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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 19, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CELESTE MALOY 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.

RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month and to celebrate the countless contributions the Latino community has given to the United States.

Whether you are an immigrant like me, a Hispanic American like many others, or have been in this country for generations, the Latino community is deeply interwoven within the fabric of America.

Many came to the United States and went through a long process in search of the American Dream and embodied the hopes and possibilities our Nation has to offer. America is a unique Nation where anyone, no matter their background, can climb as far as they can dream and achieve extraordinary things.

My story is just one example. When I was young, my family and I immigrated to the United States in search of our American Dream. We set up roots in southern Arizona and embraced the opportunities this amazing Nation has to offer. My parents taught me the value of hard work and perseverance, values that drove me all the way here to the United States Congress.

As the first naturalized citizen from Mexico elected to represent Arizona in any Federal office, it is my honor and privilege to work to give back to the community where my family and I are living our American Dream.

As co-chair of the Hispanic-Serving Institutions Caucus, I was proud to co-lead a resolution designating the week of September 9, 2024, as National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week.

This week also marks another special occasion, Citizenship Day. Madam Speaker, 18 years ago this week, I received the honor of a lifetime, becoming a United States citizen. I will never forget the pride I felt that day when I raised my right hand and recited the oath of citizenship.

This reminds me of a story where my dad talked to me right before I launched this effort, and he said: Son, where else in the world could we have our story? We come to this country, immerse in the culture, learn English, go through the long process of becoming U.S. citizens.

My dad said: I drive a bus my whole life, and now my son has the opportunity to be a United States Congressman. Where else in the world could we have this story?

Friends, the answer is simple: Only in America could we have that story.

CONGRATULATING UTTERBACK MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my former middle school, Utterback Middle School in Tucson, Arizona.

Utterback Middle School recently made an incredible achievement. The Arizona State Board of Education graded them as a B school. Since 2018, this school has improved two whole letter grades, an outstanding achievement that reflects the unwavering dedication our teachers and educators have for our students.

During the August work period, I had the privilege of visiting Utterback Middle School and was extremely impressed with the school's program and staff, particularly the principal, Ms. Sanders.

Rising to a B ranking is largely due to the efforts of Principal Sanders, who worked with staff and community partners to turn the school around. She even recently received the Stellar Principal Award for her incredible work.

Utterback offers nine different electives and two intervention classes that include drama, dance, Lego technology, and computer literacy to keep students engaged in a variety of ways.

They also provide a class called AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination, a unique readiness program that gives the students the opportunity to prepare for life beyond the classroom.

Thanks to the outstanding work of Principal Sanders and her team, Utterback Middle School provides unique opportunities for students to engage in the classroom in a variety of ways. They should be an example for other schools around the country.

I thank Utterback Middle School for providing an incredible learning opportunity to the students in Tucson, and I thank Principal Sanders and her team for all their great work. Go Unicorns.

HONORING THE CONSTITUTION

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of our Nation's founding document and to recognize Constitution Week, a time to celebrate the wisdom and foresight of our Founding Fathers and recommit ourselves to the values that define America.

I also recognize the Tombstone Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for all of their work promoting Constitution Week across southern Arizona.

This week, 247 years ago, our Constitution was ratified, giving birth to a nation conceived in the ideals of freedom and democracy, governed by the consent of we the people, not the whims of an overseas monarch.

It established the United States as a nation of laws, where institutions are respected and all citizens are afforded a presumption of innocence and the right to a fair and speedy trial. It gave us separation of power between branches of government, preventing the concentration and abuse of power by any single entity.

Our Constitution is our cornerstone and our roadmap. As Americans, we have a responsibility to uphold these values and ideals to ensure it continues guiding us for generations to come.

On this Constitution Week, let us reflect on the principles of liberty and democracy enshrined in the Constitution and recommit ourselves to the ideals that make America truly exceptional.

God bless the United States of America.

BIPARTISAN PATH IS ONLY WAY FORWARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. NICKEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NICKEL. Madam Speaker, we are just 11 days away from a government shutdown, and let me be clear: A shutdown would be a disaster for the American people.

A shutdown would disrupt vital services, halt disaster relief, and put countless Federal employees out of work. We simply cannot afford to go down that path.

Speaker JOHNSON made the deliberate choice to tie the SAVE Act, which seeks to create burdensome barriers to voting, directly to the government spending bill. He is setting himself up to fail to push a voter suppression bill. This is just another attempt to make it harder for Americans to participate in democracy.

We already have processes in place to verify citizenship during registration. Only citizens can vote in U.S. Federal elections. Let me repeat that: Only citizens can vote in U.S. Federal elections.

Study after study shows that noncitizen voting is not affecting our elections. It is a Federal crime for noncitizens to vote in Federal elections, and noncitizens who violate the law and attempt to vote anyway face prison time and deportation.

Here is the plain truth: At Donald Trump's orders, extreme MAGA Republicans are holding government funding hostage unless they can impose some of the most radical pieces of Donald Trump's Project 2025 agenda.

Instead of wasting time with political games, Republicans must stop following the former President's orders and join Democrats in a bipartisan effort to pass a short-term funding extension free of poison pills so we can keep the government open and complete a bipartisan government funding process this year. We did it last year, and we can do it again.

Instead of focusing on the needs of the American people, extreme MAGA Republicans are more interested in playing puppet for Donald Trump.

Let's be clear: Donald Trump wants to shut down the Federal Government. Is this really the leadership the American people deserve or just a chaotic circus of partisan political games?

This is not how you govern. This is how you create chaos. Instead of collaborating for the good of the country, they are threatening a shutdown just to appease a former President. Are they representing their constituents or just following orders directly from Mar-a-Lago?

Let's not forget, a government shutdown doesn't impact politicians. It harms everyday Americans. For some Republicans, it is just another opportunity for partisan political theater.

The American people are tired of the Trump show. They want results. I came to Congress to get things done. We are on track to be the least productive Congress in our Nation's history because Trump Republicans continue to play partisan political games.

Let's put people over politics and come together to pass a clean continuing resolution that supports the needs of our constituents and keeps the government open for business. We owe it to the American people to prioritize their well-being and their best interests.

I will work with anyone and everyone to keep the government open, and a bipartisan path in a divided Congress is the only way forward. Let's stop wasting time and fund the government.

IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of agriculture education.

National Teach Ag Day is for anyone who wants to celebrate school-based agricultural education, share the story of agricultural education's importance and effectiveness in the United States, and encourage students to consider careers as agricultural educators.

This recognition of agriculture education is more important than ever. The average American farmer is around 57 years old, a statistic that underscores the urgent need for agriculture education.

Inspiring the next generation of agricultural leaders is critical for our food security, and this encouragement begins in the classroom. As chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, I had the privilege of meeting with agriculture educators and students in Pennsylvania and throughout the country. Programs like Future Farmers of America and the 4–H strongly advocate advancing agriculture education and exposing our youth to the agricultural industry.

