that is one year before the date of the report;

(ii) an estimate of the aggregate total volume of mineral or elements that remain in the mines as of that date;

(iii) an estimate of the aggregate total output of each mineral or element from the mine to which a foreign entity of concern has access;

(D)(i) a list of key foreign entities of concern involved in mining critical minerals and rare earth elements;

(ii) a list of key entities in the United States and countries that are allies or partners of the United States involved in mining critical minerals and rare earth elements; and

(iii) an assessment of the technical feasibility of entities listed under clauses (i) and (ii) mining and processing resources identified under subparagraph (A)(iii) using existing advanced technology;

(E) an assessment, prepared in consultation with the Secretary of State, of ways to collaborate with countries in which mines, mineral processing operations, or recycling operations (or any combination thereof) are located that are operated by other countries, or are operated by entities from other countries, to ensure ongoing access by the United States and countries that are allies and partners of the United States to those mines and processing or recycling operations;

(F) a list, prepared in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, identifying, to the maximum extent practicable, all cases in which entities were forced to divest stock in mining, processing, or recycling operations (or any combination thereof) for critical minerals and rare earth elements based on—

(i) regulatory rulings of the government of a covered nation;

(ii) joint regulatory rulings of such a government and the government of another country; or

(iii) rulings of a relevant tribunal or other entity authorized to render binding decisions on divestiture;

(G) a list of all cases in which the government of a covered nation purchased an entity that was forced to divest stock as described in subparagraph (F); and

(H) a list of all cases in which mining, processing, or recycling operations (or any combination thereof) for critical minerals and rare earth elements that were not subject to a ruling described in subparagraph (F) were taken over by—

(i) the government of a covered nation; or
(ii) an entity located in, or influenced or controlled by, such a government.

(2) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex, if necessary.

(d) PROCESS FOR NOTIFYING UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OF DIVESTMENT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall establish a process under which—

(1) a United States person seeking to divest stock in mining, processing, or recycling operations for critical minerals and rare earth elements in a foreign country may notify the Secretary of the intention of the person to divest such stock; and

(2) the Secretary may provide assistance to the person to find a purchaser that is not under the control of the government of a covered nation.

(e) STRATEGY ON DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED MINING, REFINING, SEPARATION, PROCESSING, AND RECYCLING TECHNOLOGIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall develop—

(A) a strategy to collaborate with the governments of countries that are allies and partners of the United States to develop advanced mining, refining, separation, processing, and recycling technologies; and

(B) a method for sharing the intellectual property resulting from the development of such technologies with those countries to enable those countries to license such technologies and mine, refine, separate, process, and recycle the resources of such countries.

(2) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the progress made in developing the strategy and method described in paragraph (1).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I have seven requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate

on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 11:30 a.m., to hold a working coffee with His Excellency Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister of New Zealand.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

NEVER AGAIN EDUCATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from and the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3448.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3448) to reauthorize the Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to support Holocaust education programs, and for other purposes.

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

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 3448) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3448

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 "Never Again Education Reauthorization Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 4(a) of the Never Again Education Act (Public Law 116-141; 134 Stat. 638) is amended by striking "each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years" and inserting "each succeeding fiscal year through fiscal year 2030".

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 755, S. Res. 756, and S. Res. 757.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 10; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Willoughby nomination, postcloture; that all time be considered expired at 11:30 a.m. and that if cloture is invoked on the Wagner nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; that upon disposition of the Wagner nomination, notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate resume legislative session and resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 420, S. 4554; further, that the cloture vote on the motion to proceed occur at 4:15 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. 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 6:44 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

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

To be lieutenant colonel

TRAVIS P. ABEITA
JORDAN L. ANDERSON
ALEXANDER T. ANNEN
IVANDO ARROYO
JOSEPH K. AUSSERER
ERIC L. BAKER
MARGARET PEARL L. BALLARD
PARKER L. BAUM
ANDREW M. BEAUCHAMP
NICHOLAS F. BECK
MICHAEL L. BENNETT
ANDREW J. BETTING
JARED CHRISTOPHE BINDL
KEVIN W. BISHOP
RAYMOND CRAWFORD BLOUNT
OLIVIA M. BORMAN
THOMAS A. BOWEN
ALAN S. BOYLES
JACOB D. BRADOSKY
DARIUS V. BROWN
LEO J. BURKARDT
VITO A. BUSSMANN
BRENTON M. BYRDFULBRIGHT
TAMAR A. GAIN
JASON ANTHONY CAMMARATA
KASIDIT V. CHALAPOPAK
JAMEL D. CHANEY
KYLE WHITNEY CHAPMAN
RYAN K. CHAPMAN
SENOBIO VLADIMIR CHAVEZ
SAVETH CHHY
DEAN A. CHUVA
MARK N. CIZEWSKI
KEVIN W. COLSON, JR.
MATTHEW B. COOK
JOSEPH A. CURRO
EROL N. DIZON
MICHAEL W. DOROSKI
PHILIP R. DUDDLES
LARRY M. FAIRCHILD
SHARON KING FARINASH
SIMON S. FERREL
BRANDON S. FISKE
ALAN E. FRAZIER
BRANDON P. FROBERG
ERIC T. GAZELL
CHRISTOPHER GIACOMO
SARINA S. GOINGS
STEVEN J. GORSS
KEVIN R. GRIFFIS
DANIEL S. HAIGLER
NATHAN D. HALUSKA
JOHN H. HANSEN
TYLER K. HARDIN
CHRISTOPHER D. HARE
MICHELLE A. HARRINGTON
ROBERT J. HAUKE
MITCHELL G. HAVERKAMP
JACOB G. HEITZMAN
FRED D. HERTWIG
ALEX C. HOLLENBECK
ALEXANDER C. HORRELL
CHRISTOPHER J. HULL
MARK DAVID HUMBARGER II
JAZMYN L. HYMAN
MADELEINE J. JENSEN
ADAM SKYLER JOHNSON
MICHAEL DAVID JONES
SAMUEL HARPER JONES
ALEXANDER J. KAMRUD
DUSTIN W. KELLER
YONGMIN KIM
RANDALL J. KINDLE
AARON MICHAEL KIRCHNER
MICHELLE D. KNIGHT
RACHEL KOLESNIKOVLINDSEY
BRIAN W. KUHN
JAMES C. LANCASTER
CADMAN LAU
CODY THOMAS LEWIS
JAMES O. LEWIS
GORDON E. LOTT
MICHELLE L. MANNING
ANTHONY D. MAXIE, JR.
RAYGAN ROSS MCCREARY
CLARK C. MCGEHEE
BRETT W. MCNICOLS

ERIC D. MEYER
RYAN E. MIKUS
ASHLEY MONIQUE MYERS
JUAN A. NOLASCO
DANIEL OKEEFE
KRUZ B. OLIVER
ERIC S. OLSEN
MICAH C. ORR
JOSE RICARDO PAZ
TYLER R. PEERY
ISAAC B. PELAGIO
MATTHEW W. PIPER
KYLIE MARIE PRACHAR
AARON MICHAEL PRICE
MORGAN T. RAYMOND
JUSTIN T. RAYNOR
PHILIP K. REINERT
BRIAN P. RILEY
NINA C. ROURKE
AMANDA A. ROWTON
NICHOLAS ANTHONY SAHAGUN
WILLIAM C. SHACKELFORD
RUSSELL GRANT SHIREY
DANIEL R. SMITH
SHAWN S. STEPHENS
WILLIAM J. SWINTON
JONATHAN R. TELLEFSEN
AUGUSTINE D. TRAN
MATTHEW L. TRAVIS
JESSICA M. ULLOM
ANTHONY S. VAN VALKENBURG
JONATHAN DAYTON WHITE
MICHELLE A. WILLETT
NATHAN WILLIAMS
ERIN B. WILSON
ERIC T. YERLY

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

To be lieutenant colonel

ANDREW KYLE BALDWIN
SHAWN RYAN BANION
BRITTANY R. BONDS
JOSEPH O. BOTHWELL
HAROLD E. BROWN IV
JUSTIN T. BUCY
RICHARD L. CHAPMAN
CHRISTIAN B. COLEMAN
RYAN S. COMBEST
JACK P. CRAVEN
DONALD BRADLEY DAVISON
NATASHA A. DRESHER
JOSEPH W. ESTEP
MATTHEW STEVEN EVERETTE
STEPHAN E. GRAFF
NICOLE M. GRAVES
NICHOLAS W. GUMLEY
BRANDT WISE HIGLEY
ILDRAM RAMILEVICH IBRAGIMOV
PAMELA R. LAMPERT
LESLIE A. MARTELL
SCOTT R. MCKEITHEN
JOSHUA P. MONROE
KRISTINE M. MORRIS
MATTHEW RYAN O'DONNELL
PATRICIA M. PENTEL
TRAVIS ALLAN PETERSEN
CHARLENE JOAN RUEBEN
CHAD D. SCARBRO
STEVEN LEE SCHWERDTFEGER
JOSHUA A. SMART
JENNIFER M. STARK
CHARLIE D. STEVENS
ELIZABETH R. TILLMANN
KEVIN D. UNDERWOOD
RACHEL S. VAN SCIVER
JACOB WAYNE WILLIAMS
DESBAA ROSE YAZZIE

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

To be lieutenant colonel

ELENA A. AMSPACHER
AMANDA J. ANDERSON
MARY A. BARNARD
MATHEW E. BEEMAN
SHELLA A. BROWN
TAMMIE A. CANADA
OMAR CARRASCO
BETHANY A. CASPER
ERMITA N. CHARLESBERRETTE
ADRIANNA L. CLARK
KRISTINA M. COUGHLIN
FELECIA G. CRADDIETH
KYLE W. CRISMAN
KATRINA S. CROWELL
NOELLE P. DERUYTER
TANYA L. DESTIN
DONNA L. DOUGLAS
CHRISTOPHER SEAN DUNCAN
EDITA U. DUNGCA
KATRINA M. DYKE
SHANNON L. EARLYRICE
SUSAN A. FON
JORDAN J. FRIED
BERNADETTE M. GABUCAN
MAVIS J. GEE
LISA E. GONZALES
KARA N. GRANROTH
KOLT T. HARRIS
HAI PHUONG T. HUYNH
STEFANIE J. KNOX
NATALIE A. KORONA

SHAWN C. LAWSON
SARA J. LLOYD
ANDREW C. MEIDLINGER
PAUL J. MERRILL
MARK S. METZLER
MICHAEL J. MILLAR
KELLY E. MILLER
HEATHER S. MULLIN
SAMANTHA J. NELSON
LYNN T. NGUYEN
KAREN S. NORTHEY WARREN
WAYNE A. PERNELL
ANGELA K. PHILLIPS
ELIZABETH R. PHILLIPS
MARK J. POMERLEAU
KIMBERLY ANN POOLE
KRISHA A. PRENTICE
KATHRYN A. RANDALL
MICHELLE M. RENEAU
JENNIFER B. ROCK
KERRIE A. SANDERS
JESSICA M. SCIRICA
TANYA PESHAKAI SHAW
YESSENIA N. SINCLAIR
CAMILLE N. ST JULIAN
MICHAEL S. STROUD
LORA M. STUDLEY
LEAH S. SWEENEY
DIEGO L. TORRES
MALICK B. TRAORE
CHRISTINA VALLES
JONATHAN PAUL VIRNIG
MICHAEL A. VOLKMER
TIFFANY J. WELSH
DEVON L. WENTZ
JOSHUA V. WILLIAMS
SHAMEKA L. WILLIAMS
ALEXANDER C. WILSON
BART D. WINTERS
KRISTINA M. ZUCCARELLI

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

To be lieutenant colonel

EDISON I. ABEYTA
JULIO ARIZMENDI LACLAUSTRA
AMANDA R. BAKER
RYAN A. BATTERMAN
HUGO R. BUSTAMANTE
JOHN A. BUTLER
JAMES R. CARLSON
KEANE A. CARPENTER
KEVIN CHAO
BENJAMIN A. CHASE
THOMAS M. CHIASSON
LUCAS JOHN CONNOLLY
TARASITA DAVIS
BRENDAN J. DEBRUN
ASHLEY M. DEMING
NATHAN D. ELLOWE
DAVID GARCIA
BENJAMIN A. GAROUTTE
ROBINA M. GIBSON
ERIC M. GORAL
ADAM K. GORZKOWSKI
EVAN S. GRINSTEAD
GAVIN SEAN HAGENS
ELIZABETH M. HERNANDEZ
RYAN CLARKE KALANI HESS
ALANNA KEITH
DERRICK E. KLINE
PAUL M. MALONE
MARY H. MARINO
ROBERT L. MASHBURN
BRANDI B. MCALISTER
ZACHARY A. MCCARTER
BRENDAN J. MCKENNEY
BRITTANY L. MORREALE
BRIAN P. OCONNOR
MIKAEL B. ORTEGA
JOSIAH P. RAWLINGS
JONATHAN MICHAEL REED
PENNIE M. REISWITZ
HADDER RENDON
OMAIR SAEED
KEVIN J. SKELTON
WILLIAM M. SMITH
TIFFANY A. SWOPE
RICHARD P. UBER
SANDY EUGEN VAN DEN MOOTER
MIKE B. YOUNG