In July, I met with the Pennsylvania FFA State officers here in our Nation's Capital. We discussed many career opportunities in the agricultural field and the vital needs of a robust agricultural industry.

We interact with agriculture at least three times a day, and students must have the opportunity to learn about the industry and its career opportunities.

Madam Speaker, each one of us can play a role in advocating for agriculture education. Now more than ever, we must recognize that food security is national security, and a nation that cannot feed itself is a nation in turmoil.

As I mentioned earlier, we are at a critical point in our agricultural history. With the average age of our farmers hovering around 57 years old, it is essential that we develop the next generation of farmers.

To support the next generation of farmers, I included provisions in the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024 that bolster new and beginning farmers by increasing access to credit and crop insurance; supporting research, extension, and education activities; and improving program delivery at USDA.

As a senior member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, the co-chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, co-chair of the 4–H Caucus, and a proud member of the FFA Caucus, I am passionate about advancing agricultural education in our schools.

Teach Ag Day highlights the importance of agriculture education in our schools and communities. It is not just about learning how to farm. It is about understanding the science, technology, and business behind agriculture.

I thank all of our agricultural educators across the country and the Commonwealth and in the 15th Congressional District. Their dedication and hard work are the foundation of our agricultural future, and the guidance that they provide prepares the next

generation of farmers, producers, and ranchers.

□ 1015

I always enjoy my meetings with FFA and 4–H students, and our conversations give me great hope in the direction of our agriculture community.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to, once again, thank all those involved in agricultural education and empowering our next generation of farmers.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF PRISCILLA DUNN

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

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of former Alabama State Senator Priscilla Dunn, who passed away on Tuesday, September 17, at the age of 80.

A lifelong educator and trailblazing public servant, Senator Dunn dedicated her life to the betterment of her community and the State of Alabama.

In 1961 she graduated from Abrams High School in Bessemer where she served as cheer captain and the first Miss Abrams High. After receiving her bachelor's degree from the Alabama State University and her master's degree from the University of Montevallo, Senator Dunn's passion for education drove her to the Alabama School System where she served as a public schoolteacher for more than three decades.

Motivated by the pursuit of justice, Senator Dunn spent 24 years in the Alabama legislature, first in the house and then in the senate. She held numerous leadership positions in organizations throughout Jefferson County, Alabama, including 16 years as president of Concerned Citizens for Bessemer Cut-Off, and coordinator of the Jefferson County Democratic Conference.

Senator Dunn was a true public servant. As a schoolteacher as well as a Sunday schoolteacher, she was definitely guided by her abiding faith, and she always practiced what she preached.

On a personal note, I am blessed to have known Senator Dunn and her wonderful family. As Alabama's first Black Congresswoman, I stand on the shoulders of amazing leaders like Senator Dunn who opened the doors for me and many others. She was a grande dame whose footsteps we as Black women elected officials in Alabama are blessed to follow.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life of former Alabama Senator Priscilla Dunn. May her legacy live on in the many lives that she impacted and touched.

COMMEMORATING THE 1–YEAR SINCE HAMAS' BARBARIC ATTACK ON ISRAEL

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

Mr. KUSTOFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 1-year anniversary of Hamas's vicious and horrific attack on Israel.

As we all know, in the early morning of October 7, Hamas invaded and brutally attacked Israel and her people, murdering over 1,200 innocent men, women, and children, including 35 Americans. These terrorists violently took hostages, including Americans.

In the weeks after the attacks, I watched a 47-minute video taken on October 7. I watched it along with other Members of Congress. All of us who saw the images and heard the words and the language of that day were horrified. The savagery, the barbarism, the violence, and the pure hatred against Israel and the Jewish people is indescribable on that video, but yet we all know what happened.

Indeed, the world changed forever on that day.

Now, here we are 1 year later, and Hamas still has innocent hostages captive and we continue to see a rise in anti-Semitism across the globe and in our own Nation.

I am honored to serve as chairman of something called the House-Knesset Parliamentary Friendship Group. I am also proud that this group is bipartisan. In July, I traveled to Israel to meet with Speaker of the Knesset Amir Ohana and also Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

When I was there, I reiterated that the United States House of Representatives continues to stand with Israel. I told Israeli leadership that our Nation will ensure that Israel will have the resources that it needs to defend itself.

I also had the opportunity to visit Kfar Aza, which is a kibbutz in southern Israel, as well as the site of the Tribe of Nova music festival with the Israel Defense Forces.

Madam Speaker, I have to tell you it was deeply moving to stand where Hamas invaded and murdered and butchered so many innocent Israelis. When I was there, I met and I talked with family members and heard the real-life stories of those who survived, those who are being held captive, and those who were brutally and viciously mutilated and murdered.

Madam Speaker, I have to tell you that I am truly impressed by the resilience of the Israeli people, by their hope, and by their strong morale against the barbarism that tries to stifle the will of Israel.

The United States stands unequivocally with our greatest ally in the Middle East, that being Israel. Israel fights an enemy who not only seeks the elimination of Israel, but more broadly, the elimination of Western values like freedom, liberty, and democracy. Prime Minister Netanyahu told us as much when he spoke right here giving a joint address to a joint session of Congress back in July.

It is so important that we come together and ensure that Israel has the resources and support that it needs so that they can combat this evil.

We also continue to condemn the blatant and brazen forms of anti-Semitism that have arisen here in the United States and certainly around the world. Such hatred can't be tolerated. It can't be tolerated in the Halls of Congress or anywhere else in this country or in the world. It is really a matter of good versus evil and life versus death.

Israel and the U.S. are committed to defeating Hamas and ensuring that all the hostages are returned home, but we can't stop there. We have got to work together to wipe terrorism off of the face of the Earth, and we have got to make sure that Israel can live in peace with her neighbors.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, this Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to honor a powerful community mother in our district. She is an advocate. She has been a social worker for over 40 years. Our community mother, Mary Turner, serves with so much incredible commitment to community.

Mary's Catholic faith drove her to service. In southwest Detroit where there are 20 different ethnicities, you will find someone who has a story about Mary helping their family.

She brings so much heart and humanity to everything that she does, helping families navigate our broken, inhumane immigration system that too often works against them.

Her commitment to justice, equality, and compassion reminds us of the essential contributions that our Latino neighbors make every day in our Nation.

Mary doesn't just serve our community, she empowers us.

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and the more than 63 million Hispanic and Latino Americans in our country, let's honor people like Mary Turner and continue to fight for a future where every person, regardless of their background, has access to the opportunities they deserve.

I thank Mary Turner for her many years of service. She continues to inspire us all.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, this month I join Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL and Wayne County Executive Warren Evans for a townhall to discuss the impending radioactive waste shipments that are coming to Michigan from New York.

This waste, and thousands of other truckloads our residents never hear about, comes to our communities right into our backyard because Michigan

has become the country's hazardous waste dumping ground.

Wayne County, the largest county in Michigan, is home to six of Michigan's eight hazardous waste dumps. Our laws must change, Madam Speaker. We must protect our residents.