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

To be lieutenant colonel

JOSEPH J. BUCKINGHAM
SHAWN C. BURNSIDE
GREGORY S. CAMPBELL
GREG EUGENE CARTER
MARK A. CARTER
ERIC T. CONNORS
PATRICK C. CRAWFORD
MELISSA A. CRENSHAW
TRACIE MARIE DAVIS
LEE R. FELDHUSEN
JOSHUA J. GROVER
BENJAMIN J. KNUTTLE
NATHAN M. LARSON
SUNNY LEE
MATTHEW A. MCPHERSON
STEVEN A. ODELL
NATHANIEL T. PLATH
JUSTIN D. RATHBUN

MARC DANIEL SAMS
BRANDON L. SEALE
ADAM N. SHEYKO
JUSTIN ASTIN SIMMONS
ROMONTE R. SULLIVAN
NICHOLAS P. TENSING
JULIE K. TURNER
RESHARD E. WAGSTAFF
ARMAND WONG
JOSEPH A. WYATT
BENJAMIN DONALD ZATORSKI

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

To be lieutenant colonel

SAMORY AHMIR ABDULRAHEEM
DANIELLE B. ACKERMAN
MEREDITH L. E. ADAMS
MATTHEW A. ALBERS
ANTHONY S. ANDERSON
TYNER M. APT HILL
LINDA M. ARIAS
KRISTEN L. BAKER
JOSEPH AGUSTIN BAZA
TYLER B. BEAL
BRYAN J. BEALS
NATHANIEL D. BEENE
KENDALL P. BENTON
MARIA K. BERRARDI
STEPHEN R. BERNERO
ZACHARY S. BIERHAUS
DEXTER R. BINION, JR.
AARON M. BLACKBURN
NATHAN C. BLAIR
ERIK M. BLUM
EMILY C. BOLD
HARMIN M. BOLLING
DOROTHAS R. BRACEY BEAN
CHRISTOPHER B. BRICKWEG
JACOB R. BRIGHT
CARTER L. BROWN
DANIEL LUIS BROWN
ELICA C. BROWN
JUSTIN M. BRUBAKER
DAVID W. BRUTON
MICHAEL L. BRUTON
MATTHEW J. BUSCEMI
JANETH MARCIA CALAHORRANO
JANRAY A. CALPITO
SHAWN D. CAMERON
RODOLFO N. CAMPANO, JR.
GARRETT L. CANTER
JOSHUA R. CARAGAN
TIFFANY D. CARTER
SARA L. S. CASTANO
KATHLEEN CASTILLO LIMU
JOE C. CASTILLO
JASON A. CASTLEBERRY
JASON D. CHRISTIE
JAMES PATRICK CICCONE
DANIEL ALLEN CLARK
CHRISTOPHER L. CLAWSON
KYLE J. CLEMENS
BRANDON M. CLEMENTS
JOHN EDWARD CLEMENTS III
LISA MARIE COCHRAN
KARRIE J. COMSTOCK
JEREMY D. CONSTANTINEAU
RICHARD DONALD CORDOVA
CASSANDRA L. COWHER
TERESA A. CRAMPTON
RYAN C. CREAN
JORDAN T. CRISS
QUINTON LEE CROFF
CHRISTOPHER J. CROMMIE
JOSHUA D. CROSS
RYAN MARTIN CROSSMAN
RYAN B. CUNANAN
ASHLEY M. CUNNINGHAM
RYAN L. CURRAN
MICAH B. DALCOE
ELIZABETH A. DALE
STEVEN P. DEAL
NICHOLAS ALEXANDER DEFRANCO
JOHN A. DELAURA
NATHAN L. DEMERS
BARTHOLOMEW JAMES DIETRICK
DEREK K. DILLARD
STEVEN M. DRAUGHON
CHRISTOPHER A. EDLUND
DYLAN J. EDWARDS
MATTHEW BRENT EDWARDS
HANNAH J. ENGLISH
SCOTT T. ENGMAN
JONATHAN J. ESQUIVEL
AMANDA M. ESSARY
KATIE M. EVANS
KEVIN L. EVANS
EUGENE H. FAN
RODNEY J. FANGMANN
BRIAN E. FERKALUK
AUTUMN L. FERRELL
RACHAEL A. FERRIS
DANIEL SEAN FINNEY
TIMOTHY J. FINUCY
BRIAN J. FITZPATRICK
JACOB S. FLATZ
JOSHUA D. FREDERICK
FENESHA D. FRIAR
KYLE J. GAGNON
TODD J. GAMILES
EDWIN GASTON
JESSICA L. GELSOMINO
ANDREW V. GILL
SARA M. GILLESBY

HARLAN W. GLINSKI
RICHARD A. GLOVER
ZACHARIAH DOUGLAS GONYEA
JARED B. GOSS
NATHAN A. GREINER
BRIAN S. GRESZLER
TATE J. GROGAN
ASHLEY L. GUNN
SETH M. GUNN
NICHOLAS B. GUSTAFSON
ASHLEYANN M. HAJOVSKY
MICHAEL BAILEY HAMPTON
SAMUEL M. HAN
JEFFREY L. HARTMAN
MATTHEW M. HARVEY
JASON L. HATCHER
JOSEPH BOYD HENN
BETHANY M. HERRING
JOSHUA L. HIGHT
NATHAN G. HOCKING
RYAN M. HOFF
TRAVIS E. HOLLIN
JENNIFER L. HOLMSTROM
CARISSA MARIE HOOSLINE
KIRK L. HULL
ZACHARY M. HUNT
BRYAN M. INGRAM
JOSHUA MICHEALS ISOM
JUSTIN D. JACOBS
ALLEN JAMES JAIME
BENJAMIN R. JOHNSON
CHRISTINE NOELLE JOHNSON
GARY LYNN JONES
IVAN JORGE
POONSAK KAJONPONG
GARRETT A. KARNOWSKI
TIFFANIE L. KATZ
DANIEL P. KENNEY
JAE H. KIM
MICHAEL A. KRAVITZ
CARTER L. KUNZ
BONNIE JO R. LANGE
BRIAN P. LARSON
PETER J. LEE
JOANNA S. LEGER
CYNTHIA L. LETE
KEVIN M. LIMANI
JASON A. LOVICKS
RACHEL E. LOVEADY
MICHAEL J. LUNDY
STEVEN L. MACKINDER
KATRINA M. MALONEY
THOMAS G. MALONEY
TIMOTHY JEFFREY MARRINER
JAY R. MARRRO
THOMAS P. MATECHIK
JASON SILVA MATOS
JENNIFER M. MATTHEWS
JUSTIN L. MAY
CHAUVERY S. MCCLANAHAN
JOHN R. MCCORMICK
ANDREW J. MCFEE
RUDOLPH H. MCINTYRE IV
LANCE A. MCKEEVER
JOSHUA P. MCNELLEY
RYAN J. MIGACZ
ASHTON L. MILLER
JEREMY JAMES MILLER
TREVOR P. MILLER
JOHNATHAN JOSEPH MIRANDA
JOSEPH A. MITCHELL
MELINDA C. MONAHAN
BRIGHAM A. MOORE
JUSTIN R. MOORE
ALAN DANIEL WALLACE MORFORD
BRODERICK S. MORRIS
LAWRENCE L. MORRIS
CHRISTOPHER D. MOYANO
KELLY IRENE MYERS
AMANDA C. NERG
AKIRA B. NERVIK
YAIRA ENIT NEVAREZ SAMSHAIR
MATTHEW J. NICHOLS
REBECCA C. NOLASCO
PHILIP D. OLSON
TYLER S. OLSON
REISS D. OLTMAN
SALVADOR A. ORDORICA
STEVEN A. ORTNER
CAITLIN MARIE OVIATT
ALEXANDER F. PAGANO
KEVIN J. PARZUCHOWSKI
ERICA G. PEAT
SANDE C. PENULIAR
CAMILLO C. PERROTTA, JR.
ANGELA L. PETERSEN
CHRISTOPHER ROBERT PIHA
JONATHAN M. PLYLER
DENISE M. POOLE
TALON M. POPE
JOSIAH J. PRATT
SEAN P. PURIO
GORDON JAMALL RANDALL
KAMALJIT SINGH RANDHAWA
DUANE A. REID
ANDREW CLAY RIDDLE
STEVEN E. RIEDL
CATHERINE ROBERTSON
BRADLEY G. ROBINSON
JEFFREY RODRIGUEZ
MARQUS J. ROSS
MARISA ANN JAYNE ROSSI
DAVID E. ROTH
JARED M. RUTKOVITZ
BRYAN J. SAAM
LAUREN K. SAHAGUN
JESSE NATHANIEL SANDSTROM

CLAUDIA L. SANTOS
KURT J. SEIDL
DANIEL C. SHALLCROSS
MICHAEL J. SHANE
BENJAMIN D. SHEARER
SHARON J. SHERLOCK
SPENCER ANDREW SHIBLER
NIGEL J. C. SKEETE
BRIAN S. SLATER
KEVIN R. SLAUGHTER, JR.
JAYE KEITH SMITH
KELSEY N. SMITH
MARK A. SMITH
NATHAN CHARLES SMITH
ROBERT C. SMITH
SHONTA M. SMITH
KEYANNA M. SPEARS
CHRISTOPHER M. STEWART
KAYLEIGH M. STILWELL
ROY J. SURITA
DIANE L. SWEET
GREGORY S. SWENDSEN
JESSICA A. TAGATAC
JED BERNARD TAIT
NICOLE TAIT
CHRISTIE MARIE TAYLOR
MICAH F. TELMO
MICHELE K. TEMPEL
MERCY SESILIA TEO
GREGORY EUGENE THOMAS
JASON PETER THOMAS
TIMOTHY V. TRUONG
JAMES C. TYHURST
THOMAS W. UHL
RONDA E. UNDERWOOD
ANGELINA MARIE URBINA
JACQUE C. VASTA
MICHAEL J. VASTOLA
AARON VELASCO
CHRISTIAN B. VIGO
MATHEW C. WAGGONER
JENNY JENEE WALK
CHRISTOPHER A. WALKER
KELLI M. WALKER
MATTHEW P. WALLAART
EDMUND R. WARD
SAMUEL H. WATERMAN
ANDREW J. WEBB
KATIE A. WEBER
RACHEL E. WEILER
ADAM J. WENKE
NATHANIEL A. WHITE
STEPHEN L. WHITE
THOMAS W. WICKHAM
TIMOTHY G. WILHELM
MARLYSE KELLY WILLIAMS
CHRISTOPHER E. WITTMAN
ALEXANDER P. YEE
BRENT D. YOCUM
JAMES S. YOUNG
DOMINIQUE A. ZHONG
ANDREW K. ZIMMER

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

To be lieutenant colonel

NEILS J. ABDERHALDEN
SAJJAD ABDULLATEEF
BRANDON R. ABRAMES
SAMUEL KWESI ADDOO
CHRISTOPHER K. AKUI
CLAY T. ALLEN
CHRISTOPHER J. ALLEN
BRANDON CHRISTOPHE ALONZO
MARCUS A. ALVIDREZ
CHRISTOPHER L. AMES
BRANDON J. AMIGO
JOHN M. ANDREA
PETER J. ARMSTRONG
MICHAEL S. ARNSBERG
RYAN DAVID ARTRIP
STEPHAN KARLAM AZAB
JACE E. AZEVEDO
JASON D. BAGWELL
SEUNGMIN T. BAIK
RYAN ANDREW BAILEY
AUSTIN J. BAKER
WILLIAM R. BAKER
BAILEY A. BALL
JOSHUA BANKS
ANDREW D. BARSTOW
JOSEPH A. BARTON
JOSEPH C. BASALA
MICHAEL G. BATES
NICHOLAS R. BATEY
FRANK ANDREW BAUMANN IV
SHAUN L. BEAN
VANESSA C. BEAUDREAULT
JOLENE L. BECK
JACOB H. BELKA
CHRISTOPHER J. BENNER
JONATHAN M. BENSON
KARI A. BENSON
RAYLIND J. BERGMAN
JAMES V. BEROTTI III
BRYAN M. BESSEN
MEGAN E. BILES
STEPHEN W. BINTZ
KEVIN R. BISHOP
TIMOTHY A. BLACK
WAYNE N. BLACK
KYLE S. BLACKMAN
TYLER R. BLASDEL
NATHAN L. BLATT
LAUREN CHRISTINE BOBEE