I don't know if folks know, but it costs about $13 to dispose of a ton of waste in a landfill in Wisconsin, but it only costs 36 cents in Michigan.

We have made ourselves the most attractive place in our Nation to dump hazardous waste while surrounded by 84 percent of our country's surface freshwater. It doesn't make sense.

The truth is our environmental protection laws aren't strong enough to protect our people. They certainly do not go far enough, again, to protect working families and communities of color.

I introduced the Cumulative Impacts Act that would require the EPA and EGLE to consider cumulative impacts of pollution on our communities when it considers permanent facilities like this one and reject those permits when they would put our health at risk.

We need to pass this bill and more. Our residents are getting sick every single day while we do nothing.

PALESTINIAN BABIES

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, we are witnessing the Israel Government carry out a genocide in Gaza.

Recently, the Gaza ministry of health released a 649-page document with the name, age, and ID number of 34,344 Palestinians killed in Gaza who have been identified.

Most of them are women, children, and the elderly. These are just the identified individuals; many public health experts believe the death toll will climb. Every single day higher numbers will come out due to disease and starvation.

There are thousands more who are dismembered, unrecognizable, or buried beneath the rubble. However, behind these numbers are real people who have had their futures stolen. Their lives are forever changed.

The first 14 pages alone are the names of babies—I wish my colleagues would look at—who were under the age of 1 when they were killed. There are 14 pages of babies' names. That is 710 babies that the Israeli Government has murdered. This is not self-defense. This is genocide.

How can anyone justify this?

Madam Speaker, I include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the link for the list of the children: https://d12t4t5x3vyizu.cloudfront.net/tlaib.house.gov/uploads/2024/09/Palestinian-Ministry-of-Health-Casualty-List-31–Aug-24.pdf

We are living through one of, again, the most documented and horrific crimes against humanity in our history.

Again, these are children who did not live to see their first birthday. We cannot normalize this, Madam Speaker.

My colleagues continue to be silent. I wonder if it is because these babies are Palestinian. They are children. That is it. They are children. I can't believe I have to consistently remind my colleagues that Palestinians are also human beings.

Our tax dollars paid for this. U.S. weapons are being used to commit war crimes in violation of our own U.S. Leahy Laws and international laws, but many of my colleagues in the Biden-Harris administration continue to send bombs to kill children.

This is not working tirelessly for a cease-fire. If the Biden-Harris administration wants a cease-fire, then they should stop sending the bombs and the weapons. We must stop arming and funding genocide.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF BROCK

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Tennessee hero who has dedicated his life to serving and protecting the members of his community: Van Buren County Sheriff Michael Brock.

Sheriff Brock has shown outstanding loyalty to and performed exemplary service for his community. He should be recognized for his selfless actions, which go beyond his duties as sheriff.

The people of Van Buren County, Tennessee, know their sheriff to be hardworking, compassionate, and sincere. Sheriff Brock does everything he can to protect his community under any and all conditions. For example, when Sheriff Brock learned that two of his townspeople were in danger due to knee-deep snow and subzero temperatures plaguing the Tennessee area of Van Buren County last January, he immediately set out to protect and assist them in any way possible.

The first was a gentleman with a medical condition who had wandered towards the woods away from his mother's home on the night of January 15.

He was reported missing on the 16th, and Sheriff Brock immediately organized a search from the residence, tracking footsteps and working late into the night, only calling off the search when it became too dangerous for the search team to continue their efforts.

Sheriff Brock demonstrated kindness and empathy as he personally updated the family through every effort, working closely with the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency and the nearby State park officials.

Devastatingly, the missing gentleman who was rescued from falling off a 700-foot drop in the forest, later succumbed to his injuries. Even after the search, Sheriff Brock was the first to console the family, moving from protecting them physically to fortifying their hearts.

As the winter storm raged on, Sheriff Brock soon learned that a citizen on the outskirts of town needed critical medication. She had just undergone numerous back surgeries and spent over 1 month in the hospital.

However, icy roads near her home had stranded her nurse and prevented her from getting the needed medications. Sheriff Brock saw that she was taken care of, driving across multiple counties to retrieve the medication. The roads were so hazardous that the trip took four times the normal period to make that journey. Time was not a concern to Sheriff Brock, but her safety and health certainly were.

Sheriff Brock's actions and timely rescue meant she was safe from further medical complications and readmission to the hospital.

Madam Speaker, Sheriff Brock is a blessing and a credit to his department, community, and people. His actions and tireless protections of his community have left people with a sincere sense of security knowing that they have him and his department watching out for them.

He expects no praise, no credit, and no notice of his tireless selflessness.

However, today I rise to recognize him. His leadership and heroism serve as an example to us all.

□ 1030

IN RECOGNITION OF KEVIN WOLVERTON, SR.

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroics of Kevin Wolverton, Sr., who recently stepped up in harrowing circumstances to rescue a 3-year-old girl who had fallen into a quarry full of water.

Mr. Wolverton, a Nashville native who works at a nearby auto dealership in Lebanon, Tennessee, found the little girl floating on her side when he pulled her onto the rocks nearby and performed CPR.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt he saved this young girl's life. She was later able to thank him for doing so after a full recovery just a few days later.

A grandfather himself, Kevin Wolverton, Sr., stepped up to save the day. We couldn't be prouder of his life-saving actions.

Madam Speaker, I hope all Members will join me in recognizing and thanking Mr. Wolverton for his tremendous display of bravery.

RUSSIAN DISINFORMATION

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, it is not surprising, but I disagree with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle on a myriad of issues, but that is okay. At times, disagreement is important.

Only speaking with those who agree with us insulates us from ideas that may challenge our views, instead reaffirming our own biases and avoiding new ideas. A two-party system is important.

Hearing different perspectives and different stories is valuable, especially in a body tasked with making decisions for a diverse set of people. Despite our various policy or personal disagreements, we should agree on this: It is dangerous to repeat Kremlin talking points. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, we have only seen this disturbing trend grow.

An indictment filed this month alleges that Russian state media employees funneled $10 million to a Tennessee-based media company, Tenant, for Russian friendly content. Tenant's media influencers have a collective 7 million subscribers on YouTube and more than 7 million followers on X.

While we are no stranger to Russian misinformation campaigns, they are clearly adapting and evolving in their efforts. This month, intelligence officials said that Russia's activities are more sophisticated than in previous cycles. They are using authentic U.S. voices to launder Russian Government propaganda and spread socially divisive narratives through major social media.

Their goal is simple: to convince millions of people that Russia's war against Ukraine is justified and influence them to support politicians who agree. It is simple, and, in today's online obsessed world, it is dangerously effective.

Once this type of content takes off, it is impossible to reverse its course. Russia's ability to penetrate American minds goes beyond social media. Yes, we have seen it take hold in this very body. When some across the aisle vocally opposed aid to Ukraine, Russia celebrated. The host of a Kremlin-run show said: ''Well done, Republicans. That is good for us.''

Earlier this year, a prominent Republican in leadership acknowledged this trend saying: ''We see directly coming from Russia . . . communications that are anti-Ukraine and pro-Russia messages, some of which we even hear being uttered on the House floor.''