CHRISTOPHER M. BODTKE
 MICHAEL H. BOEHMER
 TIMOTHY J. BOLDT
 ANDREW S. BOLINT
 TOBIN J. BOLTON
 JONATHAN P. BONILLA
 MICHAEL J. BOOTH
 MEGHAN K. BOOZE
 WILLIAM ROGER DANIEL BORGES
 MICHAEL T. BORING
 LEWIS N. BOSS
 DANIEL T. BOURGEOIS
 PHILLIP K. BOURQUIN
 JUSTIN D. BOWER
 JOHN D. BOWMAN
 MATTHEW E. BRADWICK
 BRADLEY J. BREDELOVE
 ALEX C. BREWSTER
 RYAN J. BROOKS
 CHRISTOPHER S. BROWN
 LUKE J. BROWN
 MICHAEL P. BROWN
 SPENCER D. BROWN
 CHRISTOPHER W. BRUCK
 JOSEPH M. BRZOZOWSKIE
 JONATHAN W. BUCEY
 RANDY S. BUCKLEY
 CHRISTOPHER BUKOWSKI
 BRANDON C. BURFEIND
 MADISON L. BURGESS
 JACOB B. BURNUM
 ERIC D. BURTON
 ADAM B. CADE
 PETER J. CAHILLY
 MICHAEL R. CALKINS
 PETER W. CALLO II
 DUSTIN E. CAREY
 NICHOLAUS JOHN CARREA
 CHRISTOPHER Y. CARRILLO
 BRANDON C. CARTER
 NICHOLAS A. CARTER
 CHRISTOPHER LANCE CARVER
 LEVI B. CASS
 LUCAS R. CATALANO
 SCOTT A. CERMEVARO
 MATTHEW BERNET CHAPMAN
 ROSEMARIE L. CHAPMAN
 KYLE A. CHILDESS
 NICHOLAS R. CHRISTI
 HENRY CHI CHUNG
 KEVIN A. CLARK
 CHARLTON J. COATS
 DANIEL R. COHOON
 RYAN SHAWN COMBES
 BRIAN D. COMBS
 TYLER COMTE
 KEITH O. CONWAY
 DOMINIQUE MARIE RENEE COOPER
 DANIEL COPELAND
 DANE TYLER COPPINI
 JONATHAN R. CORDELL
 HEATHER C. CORLESS
 MICHAEL R. CORSE
 CHARLES E. COURTNEY
 JORDAN D. CRAFT
 ANDREW R. CRAWFORD
 ALISON CRUISE
 RICHARD D. CULVER
 CATHERINE M. CUMM
 JAMES T. CUSHING
 ERIC J. DAHLMANN
 NICHOLAS R. DANDREA
 JONATHAN HOWELL DANIEL
 JOSEPH M. DANIEL
 KYLE T. DEGUZMAN
 MACKIN C. DELGADO
 CHRISTOPHER M. DELIMAN
 MATTHEW M. DEMING
 JARED C. DEWIRE
 NATHAN E. DIAL
 STEPHEN R. DIPULVIO
 JERROD MICHAEL DILLON
 BRANDON S. DOBBS
 MICHAEL P. DOBRANSKY
 STEPHEN G. DONALDSON
 JONATHAN M. DORNSEIF
 HERBERT W. DOSS
 RYAN J. DOUGHERTY
 SOLANGE MYCHAL E. DOUGLASS
 DANIEL CARLON DREIER
 AJAY PRIEM DUA
 GREGORY F. DUBOSE
 ALICIA L. DURDIN
 ROMANIE J. DURDIN
 BRADEN K. EAGAR
 DANIEL RICHARD EANNIELLO
 DANTE K. EARLE
 JOSEPH F. EASTMAN
 AUSTIN DOUGLAS EBERHART
 CY W. ECKHARDT
 GREGORY D. EDMONDS
 JEFFREY SCOTT EDSON
 KYLE S. ELLINGSEN
 LAUREN C. ELLIS
 THEODORE M. ELLIS
 MICHAEL ANTHONY ELLSWORTH
 ALEX J. EMLY
 LANDON G. ENG
 MICHAEL J. ERICKSON
 GABRIEL ESTRELLA
 CHRISTIAN B. EVERSON
 MATTHEW RYAN FAIR
 MARK A. FAVINGER
 JOSEPH A. FEERST
 ANDREW P. FERGUSON
 JACOB R. FERRIS
 NOLAN R. FIELDS

KYLE R. FINNEGAN
 JONATHAN M. FISHER
 NOAH CASTLE FISHER
 WESLEY A. FITE
 TRISTAN P. FITZGERALD
 WILLIAM LEE FLAVELL
 RIDGE R. FLICK
 KYLE J. FLUKER
 JOSEPH M. FOREMAN
 RYAN M. FORTNEY
 RYAN M. FORYSTEK
 JESSICA E. FOSTER
 ALEXANDER J. FRANK
 MOLLY E. FRANK
 LAUREN M. FRANKS
 THOMAS M. FULLER
 THEODORE LEE GALBRAITH
 DAVID J. GALLUZZO
 AMBROSE D. GARCIA
 MICHAEL G. GARGANO
 MATTHEW J. GARVEY
 RYAN D. GAUNTT
 CHRISTOPHER L. GERHARDSTEIN
 JONATHAN D. GISE
 LUIS M. GODOY
 COLIN MCDONNELL GOEPPERT
 JUSTIN J. GOODIN
 MASON R. GORDON
 JASON M. GOSSETT
 TIMOTHY W. GRACE
 JOSEPH M. GRANATELLI
 COLLEEN M. GRASKA
 BRANDON ANTHONY GREEN
 SARAH RACHAEL TODD GREEN
 DAVID R. GREER
 JEREMY W. GREER
 ANDREW R. GRIFFIN
 JONATHAN STUART GROEN
 PETER HANSELL GROOMS
 MATTHEW L. GUERTIN
 JOSEPH J. GULLO
 ERIK R. GUNDERSEN
 MILLIE A. HALE
 RALPH D. HALE
 WILLIAM T. HALL
 MARK A. HAMMOND
 THOMAS P. HANEY
 ROBERT F. HANNAH
 ANDREW H. HANSEN
 ROBERT ALAN HANSEN
 MICHAEL C. HARENCAK
 LAUREN A. HARRISON
 SEAN F. HARTE
 CHRISTOPHER L. HARTMAN
 CHRISTOPHER S. HARTMAN
 DUSTIN HAYNES
 LONNIE M. HAYNES
 RICHARD B. HEIDEN
 JAMES M. HEYNE
 JAMES C. HICKERSON
 DANIEL RICHARD HILL
 KAYLA L. HILL
 KATHERINE B. HIRSCHLER
 KARON E. HOFF
 HANK G. HOHMAN
 MATTHEW T. HOUGHT
 JONATHAN E. HOLME
 PETER EDWIN HUNT
 CHRISTOPHER JON HUNTER
 TREVOR K. HUNTER
 ZACHARY D. HUPPERT
 CRAIG R. INGVALSON
 ANDREW Z. JACKSON
 SKYLAR J. JACKSON
 ZACHARY A. JABGON
 CHRISTOPHER P. JAGLOWICZ
 BRIAN K. JARRELL
 WINSTON M. JEANPIERRE
 JACOB D. JEFFCOAT
 JED S. JENKINS
 TYLER E. JENNINGS
 SCOTT W. JEWELL
 CHRISTOPHER B. JOHNSON
 JASON T. JOHNSON
 NATHAN WILLIAM JOHNSON
 ZACHARY MCMILLIN JOHNSON
 JOHN J. JOHNSTON
 NATHAN R. JOLLS
 BRENNAN D. JONES
 JOSHUA C. JONES
 JACOB ANDREW JORDAN
 HOLDEN E. JUBB
 RICHARD CHARLES KABANUCK
 STEPHEN M. KAISER
 CAITLIN J. KAVGAZOFF
 GEORGE E. KAVULICH
 TYLER L. KEENER
 CRISTINA E. KELLENBENCE
 IAN T. KEMP
 BENJAMIN D. KEMPER
 RYAN B. KENNEDY
 RYAN O. KERNS
 SARAH MARIE KIENHOLZ
 ALEX A. KIMBER
 CLANCY JOY KIMBER
 DONALD R. KINNEE
 ALEXANDER SEBASTIAN KIPP
 WILLIAM C. KIRK
 JONATHAN J. KLENK
 BRADLEY M. KOEHLER
 ALEK K. KRALLMAN
 AUSTIN M. KROHN
 BRANDON J. KRUPA
 JOHN A. KUONIS
 ANDREW NATHANIEL KUYKENDALL
 KILE H. KUZMA
 ANDREW K. KWON

CHRISTOPHER J. LADE
 CHRISTOPHER L. LADEHOFF
 LUKE MORRELL LAGACE
 RYAN EDWARD LANE
 MICHAEL SCOTT LANGFORD
 ERIC T. LAPRADE
 MICHAEL J. LARGER
 BENJAMIN A. LARSEN
 STEPHEN M. LARSON
 ANTHONY R. LAVY
 JORDAN R. LAWRENCE
 DAVID M. LEIBRAND
 CHRISTOPHER R. LEONARD
 SCOTT P. LEVIN
 JONATHAN A. LEWCZYK
 ERIC J. LIARD
 KRISTOF E. LIEBER
 KEITH C. LINDEMANN
 MATTHEW R. LIPSCOMB
 CHRISTIAN J. LITSCHER
 DAMION N. LIU
 RICHARD P. LOESCH
 COREY D. LOOMIS
 CRAIG E. LOWER
 MAXINE ERICA TUPAS LUCAS
 MATTHEW T. LUDWIG
 NEAL A. LUNDBY, JR.
 MATTHEW M. LUNDQUIST
 DANIEL A. LUSARDI
 WILLIAM EMERSON LYNN
 GARY R. MACHAMER
 PETER LEO MACLELLAN III
 ANTHONY J. MAFNAS
 ALEX R. MAGNUSON
 BOBBY E. MALESRA
 NICHOLAS J. MANGUS
 MICHAEL T. MANN
 RYAN W. MARTELLY
 TREVOR I. MARTIN
 WILLARD F. MARTIN III
 FRANK A. MARTINEZ
 ANTHONY D. MASCARO
 MICHAEL JOSEPH MASIELLO
 NATHAN G. MAXTON
 ERIC S. MAY
 JACQUES M. MAYER
 DUSTIN D. MAYES
 TIMOTHY C. MCCAMMON
 KOURTNEY DOMINIQUE MCCARY
 ZACHARY T. MCCLELLAND
 STEVEN H. MCCORD
 ANDREW J. MCCOY
 WILLIAM E. MCCUDDY
 CHASE L. MCDONALD
 MICHAEL J. MCDONALD
 BRYCE R. MCGARVIE
 JOHN P. MCGOWAN
 DANIEL J. MCKINLEY
 WILLIAM PARKS MCKINNELL
 RYAN D. MENDENHALL
 TREVOR S. MENDENHALL
 MICHAEL A. MENNA
 FRANK P. MERCURIO
 JENNIFER L. MESSINGER
 ANDREW E. MILLER
 WILLIAM C. MILLER
 MITCHELL DEAN MOEN II
 JEFF O. MONSALVE
 DARREN R. MONTES
 DANIEL M. MONTPLAISIR
 MATTHEW J. MOONEY
 THOMAS M. MORGAN
 MICHAEL A. MOROZ
 MICAH F. MORRIS
 MILES J. MORSE
 ANDREW C. MORTON
 JEFFREY M. MORSESIAN
 JONATHAN D. MUSE
 JOSEPH D. NAGENGAST
 ROHAN J. NALDRETTJAYS
 JAMES W. NAUGLE
 BENJAMIN D. NAUMANN
 RYAN S. NEELY
 BRETT TAYLOR NELSON
 ERIK C. NELSON
 RICHARD MICHAEL NEZAT
 CECILIA T. NGUYEN
 JORDAN CHASE NIXON
 JENNIFER N. NOLTA
 MORGAN T. NORMAN
 JUSTIN Y. NORTH
 ANDREW C. NOYAK
 PATRICK M. OHLHAUT
 SEAN M. OKEEFE
 ARMAN N. OLGUN
 JOHN H. OLIPHINT
 KYLE S. OLIVER
 EAMONN D. OSHEA
 MICHAEL M. PAK
 DREW L. PARKS
 KELSEY N. PAYTON
 ALLEN N. PARSON
 WILLIAM D. PERCOSKI
 JULIO E. PEREZ III
 ANDREW F. PERRONI
 SEAN T. PETERS
 NEIL M. PFAU
 PETER G. PFAU
 CHRISTOPHER T. PIASCNIK
 MICHAEL R. PIAZZA
 WILLIAM R. PIEPENBRING
 RYAN J. PINNER
 ROBERT K. POE
 ALLISON OHLINGER POLINS
 STEVEN A. POLLOCK
 DAVID M. POOL
 ERIC D. POOLE

JUSTIN T. POOLE
CHRISTOPHER E. POPE
RICHARD D. POPE
MARK M. POPPLER
MATTHEW J. POSTUPACK
JOSEPH R. PROHASKA
JONATHAN D. PRYOR
STEPHEN C. QUINN
ANDREW W. RADLOFF
TIMOTHY M. RAK
JOSE RAUL S. RATUNIL II
DANIEL A. RAY
CARY W. REEVES
WILLIAM J. REGAN, JR.
DANIEL P. REINHARDT
STEPHEN W. RENNERT
TIMOTHY C. RICHARD
CHRISTOPHER D. RICHARDSON
DANIEL J. RICHARDSON
JOHN WILLARD RICHMOND II
JACOB E. RIETH
CHRISTOPHER C. RIMSNIDER
NATHAN D. RINGS
JENNIFER DENISE ROBERTSON
ETHAN S. RODGERS
STEPHANIE A. ROOSE
GRAEME A. ROSS
EDWARD A. ROYBAL
JONATHAN R. RUIZ
SETH N. RUMBARGER
MATT A. SAVAGE
SPENCER W. SCHARDEIN
JOSHUA B. SCHIFFER
JOSEPH B. SCHMERBER
BENJAMIN M. SCHMIDT
JOHN S. SCHMITT
ERIC J. SCHORTSMANN
CHRISTOPHER S. SCHUETT
WESLEY MARTIN SCHULTZ
DOC R. SCHUMACHER
CARL A. SCOTT
CLINTON CHARLES SCOTT
COURTNEY L. SCOTT
LUKE A. SEAMAN
SCOTT R. SEIBERT
MARCH PHASOOK SEREGON
JOSEPH MICHAEL SEVERIN
JASON M. SEWELL
DAVID W. SHAFFER
IAN H. SHEPARD
JOSHUA L. SHORT
SIMEON KEITH SIGNOR
JOSEPH K. SIMMS
PATRICK LANCE SKAIFE
DAVID M. SKELLY
MICHAEL C. SKIDMORE
SARAH SKOGSBERG KARNOWSKI
JONATHAN R. SLATER
DANIEL S. SMITH
GARY A. SMITH
JOSHUA J. SMITH
JUSTIN J. SMITH
MARK KIRKLAND SMITH, JR.
KYLE ROY SMOLEK
CRAIG LEE SPENCER
MATTHEW J. STANK
STEPHEN R. STEEL
ROBERT A. STEIGERWALD
JUSTIN R. STEPHENSON
BRENT CHARLES STEVENS
CHRISTOPHER M. STEVENS
WARREN J. STINGUS
DEVIN J. STONE
BRANDON K. STOUT
DANIEL R. SULLIVAN
JARED M. SULLIVAN
MATTHEW L. SUTTON
JESSE P. SWANSON
BENJAMIN L. TALIAFERRO
WILLIAM B. TALLMAN
BRIAN R. TARBOX
JONATHAN C. TAYLOR
ZANE J. TAYLOR
STEPHEN J. TELANO
BRANDON W. TEMPLE
HARALAMBOS B. THEOLOGIS
NICHOLAS L. TIDWELL
KEYAN T'ON
BRYANT J. TOMLIN
DANIEL A. TORTUGA
BRETT A. TROUTMAN
LOYD A. TRUESDALE
TYLER W. TUCKER
SHAWN P. TUPTA
SKYLER JOHN TUTTLE
JEREMY A. VAN DRIESSCHE
IAN K. VANBERGEN
NICHOLAS T. VARNUM
MEGAN C. VAUGHT
REX A. VILLA
FRANK BANZET VON HEILAND
DANIEL J. WABINGA
TIMOTHY C. WALBERG
BRADFORD D. WALDIE
CHRISTOPHER D. WALSH
DARREN J. WARD
ISAIAH R. WARKNE
ANDREW W. WASHER
DREW FREDERIK WATERS
MICHAEL R. WATKINS
BRYAN J. WATSON
DANIEL L. WATSON
ANDREW F. WATTERS
CASEY G. WATTS
JOHN H. WEISS
SCOTT K. WELSHINGER
TRENTON J. WEST

LEE EDWARD WHEELER
SCOTT UDELL WHITAKER
JESSE D. WHITE
JOSHUA R. WHITEHEART
HARRISON H. WHITING
AARON R. WIDENER
KARL F. WIEGERT
BLAKE W. WIEGMANN
JACOB A. WILHELM
TRAVIS R. WILKES
ROBERT L. WILLET
BRANDON L. WILLIAMS
CODY G. WILLIAMS
JOSHUA DUANE WILLIAMS
RICHARD STUART WILLIAMS, JR.
SHARI E. WILSON
SARA A. WOPFORD
JUSTIN M. WOHLFORD
CHRISTOPHER B. WOLFORD
MITCHELL RYAN WOOD
DANIEL R. WORKMAN
NICOLAS A. WRIGHT
TERRY R. WU
JOHN J. WYLLIE III
BROCK L. YELTON
CODY M. YENTER
WILLIAM THOMAS YETMAN
RYAN H. YOUNG
ZACHARY L. ZIEGLER
MATTHEW A. ZIMMER

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

To be lieutenant colonel

CHASTINE R. ABUEG
THOMAS W. ADAMS
WILLIAM ADORNO
ASHLEY NICOLE ALEXANDER
JUSTIN A. ALLSTON
STACEY C. ANDERSON
CHARLES DOUGLAS ARDEN
DAVID J. ARLINGTON
ERIK W. ARMBRUST
SARAH D. BABCOCK
SAMUEL P. BACKES
JUSTIN R. BALL
TAYLOR S. BARRELA
ADAM JOSEPH BARTCZAK
JAMES L. BEACH, JR.
KAYLA M. BEACH
KEVIN JAMES BEATY
KENNETH W. BELL
CAITLIN S. BENNER
PAUL D. BENNETT
KIMBERLYANN PARAS BERGER
RICHARD C. BIELECKI
IAN M. BLACK
ELIZABETH A. BLAIR
KATELYNN J. BIASDEL
VICTORIA L. BOBO
CHRISTOPHER D. BOLLINGER
WILLIAM J. BOONE
MORGAN LAHELA BORDERS
MATTHEW L. BOTTORFF
CARA A. BOUSIE
JAMEY L. BOYD
LANCE JOSEPH BRAMBLE
JOSHUA M. BRUDER
JOSEPH G. BRUNDIDGE
CAROLYN R. BRYNILDSEN
JUNELIENE MONZON BUNGAY
ANDREW L. BURKE
ALBERT J. BURNETT
KEVIN D. BURRIS
HARRIS K. BUTLER
KIRA L. CARPENTER
JACLYN FLEMING CARTER
SARAH G. CASEY
FRANK KELLEY CASTILLO
BRIAN J. CHEEK
WHITNEY B. CLARKE
SUSAN K. COLLINS
MORGAN SAYES CONSOLO
BRETT J. COX
JOHN L. COX
MICHAEL JOSEPH S. CRUZ
BRYANT E. DAVIS
PHILLIP BRYANT DAVIS, JR.
GRETCHEN H. DE BLAHEY
JOHN T. DECONINCK
ALICIA T. DELIA
SCOTT Z. DOLAR
CHRISTOPHER D. DOYLE
JOSHUA WILLIAM DRYDEN
MICHAEL H. DUNN
LAURA A. EBERHART
KRISTOFFER ELFANTE
KYLE A. ELLINGSON
LEE EVERETT ELSSENHEIMER
SHERA A. ENGSTROM
DARIUS F. ESTAVILLO
CHAD J. EVERETT
ALEXANDRA J. FABROS DAVIS
BRYAN FAGAN
SEAN M. FARRELL
RICHARD FIGUEREDO
BRANDON D. FOLKS
COURTNEY NICOLE FRANZEN
RONALD FURNIEL
TERESA M. GARCIA
MICHAEL JOSEPH GAREE
HEATHER L. GARVER
JONATHAN C. GARVER
LAURA A. GODOY
STEVEN S. GRAVES

SCOTT G. GRIFFITH
SEAN A. GUERRERO
CHRISTOPHER G. HALVORSON
CHANDLER WILLIAM HARMS
SARA J. HARPER
JESSICA KATHLEEN HARRIS
RYAN D. HASKINS, SR.
MICHAEL DEWAYNE HAWKINS
RYAN A. HEADRICK
KOHL V. HENSLEER
VICTORIA L. HIGHT
KAITLYN M. HINES
EMMA M. HOLLOWAY
CASEY S. HONG
DANE T. JANSSON
OLUSEGUN OLAWUMI JEJEDE
GREGG M. JOHNSON
SARA STEVENS JOHNSON
DANIEL DEAN JOHNSTON
BRENTON G. JONES
CLIFFORD D. JONES
RANDY W. JONES
MICHAEL G. JOSEPHSON
WILLIAM PATRICK KATZ
KATHRYN L. KENAN
NATHANIEL DOUGLAS KENDALL
DEUL D. KIM
JOHN M. KINGERY
ADAM M. KLING
TANYA M. KOCH
CHRISTOPHER A. KOPP
PETER R. LACLEDE
CHRISTINE KISTLER LACOSTE
JOSHUA ANTHONY LAPSO
REBECCA M. LARSON
MICHAEL ANTHONY LEGER
DAVID ALAN LIAPIS
JASEN M. LITTLE
JAMES ROBERT LIVSEY
ASHLEY S. LOPEZ CLARK
CHRISTOPHER M. LOVAS
ADAM B. LOVE
CHRISTOPHER W. LOVE
CRYSTAL HUSARDI
ELMER J. LUSTINA
SIMON KENNETH MACE
JAMES P. MANNIX, JR.
ANDREW J. MARSHALLSAY
ANDREW C. MARTEL
CODY TRAVERS MASS
GREGORY P. MASTERS
JENNIFER D. MATE
MICHELLE H. MATERN
BENJAMIN R. MAYO
ROBERT LEE MAYO
KEENAN C. MCCALL
NICOLE MARIE MCCAMMON
BRANDON T. MCCULL
WALTER E. MCDANIELBROOKS
MARCELLUS P. MCKINLEY
ETIENNE MENARD, JR.
ROLLIN PAUL MENZ
JON C. MESSER
LAURA COLBEN MIGLIACCI
BRITANY A. MILLER
MYLES W. MORALES
DAVID CHRISTOPHE MORENO
ANGELA MORNESI
CARLOS A. MOSCOSO
STEVEN M. MUDRINICH
FRANKLIN J. NESSSELHUF
ALEXANDRA A. NICHOLS
WHITNEY E. OCONNELL
CHRISTOPHER W. OFFUTT
CAROLYN M. OJERIO LANNIGAN
ELVIS C. OYOLA, JR.
BRANDON P. PALMER
SARAJO PALUCH
NATHAN R. PARKER
EVGENIA J. PEDUZZI
JEFFREY P. PELKEY
JOHN R. PENDEGRASS
JORGE R. PEREZ
JASON SEOK HYUN PERRY
SARAH C. PETERSON
JONATHAN D. PICARD
COLLIN H. PITTS
CHRISTOPHER A. PRICE
TERRENCE N. RABY
ELIZABETH A. RAINWATER
EDUARDO RAMIREZ, JR.
MATTHEW L. RASK
DEREK S. RAY
RIC Y. REBULANAN
SHON A. RECKARD
WILLIAM F. REED
MELANIE M. REEVES
MARISA A. REGAN
IAN D. RICHARDSON
JASON PAUL RIMMELIN
SELENA S. RODTS
ZECHARIAH L. ROLOFF
ALEXANDER C. ROOSMA
CHARLOTTE C. RUSSELL
JEREMY C. SANTIANO
FRANK WILFORD SANTORO
ANDREA J. SCHAAP
MARSHA SCHEGLIV TWIN
LEISHA M. SCHIESS
JENNIFER L. SCHROEDER
LORI M. SEAMAN
DAVID S. SEOK
JACLYN A. SHAIYAH
ALEXANDER J. SHIN
DANIELLE M. SHIPMAN
DANIEL E. SHOCKLEY
BENJAMIN ROBERT SHOPTAUGH

LIZA M. SHORT
 MELISSA L. SIDWELL BOWRON
 RAYMOND M. SIENKIEWICZ
 DONALD ANTHONY SIMS
 ERIK D. SINGLETON
 BRIAN S. SMITH
 TODD A. SMITH
 EBONY CUNNINGHAM SNOWDEN
 TYRONZA M. SNOWDEN II
 KENNETH V. SPIRO III
 JAMES WILLIAM STERLING
 COLLIN T. STEVENSON
 COURTNEY A. SWANEY
 TYLER L. SWANSON
 BRITTANY M. SWIFT
 JESSICA L. TAIT
 IAN J. TALBOT
 RUBY A. TAMARIZ
 JAMES G. THOMAS
 DEVAN M. THOMPSON
 PHILIP THOMAS TICE
 MICHAEL CURTIS TODD
 LAURA E. TRAILLE
 CARA V. TREADWELL
 FRANK Z. TUREK
 JUSTIN JAMES VALENTINE
 JENNA N. WAITES
 DANIEL N. WALKER
 DENNIS WADE WALLACE
 RYAN B. WALTON
 NICOLE R. WHITE
 BENJAMIN M. WOOD
 MASON T. WORKMAN

IN THE ARMY

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

To be colonel

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

To be colonel

EDWIN RODRIGUEZ

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

To be colonel

ROBERT L. WOOTEN III

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

To be lieutenant colonel

JASON P. HAGGARD

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

To be major

MARK T. MOORE

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

To be major

JOHN A. TEMME

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 605:

To be colonel

JOHN M. AGUILAR, JR.
 WILLIAM C. BAKER
 JAMES D. BEALL
 ANDY BUISSERETH
 RYAN M. CASE
 DANIEL W. CLARK
 SCOTT J. DOLNY
 MOLLIE G. KEDNEY
 SAMUEL KIM
 THOMAS P. MALEJKO
 CALEB G. PHILLIPS
 MICHAEL J. PREDNY
 STEVEN M. RACHAMIM
 TIMOTHY J. SIKORA
 ERIC S. SLATER
 KYLE M. SPADE
 PETER B. WALTHER

To be lieutenant colonel

AARON F. ANDERSON
 PAUL D. BROWNHILL
 JESSE T. CARTER
 HUGO E. FLORES-DIAZ
 ROBERT I. FROST
 ANTHONY C. FUNKHOUSER
 MATTHEW E. HAUCK
 ROBERT B. HOWELL
 ANDREW H. JAMES
 EVERETT A. JOYNER II
 DARRYL W. KOTHMANN
 MICHAEL B. KROGH
 ANDREW LEEMAN
 DONALD K. LEW
 WILLIAM B. LILES
 CURTIS J. LOFTIN
 JACK C. MYERS
 ANTHONY D. PAXTON
 MARK W. POLLAK
 KENNETH M. PORTER
 JOSHUA D. RUD
 THOMAS M. SCHINDLER
 VICTOR SHEN
 DEREK E. TAYLOR
 IKE M. UKACHI
 DAVID G. WEART

To be major

AARON M. HUSTON
 JOSHUA T. JOHNSON
 KRISTOFER A. KALBFLEISCH
 KYLE M. KENNEDY
 KYTURAH L. LAURENT
 ERIC T. PELOSI

IN THE NAVY

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

To be lieutenant commander

RAMON L. DEJESUSMUNOZ

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

To be captain

BLAINE C. PITKIN

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

To be lieutenant commander

KALISTA M. MING

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

To be captain

KEVIN S. MCCORMICK

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

To be captain

JAMES J. CULLEN

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

To be lieutenant commander

STEVEN C. MCGHAN

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 716:

To be major

BRENDA L. BEEGLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 716:

To be colonel

CLIFFORD V. SULHAM
 ERIC J. ZARYBNISKY

To be major

FIDEL A. AVILES MINYETY
 NATHAN D. BECKLER
 ROBERT L. BOND, JR.
 THOMAS W. DICKINSON
 ELI A. GARDUNO
 KATHLEEN J. MERRIEX
 BENJAMIN J. FEARCE
 KYLE T. RYAN
 REITH D. WALLS III
 IAN M. WELLER
 STEPHANIE L. WEXLER

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate July 9, 2024:

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

PATRICIA L. LEE, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2027.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SHERIFF JAMES
HAYWOOD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Sheriff James Haywood. Sheriff Haywood has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve.

Sheriff Haywood is a native of Laurel, MS. He graduated from RH Watkins High School in 1973 and then attended the University of Southern Mississippi, graduating in 1977. In 1979, he graduated from the Mississippi Highway Patrol School and served as a Mississippi State Trooper from 1996 to 2003.

Following his tenure as a state trooper, he began his career as the Sheriff of Sunflower County, MS. His hard work and dedication have led to his reelection every four years since 2003.

Sheriff Haywood has been married to Deloris for 42 years, and they have four sons. He is currently a member of O'Neal AME Church, Indianola Men of Standards, the NAACP, and the Board of Sunflower Humphreys County Progress. Throughout his personal and professional life, he has shown unwavering dedication and commitment to his beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sheriff Haywood for his longevity and dedication to serving the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded for Roll Call No. 336, on Monday, July 8, 2024. Since my first day in office, I have been squarely focused on what I was sent here to do: Represent Floridians of the 2nd Congressional District of Florida. The Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act is long overdue and must be passed into law. This bill will support our coastal waters by designating the ancient cypress forest in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Alabama as the "Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary," and, prohibits the following activities within the sanctuary: cutting, removing, or any kind of subsurface salvage of the cypress trees; lowering certain devices (e.g. dredging) below the surface of the water; detonating explosives below the surface of the water; drilling or coring the seabed; and lowering, laying, positioning, or raising any type of seabed cable or cable-laying device.

I am wholeheartedly supportive of H.R. 897, the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act—as a Representative of a coastal district myself, protecting the forest (between 50,000 to 70,000 years old) is important to preserving the remains of this ancient riverbed. I appreciate the bipartisan effort to protect the forest under the 1972 Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act which would not only federally protect the forest, but also provide more resources for research and ways to sustainably increase eco-tourism opportunities. I also support that the bill provides specific exemptions to allow certain activities, including for: fishing, diving, mooring, or similar recreational or commercial activities; necessary operations of public vessels; construction or placement of artificial reef structures for the purpose of enhancing fishery resources, fishing opportunities, or recreational diving opportunities; and exploration, development, or production of oil or gas projects authorized before this bill's enactment.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 897 (Roll Call No. 336).

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDDIE
ELSWICK

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Eddie Elswick, who passed away on March 18th, at the age of 83.

Mr. Elswick was born on January 30, 1941, in Pike County, Kentucky. He was one of the first in his family to attend college, studying industrial arts at Berea College, before attending Ball State University, where he received his master's degree in education.

Mr. Elswick enjoyed a lengthy career with General Electric as a financial executive. He served as financial manager at several General Electric locations, and also negotiated government contracts. In 1980, his job brought his family to the Roanoke Valley.

He took his financial experience with him to public office. As a member of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors representing the Windsor Hills District, Mr. Elswick worked to review County contracts and examine local government expenses. He took pride in advocating for the County's rural areas like Catawba and Bent Mountain. He also championed securing funding for Glenvar Public Library.

Mr. Elswick's passions included bluegrass music, Corvettes, and the mountains. He served in the national guard, where he earned recognition as a sharpshooter. He was known to tinker with several cars and hunt for deer and bear.

Mr. Elswick is survived by his daughters, Jill Elswick and Wendy Huffine; son-in-law, David Huffine; and brother Fred Elswick.

I had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Elswick over the years. He cared deeply for Roanoke County.

HONORING THELMA'S KITCHEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a family restaurant in Yazoo City, MS, recognized for their culinary delights of one of the Deep South's most basic staples, Fried Chicken.

To say Thelma's Kitchen is a family restaurant is an understatement. Owner, Thelma Burks opened the doors of Thelma's Kitchen in 2017, after she ran a nearby chemical plant's kitchen and a small snack bar in town that sold burgers, veggies and fried chicken lunches for local farmers. She now works with her son, three daughters, sister and a family blend to make the restaurant one to remember.

It has been noted that Thelma Burks came up with her fried chicken recipe while experimenting in her kitchen. A sack of flour, salt, pepper, plus two other seasonings she will not disclose, has customers coming back for more.

In her words, "It's just old-fashioned fried chicken," in the actions of customers, it is a trip worth taking to dine. Ms. Burks will not leave you with a sweet tooth, because she is also known for her pecan pie.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Thelma's Kitchen, home of some of Mississippi's best fried chicken in the 2nd Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL KENNY
CUSHING

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Colonel Kenny Cushing's honorable service to this Nation.

Colonel Kenny Cushing retired from our United States Air Force on June 1, 2024, after graduating from the United States Air Force Academy in 1996 and serving over 20 years on active duty, the Reserves, and in the Air National Guard. During his career, Colonel Cushing achieved many accolades and impacted our Nation in many ways. Kenny was a distinguished graduate from many of his Air Force programs to include being the Top Graduate from his intelligence officer school class and a distinguished graduate from the USAF Weapons School, the Air Force's "Top Gun".

Colonel Cushing served in increasing assignments of responsibility, to include multiple

• 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.

deployments, throughout his career. He concluded his career as the senior military officer assigned to the new Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) at the Department of Homeland Security. Handpicked by the Department of Defense during the initial creation of CISA by President Trump, Colonel Cushing led critical interagency coordination of national cybersecurity plans. During COVID, he led collaboration efforts between agencies, ensuring smooth flow of information, and informed vaccine distribution decisions. Colonel Cushing was the Commander of the Cyber Coordination Element for the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security for historic President of the United States elections in 2020, laying the groundwork for successful elections protection. His talent and impact moved us years ahead in mission assurance, intelligence exchange, and cyber teaming.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Colonel Cushing's outstanding service. May God bless Kenny in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BIG OAK BOYS' RANCH

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 50th anniversary of Big Oak Boys' Ranch in Gadsden, Alabama.

John Croyle founded Big Oak Boys' Ranch after working at a summer camp and meeting a little boy from New Orleans, Louisiana. The child's mother was a prostitute, and he was the banker and timekeeper for his mother. John ministered to this child about Christianity, and the following summer, the child shared with John how Jesus had changed his life. John knew his calling was to help children.

The Big Oak Boys' Ranch is known as a Christian home for children needing a chance, and it has certainly fulfilled its mission since opening in 1974. The Ranch has met the needs of over 2,000 children—giving them a Christian home and a chance to fulfill God's plan for their lives.

The Ranch started off as a single farmhouse serving five boys to seven ministry teams advancing the mission nation-wide. The Ranch follows these four promises: We love you, we will never lie to you, we will stick with you until you are grown and there are boundaries. The children find love, support, security and discipline within the promises.

A celebration will be held on Sunday, July 28th at the Big Oak Boys' Ranch to mark the 50th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this milestone for the Big Oak Boys' Ranch and thanking John for his tireless dedication to these children.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF MR. ALVIN IVY

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the retirement of Mr. Alvin Ivy of Trebloc, Mississippi. Ivy graduated from Houston High School in 1991. He attended Mississippi State University in 1995, where he enrolled in "Introduction to Broadcast."

For over two decades, Alvin Ivy has been an integral part of WTVA, skillfully capturing the essence of local life through his camera lens. From documenting school events and community festivals, to bravely facing severe weather, his commitment to visual storytelling is unparalleled.

Mr. Ivy has received many awards, including three Emmys, two of which he won this year for weather-related coverage. The first Emmy Ivy won was for the weathercast category in 2022 for the coverage of a 2021 tornado in Tupelo. The latest honors came during the 2024 Southeast Emmy Awards in the weathercast category, for the EF-3 tornado that hit Wren, Amory and Smithville in March 2023, and another for Weather News, for an interview series titled "Out of the Darkness," featuring interviews with a Wren woman who survived the tornado, but lost her husband and youngest daughter.

Beyond his professional achievements, Alvin Ivy remains deeply connected to his roots in Houston and Chickasaw County, using his platform to spotlight local events and issues that might otherwise go unnoticed.

In recognition of his exceptional career and steadfast dedication to our community, let us celebrate Alvin Ivy's achievements and contributions to the state of Mississippi.

HONORING TAMLA HUGHES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Tamla Hughes.

On April 20th Tamla was chosen as a state finalist for the 2024 Teacher of the Year award.

Tamla Hughes teaches 10th through 12th grade English. She is the president of the Zeta Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Sorority and is a very active teacher and parent of the Natchez Adams School District.

With hard work and dedication, her philosophy is "As a teacher, I may not be able to change the world but if I can reach one child, perhaps that child can."

Natchez High has never had a Teacher of the Year from Natchez Adams School District advance to the next level.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tamla Hughes for her actions and achievements in the Natchez, MS community.

HONORING MR. RAY W. WRIGHT

HON. BLAKE D. MOORE

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to honor the exceptional life and service of my constituent, Mr. Ray W. Wright, as he celebrates his 100th birthday. Mr. Wright has not only witnessed a century of history but has actively shaped it through his dedicated service to our nation during World War II and his continued contributions to our community.

While America was embroiled in the middle of war on multiple continents, Mr. Wright took the opportunity to serve his country and joined the Army Air Corps in June of 1943. A month later, his basic training was cut short when he and his fellow soldiers embarked from New York Harbor in July of 1943, evading German U-boats as they crossed the Atlantic to arrive in Scotland.

After being assigned to Burtonwood Air Base Depot No. 3 near Warrington, England, Mr. Wright began operations repairing incoming B-17 and B-25 bomber aircraft.

Specializing in engine repair, Mr. Wright and the repair teams kept allied aircraft running even as the enemy forces fired CV-2 Rockets and ran Buzz Bomb Raids throughout the United Kingdom. Thanks to their efforts the war ended, and Mr. Wright was reassigned to the 325th Troop Carrier Squadron and rebased to Ansbach, Germany to maintain C-47 aircraft.

Following his service, Mr. Wright returned to civilian life but remained committed to his fellow veterans and his community. He became actively involved in the American Legion, where he dedicated his time and energy to advocating for veterans' rights and supporting initiatives to improve the lives of those who served.

Today, as we celebrate Ray W. Wright's 100th birthday, we reflect not only on his remarkable achievements but also on the profound impact he has had on our Nation and the world. His life is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring power of service to others. As we honor Mr. Wright, let us also reaffirm our commitment to upholding the values for which he and his fellow veterans protected for us all.