Another Republican admitted Russian propaganda has ''infected a good chunk'' of this party's base.

Despite our differences, the quoted Members and I clearly see how alarming this is. As public servants, it is our duty to obtain information from reliable sources and speak on behalf of our constituents, not the Russian Federation. When American leaders parrot Russian talking points, we give Putin the upper hand, we undermine our national security, and we fail the American people.

Now, as Russia's tactics evolve, we have to be more vigilant than ever. Despite what some might suggest, Vladimir Putin is a vicious tyrant, and American voices repeating his lies is an affront to our values as a nation and a threat to global democracy.

I encourage commonsense leaders, especially those across the aisle, to choose truth. We may not have control of the misinformation that appears online or the influencers who knowingly serve as Russia's ''useful idiots,'' but we do have control over our own words.

When Members are spouting blatant lies from the Kremlin, my colleagues have a responsibility to this country to place the truth above all else. Members have a responsibility to tell the American people why we support Ukraine and not Russia, and why democracy must win against autocracy. To those afraid of name-calling or condemnation, I say this: Criticism is a small price to pay for the preservation of truth. Years from now, my colleagues and our country will thank us for our courage to stand up for the truth in the face of tyranny.

DOD DEFENSE ROUNDTABLE

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

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my direct concern over the United States Department of Defense's lack of agility when it comes to warfare.

Recently, my office hosted our annual defense roundtable with defense companies both in and out of my district. The theme of this year's defense roundtable was how to increase the readiness, engagement, agility, and delivery of lethality to the Department of Defense.

It was quite telling that these companies reaffirmed the troubling RAND Defense report, which explained that the U.S. defense industrial base is not prepared to engage in all-out warfare. The modern-day axis of evil, China, Russia, and Iran, continue to work around the clock to advance their military capabilities and cause further chaos in the world, while the U.S. is woefully lagging behind.

China continues to take steps that threaten the democracy of Taiwan, Russia continues its offensive in Ukraine, and Iran has sent hundreds of missiles toward Israel through its use of proxies throughout the region.

Make no mistake: if America does not take monumental steps to reform, modernize, and expand our defense capabilities and in a rapid manner, then we will be in a difficult position of choosing which allies we can help around the world.

During our defense roundtable discussions, it was made clear that, as the U.S. military stands today, we are not ready. We must immediately take significant steps to become ready. World circumstances demand that we do.

A major point of discussion that was emphasized multiple times by the industry was the red tape and bureaucracy surrounding every government-funded project. Congress must get rid of unnecessary regulations and allow our American engineers, scientists, and great thinkers to innovate and streamline our defense programs. A key issue in the discussion was the fact that the foreign military sales process must obtain 18 different approvals, whereas in other countries, such as Japan, it takes only one.

While extra oversight can, at times, be beneficial, given the state of the world, America must be willing to take on more levels of risk to keep pace with our adversaries.

It is well past time for Congress to take steps to eliminate these unnecessary provisions, encourage defense contractors to take on more risk, understanding that there may be failures along the way, and ultimately put ourselves in a strong position to combat the axis of evil that we face now and those we will face in the future.

In the words of former President Dwight Eisenhower: ''A vital element in keeping the peace is our military establishment. Our arms must be mighty, ready for instant action, so that no potential aggressor may be tempted to risk his own destruction. . . . American makers of plowshares could, with time and as required, make swords as well. But now we can no longer risk emergency improvisation of national defense; we have been compelled to create a permanent armaments industry of vast proportions. . . .''

I would add: not only of vast proportions, but also agile and innovative.

Eisenhower's words still ring true today. It is imperative that Congress steps up to the plate to reduce these unnecessary regulations at the Federal level so our defense industry can be lethal, agile, and ready once more to accept the challenges of this increasingly dangerous world.

IN MEMORY OF JESSICA ALANA SANCHEZ

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

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jessica Alana Sanchez, who was born and raised in my community of El Paso, Texas. Jessica sadly passed away in July at the age of 38 after a courageous battle with cancer.

She leaves behind a 4-year-old daughter, her husband, a sister, parents, and extended family, many of whom are my constituents.

I met Jessica as a young woman when she and I were volunteering on a local campaign. From the first time I met her, it was clear that she was a brilliant individual who was guided by a strong sense of responsibility toward social justice.

When Jessica was enrolled in Mesita Elementary School, she participated in a rally to protest a plan to build a nuclear waste facility on the outskirts of our community in El Paso. She was a brave and outspoken girl and wanted to voice her classmates' worries about the negative effects on the environment if the facility were to come to fruition. After months of protests, the site was never built, and the community prevailed.

She continued to advocate for people while at El Paso High School, and her advocacy transcended our borders. She was particularly concerned about drug cartel violence and the disappearance and murders of hundreds of women factory workers across the border from us in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. She petitioned city leaders on both sides of the border to take action to curb violence and to safeguard those vulnerable workers.

Her activism and community involvement were evident to others. She attended Stanford University for her undergraduate degree and Boston University Law School.

Incensed by our country's failed immigration policies and actions that gave rise to the separation of families, Jessica decided to return to California. She would go on to work on advocacy on behalf of migrants and refugees at the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights in Los Angeles.

Jessica was also a mother to her daughter, Leila. She raised Leila to embody her core values of fairness, equality, and giving back to her community. She felt it was her obligation that Leila be raised to speak out as a woman in our society and be proud of her Latina heritage and family background.

It was not all about politics. Jessica and Leila also had fun singing and dancing and reading books. They enjoyed making arts and crafts together and decorating their annual Christmas tree with projects made throughout the year. They watched children's television shows, like ''Sesame Street'' and ''Bluey,'' and spent summer afternoons playing in their neighborhood park and feeding the ducks there.

Jessica was a woman of faith and believed strongly that we are all tasked with utilizing our God-given gifts and talents to journey in solidarity with those we encounter in life and contributing to the common good.

I close by sharing a reflection Jessica delivered as an intern with the Catholic community in June 2009 during a Sunday service at Stanford's Memorial Church. It captures her philosophy and her outlook on Christian discipleship that she practiced throughout her young life very well.

Jessica's reflection is as follows:

''I remember the first time I answered my call to service. My home parish in El Paso, Texas, sponsors a Thanksgiving dinner for homeless residents in our binational community. My family and I showed up at the church cafeteria and were assigned the task of serving guests plates of food. I was 8 years old and extremely intimidated by strangers.

''Anxiety grew in the pit of my stomach as I carried a meal to my first guest, an older woman in a Dallas Cowboys' jersey. As I placed the plate in front of her, she glanced up. She didn't speak, but there was a calm gratitude in her eyes. I felt connected to her. God opened my heart in that moment and enveloped me with peace.

''For the first time, I understood the gift of service. It has made an indelible impression upon me. My commitment to service played a huge role in my decision to accept the intern position with our Catholic community at Stanford. I was called to give back to a community that supported me in my time of need.''