HONORING REV. JAMES D. TINDALL AND HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride and respect to honor Bishop James Dennis Tindall, Sr. for his decades of service and advocacy to the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri. On July 16th, Bishop Tindall will be honored for his dedication to the community at the 99th Convention of the Metropolitan Spiritual Churches of Christ, Incorporated. As we celebrate Bishop Tindall, let us be continuously inspired by his incredible devotion to his work and his fellow humans.

Bishop Tindall, son of Lottie and Wallace Tindell, was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri. A graduate of the local Manual High School, Bishop Tindall furthered his education and deepened his religious understanding at the University of Missouri Kansas City, Carver Baptist Bible College, Western Baptist Bible College, Columbia School of Broadcasting, and the KPRS School of Broadcasting. His knowledge and expertise have allowed him to become such an influential beacon of Kansas City's Christian community. The church has always been a part of Bishop Tindall's life, from being a member of the Highland Baptist Church to taking on important leadership roles in international church communities. At the young age of 16, Bishop Tindall joined the church he would later serve as their Presiding Prelate—the Metropolitan Spiritual Church of Christ, as a choir singer. As Bishop Tindall grew older, he served as Superintendent of the church's Sunday School and on the church's Trustee Board, sharing his gifts with the diverse members of the community.

The Metropolitan Spiritual Church of Christ, founded in Kansas City almost 100 years ago in 1925, is one of the landmarks of the Black Spiritual Movement. The church has long stood as a space to support and elevate members of marginalized groups. At the time, while other churches and the laws of this nation excluded countless people, the MSCC opened its doors to women and the LGBTQ+ community to make meaningful contributions to the development of the religious community. The church soon expanded past its Kansas City home and now boasts churches across the United States, Jamaica and even Ghana. Bishop Tindall's hard work and dedication to fulfilling the needs of his community was recognized in 1976, when he was officially ordained and appointed as Pastor for the Metropolitan Spiritual Church of Christ. After a mere two months, he was promoted to be the church's permanent pastor. Bishop Tindall's excellence and service catapulted him to higher leadership positions within the church. He was not only appointed to be Chairman of the Board of Directors of the MSCC but was also elevated to the position of Bishop. In 2009, he officially became the International Presiding Prelate of the Church, representing the Church's everlasting values on a global scale, and after 42 years of service to the Church, he became Pastor Emeritus. Throughout his numerous roles in the Church, Bishop Tindall has never wavered in his relentless service to God and God's creations.

The church is not the only place where Bishop Tindall exemplifies his passion for helping others. Bishop Tindall has served on the Jackson County Governing Board and as a County Legislator, advocating for the rights of community members through his involvement as Chair of the Justice & Law Committee and as a member of the Anti-Drug and Health & Environment Committees. In addition to over two decades of service in local government, Bishop Tindall is also the founder and President of the Urban Summit of Kansas City, a group dedicated to the advancement and advocacy of the city's urban community. Under Bishop Tindall's leadership, the Urban Summit has held weekly meetings with community members, fought for the urban core to play a role in city development, and uplifted countless people by providing them with a voice in their local government and beyond.

I cannot think of a more qualified recipient of this recognition than Bishop Tindall. As both his elected representative and fellow religious leader, I am incredibly honored to thank Bishop Tindall for his lifetime of devotion to God and his community. His work calls to mind Matthew 5:16—"Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." May Bishop Tindall's light continue to shine bright among the members of the Metropolitan Spiritual Church of Christ and the people of Kansas City, and may he continue to inspire and illuminate us all.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT JEFFREY NEAL SECRIST ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sergeant Jeffrey Neal Secrist's twenty-seven years of tireless work as a law enforcement officer and retirement from the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

Sergeant Secrist has proudly served our home state of California for nearly thirty years. After beginning his training with the CHP Academy on March 24, 1997, Officer Secrist graduated on September 17, 1997, and was proud to continue his family's tradition of service when he accepted his assignment to the Baldwin Park area. He was soon chosen as a Field Training Officer and was assigned to train new officers reporting to the office for their first duty assignment.

After serving in the High Desert for over twenty years, Officer Secrist was promoted to Sergeant and was reassigned to Santa Fe Springs. Despite working in an extremely challenging and busy area, he made time to coach and mentor young officers on topics like proper report writing, investigating crime, and making the most of a successful career with the CHP.

Sergeant Secrist's service to California would not have been possible without the support of his family. His wife of nearly forty years, Gretchen, his four children, Austin, Lyndy, Jessica, and Emeline, and seven grandchildren have been instrumental in supporting his work for California. Sergeant Secrist's family and decades of service in law enforcement represents the best of what our district stands for, and Heather and I thank them for their dedication to our community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his selfless service to California, in commending him for his steadfast dedication to our community, and in wishing him many years of joy and peace in his well-earned retirement with friends and family.

HONORING MR. D'S OLD COUNTRY STORE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a 140-year-old building in Lorman, MS, that is a restaurant that serves some of the best fried chicken in America.

The Old Country Store Restaurant, known as Mr. D's, who is the owner and operator, is a charming and rustic restaurant, nestled in the rolling hills of Hwy 61. Offering a unique heartwarming dining experience, the restaurant is known for its Southern cuisine, featuring classic comfort food like fried chicken, cornbread, collard greens, sweet potato pie, and a serenade at your table by Mr. D, himself, especially if dining with a woman. He just likes to cut up and have a good time.

Giving you the Old Country Store vibe, the ambiance is inviting, with the wooden floors, vintage décor, and cozy, welcoming atmosphere. Whether a local or a tourist passing through, the Old Country Store Restaurant is not only a place to fill your appetite, but also a place that gives you that rich history and traditions of the south. It's a must-visit for anyone seeking a true Southern culinary and cultural experience in the heart of Mississippi.

"It was my grandmother's recipe," he said. Davis, originally from Florida, bought the building after spotting it when dropping off his sons at nearby Alcorn State University. Starting off, Mr. Davis held social events for the college students there on Thursday Nights. He then decided to turn the store into a restaurant and opened in December 1999.

Restaurant tables are surrounded by the store-shelves and shelves of all kinds of antique items you can think of, as well as business cards pinned to the shelves from years of visitors. Visitors such as Oprah Winfrey, Matthew McConaughey, and many Mississippi governors have professed their love of the chicken following their visits.

Mr. D's Fried Chicken has been featured in numerous media outlets, including New York Times, The Food Network, Southern Living and more. He has also been featured in numerous local and regional media outlets, including newspapers and magazines.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. D's Old Country Store, home of the best friend chicken in America, located right here in Lorman, MS, in the 2nd Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING FIRE CAPTAIN DANIEL MAIRONIS

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Fire Captain Daniel Maironis for his twenty-two years of service with the Dearborn Fire Department in Michigan's 12th District Strong.

Fire Captain Maironis got his start in public service in 2002. After only one year of service,

he received the first of many Meritorious Company Commendations. In addition, he has been recognized numerous times for valor and lifesaving. Over the course of his public service career, Fire Captain Maironis has committed himself to continuous professional development, completing numerous certification programs in various rescue operations techniques and other technical programming.

Fire Captain Maironis has been an outstanding public servant to the communities served by the Dearborn Fire Department. Please join me in recognizing his twenty-two years of commitment to protecting our families' safety across Michigan's 12th District Strong as we wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
CHARLES BENJAMIN BAYSE

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles Benjamin "Ben" Bayse and his 43 years of dedication to serving this country. Ben served as a Navy pilot in the United States Pacific Fleet during World War II and in the Korean War.

For his time and service during World War II, Ben was awarded multiple medals including the World War II Medal and a Good Conduct Medal. In 1949, he was one of the first Navy Pilots to land a jet on a carrier. He did this in a Grumman F9F Panther Jet Fighter during the earliest stages of catapult take-off and landing operations. As a reservist, he served as a Consulting Engineer and Maintenance Officer. He retired from the Navy on his 60th birthday in 1987 at the rank of Captain.

In addition to his service in the Navy, Ben dedicated his life to improve the United States education system. Mr. Bayse earned a Ph.D. in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, to which he then served 37 years as an engineering professor in higher education. He wrote two books regarding his time in the military and education system and the values that should be upheld in these great American institutions.

Ben Bayse was the embodiment of American ideals and exemplified at an extraordinary level what it means to be an American. Ben was willing to make any sacrifice, including the ultimate sacrifice, required to defend the values of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for the opportunity to commemorate the life and service of a proud American, veteran, and family man, Charles Benjamin Bayse.

CELEBRATING MOUNTAIN LAKE
FIRE COMPANY AND LADIES
AUXILIARY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mountain Lake Fire Company and Ladies Auxiliary on their 75-year anniversary. A team of 25 volunteers

including firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), and first responders, the Mountain Lake Fire Company has generously supported the communities of both Liberty and White Townships during any and all kinds of emergencies. The Company was founded in 1949 with a single small fire truck, and over the past 75 years the Company has grown into a pillar of the community, from bringing townspeople together for their annual car show to educating children on fire safety. Reflecting on their dedicated service, it is no surprise that the Mountain Lake Fire Company and Ladies Auxiliary is still thriving after 75 years. As a former volunteer firefighter myself, I am honored to have such dedicated first responders and community members in the 7th Congressional District, and I look forward to seeing them continue to flourish in years to come.

HONORING LINDA KEYS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable individual, Ms. Linda Keys.

Linda Keys was born in July 1955 to the late Willie and Mary Phipps Keys. She grew up in a rural farming community where hard work and familial support were fundamental values. Being the youngest of seven children, Linda witnessed her parents' dedication firsthand. Her father worked tirelessly as a farmer to provide the necessities of life, while her mother juggled the roles of homemaker and wage earner, demonstrating an unparalleled work ethic.

Raised in Mississippi Linda's upbringing instilled in her a drive for academic excellence and a belief in the transformative power of education. She graduated from Quitman County High School (QCHS) in Marks, Mississippi, in 1973 and then pursued higher education at St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri, where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Education in 1978.

Although Linda initially aspired to become an educator, her path took an unexpected turn when she was offered a full-time position at Ford Motor Company after completing internships. Embracing the opportunity Linda embarked on a career that required her to balance the demands of work, education, and motherhood with unwavering determination.

After the passing of her husband in 2012, Linda transitioned into a retired lifestyle until her mother's declining health prompted her to move back to Mississippi in 2015. It was during this period that Linda's compassion for the less fortunate was reignited, as she witnessed children enduring the bitter cold without adequate clothing.

Motivated to make a difference, Linda founded Mississippi Coats4Kidz in January 2016, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing coats, blankets, and other essentials to children living in poverty across Mississippi. Through her steadfast leadership and the support of various stakeholders, including grants, sponsors, and donors, Linda's organization has distributed over 100,000 coats to date offering warmth and hope to countless children in need.

Linda's philanthropic efforts have garnered recognition and accolades, including certificates of recognition from the Mississippi State Senate awards from organizations such as Men United and WMC Action News 5, and the prestigious Governor's Initiative for Volunteers of Excellence award in 2022.

In addition to her charitable endeavors, Linda is an active member of various professional and nonprofit associations, including National Association of Professional Women and the Mississippi Alliance of Nonprofits. She is a devout believer in the power of faith and community and attends Pleasant Grove M.B. Church in Crenshaw, Mississippi, where she finds spiritual guidance under the leadership of Pastor Prez Jackson.

As Linda continues her mission to serve the vulnerable members of her community, her unwavering commitment to making a difference, one coat at a time, stands as a testament to the transformative impact of compassion and resilience.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Linda Keys for her service to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SORENSEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed one vote on July 8, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 336 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended: H.R. 897—Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act.

RECOGNIZING DR. STEPHEN
PAPPAS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and legacy of Dr. Stephen Pappas. A lifelong Washingtonian, Stephen was born in 1930 to the late Steve and Georgia Pappas and was a proud graduate of Western High followed by his ophthalmology residency at Episcopal Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital. In 1961, Dr. Pappas completed his clinical fellowship in the retina service at Harvard's teaching hospital, Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary, in Boston. He returned to Washington as the first formally fellowship-trained retina specialist in the region. A deeply patriotic American, Dr. Pappas was honored to serve as Chief of Ophthalmology at the Naval Dispensary in Washington, D.C. from 1961 to 1963, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. He later served as a civilian consultant at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda from 1968 to 1976. In 1963, he founded his solo ophthalmology practice, providing compassionate, state-of-the-art care. In 1978, he moved his growing practice, Retina Consultants, from the District to Bethesda. One of the founding members of the Washington Hospital Center Retina Clinic,

he supervised and trained generations of ophthalmology residents as a volunteer from 1963 to 1994. He was also assistant clinical professor in Ophthalmology at both GWU and Georgetown. He continued to value his professional relationships with mentors, peers, and mentees for his entire career and beyond. His distinguished career was marked by many local and national accolades. Despite these remarkable professional achievements, Dr. Pappas will most be remembered as a man of faith who was truly devoted to his beloved wife of 62 years, Virginia (Ginny) Nicoludis Pappas, as an incredible father to Dr. Stephen Pappas, Jr. (Michelle) and Adrienne Kalavritinos (Jack), and as a loving papou to his four grandchildren: John, Analiese, Mark, and Alexander. He was an active, early member of the St George Greek Orthodox Church in Bethesda, MD. Faith, family and friends were paramount in his life. His remarkable ability to connect through his warmth, sense of humor, and genuine caring will be remembered by all who knew him. May his memory be eternal.