Those were Jessica's beautiful words.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of El Paso, I extend my deepest condolences to Jessica's family. Jessica left us too soon, and I and everyone who knew her will cherish our memories with her. I am proud to honor the life of Jessica Alana Sanchez and ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing her lifetime commitment to advocating for her community.

□ 1045

HONORING ACHIEVEMENTS OF DEMITRI AYALA AND SERGIO LERMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible achievements of two outstanding young men from the Rio Grande Valley.

Demitri Ayala, a McAllen resident and recent high school graduate, has made us all proud by winning first place at the International Powerlifting Federation Sub-Junior and Junior World Powerlifting championship in Malta. Demitri's dedication and discipline serves as an inspiration to all of us.

Madam Speaker, I also recognize Sergio Lerma from Donna, Texas, who earned second place in the same competition.

Both of these young athletes have showcased not only their physical strength but their perseverance and commitment to excellence. Their accomplishments represent the best of south Texas, and we are incredibly proud to have them as part of our community.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Demitri and Sergio on their remarkable achievements.

WELCOMING HOME CHIEF MICHAEL SANDOVAL

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Madam Speaker, today, I have the distinct honor of welcoming home Chief Michael Sandoval of the United States Navy from his deployment in Djibouti, Africa.

Senior Chief Sandoval led the boat maintenance facility, overseeing 22 sailors and ensuring that all patrol boats were ready for critical missions in the area. His leadership and dedication were vital as his team launched and operated four patrol boats to safeguard Navy vessels, maintaining a strong security posture and a 360-degree perimeter until all vessels safely departed.

In addition to their vigilant patrols, Senior Chief Sandoval and his team played a crucial role in training local Djibouti forces, enhancing their defensive tactics and strengthening partnerships.

His service exemplifies the best of our military: strong leadership, a commitment to excellence, and dedication to the security of our great Nation.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of our community, we welcome him home and thank him and his team for their service. May God bless him.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BARBARA SUE REAVES

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Barbara Sue Reaves, a remarkable woman from Alice, Texas, who passed away on August 21, 2024, at the age of 73.

Barbara dedicated her life to public service, working first as a city planner and a grant writer for numerous cities, including her last role with the city of Alice. Her efforts played a crucial part in shaping and improving the communities she served, making her legacy one of lasting impact.

Barbara's love for her family and her dedication to her faith were central to her life. She is survived by her brother, Alan, and his family, who will carry on her memory with love and pride.

Barbara was also known for her passion for running and her devotion to her local church, where she was active and a cherished member.

Madam Speaker, her passing is a great loss to all those who knew her, but her contributions will never be forgotten. We send our deepest condolences to her family and loved ones. May her memory be a blessing and an inspiration to all of us.

CELEBRATING ROBERT T. SCOTT, PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. Robert T. Scott as he is bestowed the prestigious title of president emeritus of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in Buffalo, New York.

Mr. Scott began his career as a religion teacher at St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, affectionately known as St. Joe's, in 1971. Over the years, he served as a social studies teacher, vice principal, principal, and president.

In 2001, Mr. Scott earned his letters of affiliation, the highest honor awarded by the Institute of Brothers of Christian Schools, the religious order that founded St. Joe's in 1861.

Mr. Scott retired in 2018 after an extraordinary 48-year career at the all-boys high school.

Throughout his career, Mr. Scott has exemplified the mission of St. Joe's: to transform the lives of students from diverse backgrounds through academic excellence and care, rooted in a Lasallian Catholic community, developing and cultivating each student's

unique talents in preparation for college and life.

The students that Mr. Scott impacted throughout his tenure have excelled in their personal and professional lives in large part due to his mentorship and dedication.

Today, he continues to inspire all who know him, sharing his compassion and dedication to his family, friends, colleagues, and community.

I have had the privilege of knowing Mr. Scott as my former principal and now my friend. The lessons he imparted went beyond academics. They instilled in me the values of integrity, leadership, and perseverance. For that, I am forever grateful and continue to carry his influence with me each and every day.

In retirement, he has cherished the opportunity to spend more time with his beloved family—his wife, his children, his grandchildren, and his four brothers—creating lasting memories with those closest to him while still giving back to the institution he poured his life into.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Robert T. Scott on an inspiring career and the continuation of his commitment to education and the Lasallian tradition as president emeritus of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute.

May St. John Baptist de la Salle pray for us. May Jesus live in our hearts forever. Go St. Joe's Marauders.

REMEMBERING DOMINIC ''NICK'' BONIFACIO, JR.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of former Buffalo Common Council Member Dominic ''Nick'' Bonifacio, Jr., who passed on August 2.

Nick was a hardworking and dedicated leader who made a lasting impact on Buffalo and everyone whose lives he touched.

With deep roots in the city, he was one of three children born to Dominic J. Bonifacio, Sr., and Ruth Boundy Bonifacio. After attending School 77, Nick graduated from Hutch-Tech High School in 1966, where he was a leader on the field and on the court, competing on the baseball team, the cross-country team, and the varsity basketball team.

In college, Nick became involved in mentoring and serving Buffalo youth. He was the director of the Butler Mitchell Boys and Girls Club and worked to create a place for young people to find camaraderie and receive mentorship.

Nick became a recreation instructor for the city of Buffalo in 1996, while also taking on the responsibilities of being the program director and an interim executive director for the Buffalo Police Athletic League.

In 1999, he became a member of the Buffalo Common Council. During his tenure, he fought to make Buffalo better, taking on projects like cracking down on absentee landlords and creating what is now Freedom Park along the Niagara River. Addressing health concerns, he led a project to install sidewalks and plant vegetation in Buffalo.

While chair of the council's police reorganization committee, and during his time as member of the Peace Bridge advisory panel, he protected residential neighborhoods from commercial expansion.

A baseball player at heart, he was a star pitcher and founded the Butler Mitchell baseball program in 1975. Four years later, he was coaching nine different teams. Nick even filled in when needed at a handful of Buffalo Bisons games. In 2010, as recognition for his love of and service through baseball, he was inducted in the Western New York Baseball Hall of Fame.

Nick leaves behind his brother, Joseph, many loving nieces and nephews, and many friends.

Madam Speaker, he will be missed. May my friend, Nick Bonifacio, rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING TOM DELL OF DELL BROTHERS

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Dell, who, with his retirement, will close Dell Brothers, a store in my hometown of Columbus, Indiana.

I am proud to say that Pence family members have been loyal customers for half a century.

Dell Brothers has been at the same location downtown since 1916, where it was originally opened by Tom's grandfather. It was passed down to his father and uncle and then to Tom and his late brother, Mike.

The store has been an institution throughout my life, and I am sorry to see it close. I thank Tom for his work and wish him the best in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING JEFF CARDWELL FOR HIS SERVICE TO INDIANA

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jeff Cardwell, who has faithfully served our State for many years.

Jeff has become a dear friend of the Pence family, serving as a trusted adviser for my brother, Mike, when he was Governor of the State of Indiana and as I have been here in Congress.

A graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University, Jeff gave back to his community as a member of the Indianapolis City-County Council for 4 years and later served as chairman of the Indiana Republican Party.

Throughout everything, Jeff has shown his passion for helping others, making at least one mission trip to El Salvador every year for decades.

We are blessed to have Jeff in our lives.

RECOGNIZING GRACE NUHFER ON PARALYMPIC SILVER MEDAL

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Greenwood native Grace Nuhfer, who recently won the silver medal for the 100-meter butterfly in the 2024 Summer Paralympics.

Grace has brittle cornea syndrome and swims under the S13 classification, the least severe vision impairment.

Grace represented the United States in the 2023 Parapan American Games in Chile, winning silver for the 50-meter freestyle. She is also a three-time State qualifier during her time at Greenwood High School, and she now attends University of Akron.

Madam Speaker, Grace has made her State and country proud, and it is an honor to recognize her massive achievements.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK THOMPSON

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Frank Thompson, who passed away in July at the age of 84.

Frank never met a stranger and was dedicated to his family, friends, and community. He prioritized economic development throughout his career, serving Franklin County, Batesville, Greensburg, and eventually serving on the Shelby County Chamber of Commerce.

However, his favorite job was as grand ambassador at the Horseshoe Indianapolis in Shelbyville, furthering community outreach and public relations.

We will miss his joy, dedication, and fun political facts, which he never forgot to share.

Madam Speaker, my thoughts and prayers are with his family—my friend, Senator Jean Leising, and their children, Sharon, Jill, Jennifer, and Jeffrey.

□ 1100

RECOGNIZING GOVERNOR ERIC HOLCOMB

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Governor Eric Holcomb, who has served as Governor of Indiana since 2017. An Indianapolis native and Hanover College graduate, Governor Holcomb is a lifelong Hoosier.

After serving in the U.S. Navy for 6 years, he turned to politics, working for Indiana on staff in the house and the senate and as well as for former Governor Mitch Daniels.

Over his two terms in office, Governor Holcomb has worked to strengthen our economy, infrastructure, education system, and public health.

Under his leadership, we finally completed I–69. This success came from the work of a generation of Hoosier leadership, and Governor Holcomb got it over the finish line.

Today, I am glad to recognize his legacy and thank him for his work in Indiana.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SUZANNE CROUCH

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch for a lifetime of service to Indiana.

A Purdue graduate, she began her political career as a Vanderburgh County

auditor and later was elected to the Vanderburgh County board of commissioners.

She moved into statewide politics, serving as an Indiana State representative, Indiana State auditor, and now as our Lieutenant Governor.

Lieutenant Governor Crouch has prioritized mental health throughout her tenure and is co-chair of the Indiana Mental Health Roundtable and chair of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Task Force.

I am grateful for all Lieutenant Governor Crouch has done for the State of Indiana, and I am even more proud to call her our family friend.

HONORING ANN LURIE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STRONG). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary philanthropist and humanitarian.

A few weeks ago, Chicago lost one of our city's most esteemed benefactors, Ann Lurie. Originally from Florida, Ann chose Chicago, and specifically the Seventh Congressional District, as her home in 1973.

For over 27 years, I have had the honor of representing the nearly 800,000 people in the Seventh District, one of the Nation's largest and most diverse.

Throughout this time, Ann Lurie and her husband, Robert, were steadfast supporters and catalysts for change within our community.

Chicago is a city where people are inclined to do things their way, and Ann was no exception. Her way meant making a profound difference, leaving nearly everything she touched better than she found it.

I had the privilege of knowing and working with Ann for over 40 years. I witnessed firsthand her unwavering dedication to healthcare, education, and social justice. Her impact extended far beyond Chicago, reaching communities around the world.

Ann funded countless initiatives in the Seventh District. Her philanthropic journey began with her roots as a pediatric nurse, which laid the foundation for her lifelong commitment to improving healthcare.

Her transformative $100 million donation to the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago made an indelible mark on our city, creating a beacon of hope and healing for countless children and families and establishing Chicago as a national center of medical innovation and excellence.

Ann profoundly impacted education through her support for institutions like the University of Michigan and Northwestern University by funding scholarships and research programs.

She opened doors for countless students, fostering the next generation of leaders, innovators, and changemakers.

Ann's philanthropy was characterized by personal engagement. She was not a passive donor but a hands-on advocate, often traveling to see the projects she funded firsthand to ensure her contributions were making the intended impact.

The level of involvement spoke volumes about her character and the sincerity of her mission, making her a truly inspiring figure.

Through the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Foundation, Ann championed global health initiatives from building rural schools in Ethiopia to supporting healthcare infrastructure in Kenya.

Her efforts in Human Rights Watch in the Horn of Africa underscored her commitment to advocating for the often voiceless, ensuring that fundamental human rights and dignities are upheld, even in the most challenging circumstances. Her compassion and humanitarianism were immense, and many of her local contributions had a global impact.

Mr. Speaker, Ann Lurie's philanthropy is a shining example of the profound difference one individual can make in the world.

Her work is a testament to the power of compassion, dedication, and unwavering belief in the potential for positive change.

Her passing is a tremendous loss, not just for the causes she championed but for the lives she touched. She showed us that authentic leadership is about more than what one achieves for oneself. It is also about what one does for others.

We extend our deepest condolences to her family and loved ones as we honor her life, her legacy, and her work.

RECOGNIZING CONSTITUTION DAY

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Constitution Day, which we observed Monday, honoring the bravery and wisdom of the 39 men who signed the supreme law of the land on September 17, 1787, at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

This pivotal document has truly shaped our Nation's history. For over two centuries, the Constitution has guided us, reflecting the vision of our Founding Fathers. It creates a government that is accountable to the people and dedicated to protecting individual rights.

The Constitution lays the foundation for our liberty, ensuring that America remains the freest Nation in the world and secures the God-given rights that we cherish as Americans.

As we reflect on its enduring legacy, let us remember that it embodies the values we uphold as a Nation.

Let this Constitution Day remind us of our sacred obligation to uphold its principles. We are here to serve the American people and protect their liberties, ensuring their rights are preserved for generations to come.

CELEBRATING WFIR RADIO'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate WFIR radio in Roanoke, Virginia, on its 100th anniversary.

As the second oldest radio station in Virginia and one of the oldest commercial radio stations in our great Nation, WFIR has been a cornerstone of our community since its founding in 1924.

What began as the passionate hobby of Mr. Frank E. Maddox with his amateur station 3BIY evolved into a vital commercial station, thanks to the vision of the Richardson-Wayland Electrical Corporation.

They recognized the power of radio to connect communities and seized the opportunity to not just sell radios but to enhance the lives of those in our region.

Before WFIR, Roanokers had no reliable radio source during the day and only sporadic signals at night. WFIR changed that reality, delivering a consistent and dynamic voice to the people of Roanoke. Today, it is a trusted source of news, information, and entertainment for countless Virginians.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate WFIR Radio on reaching this remarkable milestone and wish them continued success in the years to come.

CELEBRATING VINTON FIRST AID JUNIOR CREW'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Vinton First Aid Junior Crew on its 50th anniversary.

Back in 1973, nine students from William Byrd High School showed interest in the Vinton First Aid Crew. After attending initial training to become CPR and American Red Cross advanced first aid certified, the Vinton First Aid Junior Crew was officially formed in 1974.

The original charter members, Kenneth Drewery, Gary Honaker, Perry Spangler, Terry Fuqua, Mike Huddleston, Chris Stull, Ralph Hargis, Ray Sloan, and Danny Wood showed us what it means to serve.

These dedicated individuals were recently honored at the 2023 installation and Christmas banquet by the Vinton First Aid Crew and the town of Vinton.

While their paths may have diverged over the years, with many pursuing profound careers in public service, they remain bonded by that shared commitment from their youth. Two members, Chris Stull and Danny Wood, achieved life-member status with the Vinton First Aid crew.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing this incredible milestone. Their dedication to service over 50 years ago set a standard that continues to inspire today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DANIEL E. KARNES

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Lieutenant Colonel Daniel ''Dan'' E. Karnes, a dedicated servant to our country and his community.

A proud native of Roanoke, Dan enlisted in the U.S. Army at just 17 years old, completing two tours in Vietnam.

After returning to southwest Virginia, he completed his education and devoted himself to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dan began his career as a clinical social worker and went on to manage a counseling center for combat veterans in Roanoke, ensuring our heroes received the support they needed.

He was a constant presence in the veteran community, taking on numerous volunteer and public service roles, always with humility and a profound commitment to his fellow veterans.

He served on essential boards like the State Board of Mental Health, the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority, and Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare.

Dan was also an active member of organizations such as the Rotary, Kiwanis, American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars, among others.

Dan is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years, Nancy Walters Karnes. His dear friend, Captain Gary Powers, once said that he was an individual who selflessly dedicated his life to helping others in need.

This is a true testament to a meaningful life well lived. Let us honor Dan's legacy by continuing to support our veterans and those in need in our communities.

CELEBRATING CAPTAIN LELAND TEETS' 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable individual from Virginia's Sixth District, Captain Leland Teets, and his service to our Nation.

Captain Teets embodies what it means to be a devoted American, and his birthday on June 25 marked 100 years of patriotism.

Throughout World War II, Leland Teets served with the United States Army. He stormed Utah Beach on D–day, surviving two gunshot wounds to the leg from a German soldier.

After his bravery on that fateful day, Captain Teets spent 153 days in England undergoing medical care before continuing to serve in the Battle of the Bulge.

However, Captain Teets' legacy goes far beyond his military service. Returning home, he dedicated 35 years as a security officer for the Mount Weather facility in Clarke County, Virginia, contributing to the safety of our community and our Nation.

I wish Captain Teets a belated happy birthday and extend our deepest gratitude and best wishes on behalf of Virginia's Sixth District.

CELEBRATING ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC., GREAT LAKES REGION CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible women of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Great Lakes Region.

This Saturday, the Great Lakes Region will celebrate its centennial anniversary. For 100 years, our region has risen to the call to serve all mankind in our communities across five States; Michigan, Ohio, western New York, western Pennsylvania, and western Virginia with 97 graduate and undergraduate chapters, all united in a common cause to serve our communities and to serve all mankind.

The Great Lakes Region is home to over 7,000 accomplished, intelligent, dedicated, and service-oriented members, including the members of my own chapter, Zeta Theta Omega.

I am honored to recognize the work this region has done and continues to do for the people of the Great Lakes Region each and every day, united in our sisterhood's mission.

We represent a variety of occupations and disciplines, but we come together because we are truly greater together.

We always dedicate our work to the things that are worthwhile, and we always do it with a smile. Together, we are making a real difference in our communities, and I am so proud to be a part of this powerful sisterhood.

Finally, I specifically recognize Gwendolyn Kirtley, the Great Lakes regional director, for her leadership, and the many regional directors of the past who have made the great Great Lakes Region soar and thrive.

We are thankful for their commitment to our sisterhood and to their service as we celebrate our last 100 years and prepare for 100 more.

Once again, congratulations to all of the members of the great Great Lakes Region as we celebrate our centennial.

HONORING JONES BOOTS

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Jones Boots of Vernon County, Missouri, as our Fourth Congressional District September Small Business of the Month.

From the humble beginnings of two employees and an inventory of just 500 pairs of boots, Jones Boots has expanded their selection over the years to more than 6,000 pairs. They have renovated their building, always focused on the customer.

Jones Boots has been in business since 1974, and they have operated in pretty much the same building they are in to this day.

Jones Boots has been in the Jones family for more than four generations and is now run by Kaleb and Kaden. We are proud to see their hard work, success, and dedication to quality customer service.

Congratulations, Jones Boots.

HONORING SHARLA HOWARD

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor our September Veteran of the Month, Mrs. Sharla Howard of Dallas County.

Sharla served in the U.S. Army and sustained an injury during training that led to her eventually being medically discharged.

It bothered Sharla that she could not deploy with her platoon in the military, so she searched for other ways to serve her country and our Nation's veterans.

She paid for and completed college alone as a single mother and in 2016 was inspired by her late husband to become a Disabled American Veterans life member at the chapter in Butler, Missouri.

Sharla volunteers her time as a chapter service officer where she assists veterans with completing paperwork to file for VA benefits. She also serves as the treasurer and bingo chairman for her chapter. Sharla has logged more than 2,000 volunteer hours since August of 2023.

Congratulations to our September Veteran of the Month. I thank Sharla for her service in the Army and for her unwavering commitment to veterans.

□ 1115

OSCEOLA CHEESE HONORED AS OCTOBER SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Osceola Cheese, our October Small Business of the Month in the great Fourth Congressional District of Missouri.

Established in 1944, Osceola has provided cheese, beef jerky, various meat selections—I know you are getting hungry, Mr. Speaker—and also specialty sauces and mixes to Missouri and to the United States.

With the business growing, they acquired a new building in 1946, including 15 trucks. They were collecting milk from 1,000 dairy farms across our great State. When Truman Lake began to develop, the business relocated to 13 Highway and officially changed from Riverview Cheese to Osceola Cheese in St. Claire County.

Osceola has continued to expand with facility redesigns, new flavors, and new snacks. They have more than 275 varieties of cheese, from mild cheddar to chocolate cheese. That is right, I said chocolate cheese.

Congratulations to Osceola Cheese for 79 years of success. Mr. Speaker, say along with me, 79 years of great cheese. Say cheese.

GINNY FLETCHER NAMED OCTOBER VETERAN OF THE MONTH

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our October Veteran of the Month, Ginny Fletcher, of Webster County.

Ginny joined the Missouri Army National Guard in 2007 as a welder and deployed to Afghanistan from 2010 to 2011. She served with Missouri ADT IV Mission, an agribusiness development team that improved local agriculture and business infrastructure.