CELEBRATING STELLA JIMENEZ

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the dedication and hard work of an outstanding employee, Stella Jimenez, as I bid her farewell as she moves on to the next step of her career.

Stella Jimenez brought a wealth of experience and an unwavering commitment to community service.

Stella's journey was characterized by her unwavering dedication to enact positive change.

In her capacity as District Director, Stella assumed a pivotal role in leading diverse initiatives aimed at enhancing the well-being of residents in Imperial and Riverside Counties.

Stella demonstrated a profound understanding of the community's needs and challenges. Her leadership, characterized by a unique combination of grace and effectiveness, garnered admiration and respect from colleagues and constituents alike.

Stella's dedication to community engagement was unparalleled. Whether it was championing the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument or ensuring full stakeholder engagement in Imperial County, she approached each initiative with unwavering determination and a genuine desire to make a difference.

Stella's influence extended to coordinating high-profile events, such as the Department of Homeland Security's visit to present the Outstanding Citizen by Choice Initiative Award by Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

Under her guidance, these events not only achieved success but also carried a deeply personal touch, reflecting Stella's commitment to meaningful engagement and connection.

Collaborating closely with the staff of White House Senior Advisor Mitch Landrieu, Stella facilitated impactful visits to various sites.

Through her efforts, she fostered community dialogue and left a lasting impact, further so-

liding her reputation as a dedicated and effective advocate for change.

Stella's colleagues referred to her as someone who was always reachable, willing to advocate for them, and someone who went above and beyond to go across the aisle and work with local and state partners to help a constituent in need.

She empowered others to navigate challenges with newfound assurance and strength.

The impact of Stella's mentorship on many is immeasurable. Her guidance not only shaped others' professional trajectories but left an indelible mark on their personal development as well.

I am profoundly grateful for the privilege of working with Stella Jimenez.

Through her tireless efforts and unwavering passion, Stella Jimenez stood as a beacon of inspiration, leaving an enduring and profound impact on the communities she served. Her legacy continues to inspire others to strive for positive change and to make a difference in the world around them.

I look forward to seeing what Stella Jimenez does next and know that she will continue to inspire those around her.

HONORING KARMEN ASHLEE BERNARD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and commend the remarkable achievements of Karmen Ashlee Bernard, a trailblazing student from Yazoo City High School.

Karmen has made history by becoming the first student from Yazoo City High School to fulfill all requirements for an Associate of Arts Degree from Holmes Community College before graduating high school. This monumental accomplishment is a testament to her exceptional scholarly abilities, relentless dedication, and unwavering perseverance.

Throughout her time at Yazoo City High School, Karmen has distinguished herself as a scholar of extraordinary caliber. Her participation in dual enrollment courses at Holmes Community College has not only showcased her commitment to academic excellence but has also set a remarkable example for future generations of students. Karmen's dedication is further evidenced by her consistent placement on both the President's and Dean's Lists at Holmes Community College, highlighting her tireless work ethic and intellectual prowess.

In addition to her academic achievements, Karmen has been inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, an esteemed organization that recognizes high-achieving college students. This honor reflects her outstanding academic performance and commitment to the values of scholarship, leadership, and service.

Karmen has expressed deep gratitude for the opportunities provided by Holmes Community College, stating, "I am incredibly honored and humbled to have had the opportunity to pursue my academic interests at Holmes

Community College. Completing my associate's degree before graduating from high school has been a truly transformative experience, and I am grateful to God and for the support of my teachers, mentors, and family throughout this journey."

As Karmen prepares to begin her undergraduate studies at Prairie View A&M University in the fall, she will major in Chemistry with a concentration in Biomedical Sciences. Thanks to her dual-enrollment credits, Karmen will enter as a Junior, fast-tracking her path towards achieving her goal of becoming an orthodontist.

Karmen Ashlee Bernard serves as an inspiration to her peers and the entire community, embodying the values of scholarship, leadership, and perseverance. Her historic achievement at Yazoo City High School paves the way for future students to aspire to and achieve their highest academic goals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Karmen Ashlee Bernard's exceptional accomplishments and wish her continued success as she embarks on her next chapter at Prairie View A&M University. Her story is a testament to the power of ambition and the importance of supporting our students in their educational endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM OF TIMBERLINE LODGE EMPLOYEES AND FIRST RESPONDERS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the extraordinary heroism displayed by Timberline Lodge employees and first responders from Hoodland Fire, Clackamas Fire, Estacada Fire, Portland Fire, Gresham Fire and the United States Forest Service.

In the middle of the night on April 18, 2024, a fire was detected in the attic of the historic Timberline Lodge on Oregon's iconic Mount Hood. Lodge staff jumped into action with fire extinguishers and safely evacuated guests who were staying at the Lodge, many of whom were roused from their sleep to be escorted out. Fire crews from around the mountain arrived in record time to battle the blaze and protect Timberline Lodge, a national historic treasure.

Constructed in 1937, Timberline Lodge stands on the south slope of Mount Hood at an elevation of 6,000 feet. Iconic and awe-inspiring in its architecture and design, it is a tribute to the rugged spirit of the Pacific Northwest. The Lodge was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1977 and is one of Oregon's most popular tourist attractions, drawing nearly two million visitors every year.

The quick thinking, bravery, and exemplary effort by both staff and first responders ensured that fire damage was limited to the attic and that all the guests made it out safely with no injuries reported. To think, we could've lost this national treasure if it wasn't for the courageous actions of a few brave souls. I am forever grateful for their response.

RECOGNIZING AUDRA COHEN-PLATA FOR OVER A DECADE OF SERVICE TO THE 2ND DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation:

Whereas; Audra Cohen-Plata has resided and is an active community member, dedicated public servant, and resident of Dane County, Wisconsin, and

Whereas; Audra fulfilled her duties as an intern in my legislative office as an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison during my tenure as an Assemblyman in the Wisconsin State Legislature, and

Whereas; Audra assisted as a trusted ally as I attempted my inaugural run to represent the 2nd Congressional District in Congress, and

Whereas; Audra dutifully served as a valued member of my Congressional staff for more than eleven years, and

Whereas; Audra undertook many responsibilities in my district office including, but not limited to, direct constituent assistance and success related to Veterans Affairs and Education, and

Whereas; Audra professionally and loyally performed her duties as Constituent Services Manager, and

Whereas; Audra serves as an inspiration and leader to her fellow colleagues and many residents of the State of Wisconsin.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Mark Pocan, U.S. Congressman for Wisconsin's Second District, do hereby express my appreciation to Audra Cohen-Plata for her many years of loyal service to myself, the 2nd District of Wisconsin, and our country.

HONORING JOHN L. BARNES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a trailblazer in the realm of education and civil rights, John L. Barnes.

A native of Charleston, MS, John grew up about 10 miles north of Charleston and attended Sherman Creek Elementary School. He was also the valedictorian of his 1964 graduating class at Allen-Carver High School.

He courageously shattered racial barriers while pursuing his education at Mississippi State University (MSU). During his time at MSU, John encountered significant challenges due to racial prejudice and discrimination. As one of the first African American students at the university, he faced hostility, exclusion, and limited opportunities. Despite these obstacles, John persevered, contributing to the gradual transformation of MSU's campus climate. His courage and resilience paved the way for future generations of students seeking equal access to education.

His enrollment at MSU in 1965 marked a significant milestone, as he became the first

African American student to graduate from the university, June 2, 1968. He received a Bachelor of Arts from the MSU College of Arts and Sciences. His brother, Aaron was the third African American to graduate from MSU. After graduating from MSU, he briefly taught at Allen-Carver School before embarking on his corporate career in New York City. His achievements as the first African American graduate from MSU and his subsequent professional path demonstrate resilience and determination.

While specific achievements beyond this groundbreaking moment may not be widely documented, John's legacy remains an inspiration for those who continue to fight for educational equity and social justice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing John L. Barnes for his dedication to advocacy in education, civil rights, his courage and perseverance.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COACH DOUG BLEVINS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Coach Doug Blevins, who passed away on March 9th, at the age of 60.

Coach Blevins was born with cerebral palsy. While his condition confined him to a wheelchair for his life, he was not deterred in pursuing a career in the sport of football.

As a student at Abingdon High School, Mr. Blevins served as a student assistant coach, specializing in the kicking game. He would continue his education at Virginia Highlands Community College, University of Tennessee, and Emory & Henry University seeking more student coaching opportunities. Coach Blevins would stay close to home, starting his own consulting firm and assisting prospective kicking talents at summer camps, clinics and more.

In 1994, Coach Blevins was hired to be a consultant for the New York Jets. He would go on to coach for several years in the National Football League, working for the Miami Dolphins and NFL Hall of Fame Coach Jimmy Johnson, New England Patriots and Minnesota Vikings. From 1995 to 2000, he served as kicking coordinator for the NFL Europe League. He earned the remarkable achievement of becoming the NFL's first-ever disabled coach.

Mr. Blevins' success as a coach caught the attention of many talented kickers dreaming of playing in the NFL. Modern-day kicking legends, Adam Vinatieri and Justin Tucker, are just two of 26 current and former NFL kickers and punters who were trained and mentored by Coach Blevins.

Coach Blevins' years of hard work and tutoring prompted a significant recognition from the NFL community: his nomination to the NFL Pro Football Hall of Fame. Perhaps, someday he will be inducted.

Most recently, he served as the kicking specialist at East Tennessee State University (ETSU), his alma mater, and as a volunteer assistant on the football staff at Science Hill High School.

Coach Blevins' inspirational journey from Southwest Virginia to the NFL, and his con-

tributions to the sport of football, will not be forgotten—along with his kindness and compassion for others. Despite his lifelong disability, Coach Blevins followed his dreams of coaching football and helped scores of young football players develop and succeed in the sport. May his legacy live on.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded for Roll Call No. 337, on Monday, July 8, 2024. Since my first day in office, I have been squarely focused on what I was sent here to do: Represent Floridians of the 2nd Congressional District of Florida. The Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act must be passed into law. The Long Island Sound is a unique ecological resource for eastern Connecticut, Long Island and the surrounding regions. More than 20 million people live within 50 miles of the Sound's beaches.

I am supportive of H.R. 5441, the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act—as a Representative of a coastal district myself, protecting this vast area on the East Coast will improve decades of high levels of pollution, dumping of dredged materials, and releases of untreated sewage that have put the Sound's wildlife population, fisheries, water quality, and surrounding communities at risk. The economic viability of the Sound, which annually contributes around \$9.4 billion to the regional economy, is dependent on activities like sport and commercial fishing, boating, recreation and tourism.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 5441 (Roll Call No. 337).

HONORING FREDRICK TIDWELL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Fredrick Tidwell.

Fredrick "Fred" Tidwell hails from Grenada, Mississippi, where he was born to Tinal Lott Rias and Fredrick Tidwell, Sr. Fred graduated from Grenada High School in 2018, where he distinguished himself as the Vice President of the Class of 2018.

Deeply rooted in his community, Fred is an active member of Mt. Olive Pentecostal Holiness Church, where he serves as one of the youth leaders, demonstrating his commitment to both faith and leadership.

Continuing his education journey, Fred attended Northwest Community College, earning an associate of arts degree in 2020. He then pursued his passion for social work at the University of Mississippi, graduating with a Bachelor of Applied Science. Currently, Fred achieved another milestone by receiving his master's degree in higher education administration.

Driven by his aspirations, Fred envisions a future where he plays a significant role in higher education, aspiring to become Vice President of a Historically Black College or University. With his dedication, leadership skills, and academic achievements, Fred is headed to make a lasting impact in his community and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Frederick Tidwell for his dedication and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be an example for all.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4251–S4313

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4640–4649, S. Res. 753–757, and S. Con. Res. 37. **Pages S4266–67**

Measures Passed:

Never Again Education Reauthorization Act: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of S. 3448, to reauthorize the Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to support Holocaust education programs, and the bill was then passed. **Page S4308**

National Cybersecurity Education Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 755, designating June 2024 as National Cybersecurity Education Month. **Page S4308**

Juneteenth Independence Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 756, designating June 19, 2024, as “Juneteenth Independence Day” in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery reached the slaves in the Southwestern States. **Page S4308**

Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 757, designating the week of May 5, 2024, through May 11, 2024, as “Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week”. **Page S4308**

Meriweather Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Robin Michelle Meriweather, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims. **Pages S4260–63**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 53 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 206), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S4259–60**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that if cloture is invoked on the nomination,

the vote on confirmation of the nomination be at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader. **Page S4259**

Willoughby, Jr. Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration 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 S4264**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 54 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. EX. 207), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S4264**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, July 10, 2024; that all time be considered expired at 11:30 a.m., and that if cloture is invoked on 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, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; that upon disposition of the nomination of Anne Marie Wagner, notwithstanding Rule XXII, Senate resume 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; and that the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 4554 occur at 4:15 p.m. **Page S4308**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 54 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 205), Patricia L. Lee, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2027. **Pages S4251–59, S4313**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 55 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 204), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S4259**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Navy, and Space Force. **Pages S4309–13**

Messages from the House: **Page S4266**

Measures Referred: **Page S4266**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4267–69**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S4269–72**

Additional Statements: **Pages S4265–66**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S4272–S4308**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S4308**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—207) **Pages S4259–60, S4264**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:44 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 10, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4309.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

SEMIANNUAL MONETARY POLICY REPORT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to Congress, after receiving testimony from Jerome H. Powell, Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

CBO BUDGET AND ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Congressional Budget Office's updated 2024–2034 budget and economic outlook, after receiving testimony from Phillip L. Swagel, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE OVERSIGHT

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure concluded an oversight hearing to examine the General

Services Administration's Public Buildings Service, after receiving testimony from Elliot Doomes, Commissioner, Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration.

THE STATE OF CHILD CARE

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the state of child care, focusing on how Federal policy solutions can support families, close existing gaps, and strengthen economic growth, after receiving testimony from Ryan Page, Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, Des Moines; Fatima Goss Graves, National Women's Law Center, and Katharine B. Stevens, Center on Child and Family Policy, both of Washington, D.C.; and Megan Pratt, Oregon State University College of Health Hallie E. Ford Center for Healthy Children and Families, Corvallis.

EVERYDAY EXPENSES AND EVERYDAY AMERICANS

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Children and Families concluded a hearing to examine everyday expenses and everyday Americans, focusing on how high costs impact children and families, after receiving testimony from Dan Lee, Farina Pasta and Noodle, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Emily Gee, Center for American Progress, and David R. Malpass, former President of the World Bank, both of Washington, D.C.; and Erin Wiggle, Worcester Township, Pennsylvania.

CLOSING THE JUSTICE GAP

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine closing the justice gap, focusing on how to make the civil justice system accessible to all Americans, after receiving testimony from Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht, The Supreme Court of Texas, Austin; Ronald S. Flagg, Legal Services Corporation, Washington, D.C.; Veronica Gonzalez, Legal Aid Chicago, Chicago, Illinois; and Nikole Nelson, Frontline Justice, Anchorage, Alaska.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 21 public bills, H.R. 8954–8974; and 8 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 118; and H. Res. 1341–1347, were introduced.

Pages H4527–28

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H4529–30

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 1341, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8281) 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; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (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”; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8772) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7700) to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for dishwashers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7637) to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–578).

Page H4527

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Fong to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H4481

Recess: The House recessed at 10:36 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m.

Page H4485

Recess: The House recessed at 1:14 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Page H4495

Recess: The House recessed at 3:44 p.m. and reconvened at 4:20 p.m.

Page H4509

Refrigerator Freedom Act: The House passed H.R. 7637, to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, by a ye-and-nay vote of 212 yeas to 192 nays, Roll No. 341.

Pages H4503–10

Rejected the Strickland motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce by a ye-and-nay vote of 186 yeas to 188 nays, Roll No. 340.

Page H4509

H. Res. 1341, providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 8281), (H.R. 8772), (H.R. 7700), (H.R. 7637), and the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 165) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 205 yeas to 201 noes, Roll No. 339, after the previous question was ordered by a ye-and-nay vote of 194 yeas to 186 nays, Roll No. 338.

Pages H4495–97

Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act: The House passed H.R. 7700, to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for dishwashers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, by a ye-and-nay vote of 214 yeas to 192 nays, Roll No. 343.

Pages H4497–H4503, H4510–11

Rejected the Casten motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce by a ye-and-nay vote of 199 yeas to 207 nays, Roll No. 342.

Pages H4510–11

H. Res. 1341, providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 8281), (H.R. 8772), (H.R. 7700), (H.R. 7637), and the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 165) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 205 yeas to 201 noes, Roll No. 339, after the previous question was ordered by a ye-and-nay vote of 194 yeas to 186 nays, Roll No. 338.

Pages H4495–97

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 1342, electing a Member to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives.

Page H4512

Discharge Petition: Representative Titus presented to the clerk a motion to discharge the Committee on Rules from the consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1302) a resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 396) to regulate bump stocks in the same manner as machineguns (Discharge Petition No. 14).

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five ye-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4495–96, H4496–97, H4509, H4510, H4510–11 and H4511.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Appropriations: Full Committee held a 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. The Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2025; Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2025; and Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2025 were ordered reported, as amended.

CONFRONTING UNION ANTISEMITISM: PROTECTING WORKERS FROM BIG LABOR ABUSES

Committee on Education and Workforce: Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions held a hearing entitled “Confronting Union Antisemitism: Protecting Workers from Big Labor Abuses”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AGENCY BUDGET

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “The Fiscal Year 2025 Federal Communications Commission Agency Budget”. Testimony was heard from the following Federal Communications Commission officials: Jessica Rosenworcel, Chairwoman; Brendan Carr, Commissioner; Geoffrey Starks, Commissioner; Nathan Simington, Commissioner; and Anna M. Gomez, Commissioner.

THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION BUDGET

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce held a hearing entitled “The Fiscal Year 2025 Federal Trade Commission Budget”. Testimony was heard from the following Federal Trade Commission officials: Lina M. Khan, Chair; Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, Commissioner; Alvaro Bedoya, Commissioner; Melissa Holyoak, Commissioner; and Andrew N. Ferguson, Commissioner.

THE ANNUAL TESTIMONY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY ON THE STATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Annual Testimony of the Secretary of the Treasury on the State of the Inter-

national Financial System”. Testimony was heard from Janet Yellen, Secretary, Department of the Treasury.

MANAGEMENT SUCCESSES AND FAILURES: ASSESSING THE U.S. AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Accountability held a hearing entitled “Management Successes and Failures: Assessing the U.S. Agency for Global Media”. Testimony was heard from Amanda Bennett, Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Agency for Global Media; and public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE 2024 ANNUAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT: PROGRESS OVER POLITICS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled “Examining the 2024 Annual Trafficking in Persons Report: Progress over Politics”. Testimony was heard from Cindy Dyer, Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Department of State; and a public witness.

PROTECTING THE HOMELAND— EXAMINING TSA’S RELATIONSHIPS WITH U.S. ADVERSARIES

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security held a hearing entitled “Protecting the Homeland—Examining TSA’s Relationships with U.S. Adversaries”. Testimony was heard from Melanie Harvey, Executive Assistant Administrator for Security Operations, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security; and Stacey Fitzmaurice, Executive Assistant Administrator for Operations Support, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security.

SMART INVESTMENTS: TECHNOLOGY’S ROLE IN A MULTI-LAYERED BORDER SECURITY STRATEGY

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement; and the Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability held a joint hearing entitled “Smart Investments: Technology’s Role in a Multi-Layered Border Security Strategy”. Testimony was heard from Thaddeus Cleveland, Sheriff, Terrell County, Texas; and public witnesses.

HEARING ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Committee on the Judiciary: Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government held a hearing entitled “Hearing on the Weaponization of the Federal Government”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a 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”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Miller-Meeks, D’Esposito, Waltz, and Norton; Chris French, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Mike Caldwell, Associate Director, Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands, U.S. National Park Service, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a 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. Testimony was heard from Chairman Westerman, and Representatives Maloy, Harder, and Wittman; Stephen Guertin, Deputy Director for Program Management and Policy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; Brian Steed, Great Salt Lake Commissioner, Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner, Salt Lake City, Utah; and public witnesses.

AN EXAMINATION OF THE CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD’S (CARB) IN USE LOCOMOTIVE REGULATION

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials held a hearing entitled “An Examination of the California Air Resources Board’s (CARB) In Use Locomotive Regulation”. Testimony was heard from Heather Arias, Chief, Transportation and Toxics Division, California Air Resources Board; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a 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”. H.R. 8913, H.R. 8914, and H.R. 8915 were ordered reported, as amended. H.J. Res. 148 was ordered reported, without amendment.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold an oversight hearing to examine digital commodities, 10 a.m., SR-328A.

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 Energy and Natural Resources: 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: 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: 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: to received a closed briefing on the Columbia River Treaty, 2:15 p.m., SVC-217.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Permitting Council, focusing on improving transparency and coordination, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold hearings to examine S. 2783, to amend the Micosukee Reserved Area Act to authorize the expansion of the Micosukee 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: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mary Kathleen Costello, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Laura Margarete Provinzino, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota, and Noel Wise, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold hearings to examine personnel vetting, security clearance reform, and Trusted Workforce 2.0, 2:30 p.m., SH-216.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Examining the Consequences of EPA's Actions on American Agriculture", 2 p.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, 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 Suballocation of the Budget Allocations for FY 2025, 9 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, 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, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Federal Reserve's Semi-Annual Monetary Policy Report", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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 Geor-

gia; 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, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Oversight of the Library of Congress", 10:15 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Collusion in the Global Alliance for Responsible Media", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Oversight of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency", 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, markup on legislation on the NASA Reauthorization Act of 2024, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Main Street Realities: Examining the Current Economic Landscape in America", 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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, 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: to hold hearings to examine war crimes and complicity from Syria to Ukraine, 2 p.m., 2247, Rayburn Building.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

SECOND SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

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

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3 through June 30, 2024

	<i>Senate</i>	<i>House</i>	<i>Total</i>
Days in session	95	89	..
Time in session	495 hrs., 21'	363 hrs., 3'	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	4,209	4,447	..
Extensions of Remarks .....	..	686	..
Public bills enacted into law	11	20	31
Private bills enacted into law .....	..	..	..
Bills in conference .....	..	..	..
Bills through conference .....	..	..	..
Measures passed, total	214	317	531
Senate bills	48	13	..
House bills	22	233	..
Senate joint resolutions	3	1	..
House joint resolutions	2	2	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	8	6	..
House concurrent resolutions	7	10	..
Simple resolutions	124	52	..
Measures reported, total	*102	228	330
Senate bills	88	..	..
House bills	10	201	..
Senate joint resolutions .....	..	..	..
House joint resolutions .....	..	4	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	1	..	..
House concurrent resolutions .....	..	2	..
Simple resolutions	3	21	..
Special reports	4	5	..
Conference reports .....	..	..	..
Measures pending on calendar	317	91	..
Measures introduced, total	1,363	2,496	3,859
Bills	1,071	2,001	..
Joint resolutions	47	65	..
Concurrent resolutions	12	36	..
Simple resolutions	233	394	..
Quorum calls	5	1	..
Yea-and-nay votes	202	195	..
Recorded votes .....	..	139	..
Bills vetoed	1	2	..
Vetoes overridden .....	..	..	..

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3 through June 30, 2024

Civilian nominees, totaling 306 (including 78 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	108
Unconfirmed	195
Withdrawn	3
Other Civilian nominees, totaling 1,210 (including 745 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	781
Unconfirmed	349
Withdrawn	80
Air Force nominees, totaling 3,146 (including 111 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	2,993
Unconfirmed	153
Army nominees, totaling 5,422 (including 1,906 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	4,544
Unconfirmed	878
Navy nominees, totaling 1,999 (including 7 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1,022
Unconfirmed	977
Marine Corps nominees, totaling 154 (including 6 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	152
Unconfirmed	2
Space Force nominees, totaling 16 (including 2 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	12
Unconfirmed	4
<i>Summary</i>	
Total nominees carried over from the First Session	2,855
Total nominees received this Session	9,398
Total confirmed	9,612
Total unconfirmed	2,558
Total withdrawn	83
Total returned to the White House	0

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 37 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 233 reports have been filed in the House.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, July 10

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, July 10

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration 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, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 11:30 a.m. Following disposition of the nomination, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on 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.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination of Anne Marie Wagner, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination, Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 4554, Reproductive Freedom for Women Act, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at 4:15 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: 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 “Non-discrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance”. Consideration of H.R. 8281—Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Bilirakis, Gus M., Fla., E704
Blumenauer, Earl, Ore., E705
Cleaver, Emanuel, Mo., E702
Dunn, Neal P., Fla., E701, E706
Griffith, H. Morgan, Va., E701, E706

Kean, Thomas H., Jr., N.J., E704
Kelly, Trent, Miss., E702
Luetkemeyer, Blaine, Mo., E704
Moore, Blake D., Utah, E702
Oberholte, Jay, Calif., E703
Pocan, Mark, Wisc., E706
Rogers, Mike, Ala., E702

Ruiz, Raul, Calif., E705
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Thompson, Bennie G., Miss., E701, E701, E702, E703,
E704, E705, E706, E706
Tlaib, Rashida, Mich., E703
Wittman, Robert J., Va., E701



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