Ginny's fondest memories include her women's engagement team teaching Afghan children first aid and organizing activities. The team also empowered local women by teaching them to raise chickens, grow crops, and create sellable items.

After completing her service as an E–4 specialist in 2017, Ginny worked for

the State of Missouri. Right now she supervises benefit programs for the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. I thank Ginny so much for her dedication and service.

A'JA WILSON MAKES WNBA HISTORY

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

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the first woman in history to score 1,000 points in a single WNBA season, the Las Vegas Aces' very own A'ja Wilson.

I had the honor of witnessing A'ja make history last Sunday against the Connecticut Suns, where her signature fade-away mid-range jumper landed her in the history books once again.

A'ja and the rest of the back-to-back world championship Vegas Aces are well known for breaking records, but this one felt particularly special.

I thank A'ja and everyone in the Vegas Aces family for making their city proud. We look forward to cheering them all on as the Aces get one step closer to going back to back to back this year.

POE PINSON FEVER

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a monumental achievement for northeast Florida. I speak of none other than Fernandina Beach's own 19-year-old skating phenom, Poe Pinson, who made history skateboarding at the 2024 Olympics in Paris.

From an early age, friends and parents alike at Main Beach Skate Park were impressed by her skills. Mr. Speaker, she started competing when she was only 6 years old. From her small-town roots to the international stage of the Olympics, her hard work and talent catapulted her to finishing fifth in the world, exemplifying the grit and passion of both our community and America.

Mr. Speaker, her hometown of Fernandina Beach went full Poe Pinson, had the fever of Poe Pinson. We had countless yard signs that said simply: ''Go Poe.'' There was a watch party for watching the women's skateboarding event. You had to get up before dawn to go attend the party, and it was packed, Mr. Speaker. Her hometown was all in on Poe Pinson.

Mr. Speaker, not long ago, skateboarding wasn't even an Olympic sport. Yet, here we are having witnessed Poe's debut in the women's street skateboarding event. Just last month, the Fernandina Beach City Commission honored Poe by naming the Main Beach Skate Park after her.

I ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me in recognizing this exceptional young woman. Poe's hometown and her country are extremely proud of her, and we cannot wait to see her shred at Poe Pinson Park again. We are very proud of her, Mr. Speaker.

OLD FORGE AND FELITTO NAMED SISTER CITIES

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a remarkable and historic milestone that unites two communities across the Atlantic Ocean.

It is with great pride and joy that I announce the official designation of Old Forge, Pennsylvania, and Felitto, Italy, as sister cities.

This designation not only honors our shared heritage but also strengthens the bond of friendship and cultural exchange between our two communities.

Old Forge, situated in the heart of northeastern Pennsylvania, has long been a beacon of Italian-American culture. Known affectionately as the pizza capital of the world, Old Forge boasts a rich history that is deeply intertwined with the Italian immigrant experience.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, waves of immigrants from Felitto, a picturesque town in the Campania region of southern Italy, made their way to Old Forge, then known as Mudtown. Their arrival marked the beginning of a new chapter in the community's history, bringing with them their traditions, values, and of course, their beloved culinary heritage.

Felitto, located in the province of Salerno, is renowned for its artisanal fusilli pasta and its vibrant annual celebration, the Fusillo Festival. This festival is a testament to Felitto's commitment to family, community, and the joy of food.

The town's dedication to preserving its cultural traditions and fostering a strong sense of community is mirrored in the town of Old Forge.

The Felittese Association of Old Forge, now in its 35th year, hosts the city's annual Felittese Italian Festival on the second weekend in September in commemoration of Our Lady of Constantinople, who has been venerated in the town of Felitto since 1790.

Much like Felitto's Fusillo Festival, this annual celebration stands as a proud homage to Old Forge's Italian roots by celebrating the rich tapestry of Italian culture through home-cooked food and music with family, friends, and neighbors. It is a cherished tradition that underscores the deep connections that bind our two communities.

The sister city designation between Old Forge and Felitto represents more than just a symbolic gesture. It is a recognition of the shared heritage and enduring ties that unite the two places. It honors the legacy of the Italian immigrants who contributed so profoundly to Old Forge, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the United States of America, and acknowledges the vibrant culture that continues to thrive today.

This partnership will strengthen economic ties and enhance the mutual understanding between our two communities. It is a celebration of our shared history and a commitment to continuing the traditions that have enriched our lives and nations.

As we commemorate this new chapter in the relationship between Old Forge and Felitto, let us honor the contributions of the Italian immigrants who helped shape our communities. Their legacy lives on in the vibrant celebrations, the delectable cuisine, and the strong sense of community that defines both Old Forge and Felitto.

As a Member of the U.S. House representing northeastern Pennsylvania, I extend my heartfelt congratulations on this historic announcement and achievement. May this sister city relationship continue to flourish and bring us ever closer.

VILLAGE OF SLEEPY HOLLOW CELEBRATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Village of Sleepy Hollow.

Nestled on the Hudson River just 20 miles north of New York City, the Village of Sleepy Hollow is 5.2 square miles of history and intrigue.

Sleepy Hollow was immortalized by Washington Irving's spooky tale of the Headless Horseman. The real Sleepy Hollow, however, isn't haunted or a place of nightmares but, rather, a community of men and women living their American Dream.

Some famous residents include former Vice President of the United States and Governor of New York, Nelson Rockefeller, Olympic Gold Medal-winning decathlete Caitlyn Jenner, and Pearl Harbor survivor and Bronze Star recipient Armando ''Chick'' Galella.

It is the home of Phelps Hospital, J.P. Doyle's, the Rockefeller State Park Preserve, the Sleepy Hollow Lighthouse, and Sleepy Hollow Country Club, and more. Yes, their Halloween parades and Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze are a frighteningly good time, too.

This past weekend, I was honored to join my Sleepy Hollow constituents to celebrate the historic village's incredible milestone. As I stood among friends, neighbors, and local leaders, I was filled with pride for what Sleepy Hollow represents: a rich heritage, strong community values, and a bright future ahead.

Today, we are joined by several of the Village board members, including Tom Andruss, Jared Rodriguez, James Husselbee, and Deputy Mayor Denise Scaglione. Unfortunately, Mayor Martin Rutyna and Trustees Patrick

Sheeran and Lauren Connell couldn't join us today.

On behalf of the residents of the Village of Sleepy Hollow and the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to recognize our esteemed elected officials today and thank them for their dedicated service on behalf of the residents.

Over the years, Sleepy Hollow has not only embraced its storied past, but also evolved into a thriving village that continues to honor its traditions while welcoming new growth and innovation. It is places like this that make New York's 17th Congressional District so special.

I thank all the Sleepy Hollow residents and stakeholders who throughout the course of this year have made this celebration such a great success. Their passion, dedication, and love for this community are what make Sleepy Hollow such a unique and cherished place to call home.

IMMIGRANTS SERVE VITAL ROLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with immigrant communities across the country, the people who we call our friends, neighbors, and loved ones.

We know that immigrants serve a vital role in the fabric of our Nation. Unfortunately, Donald Trump and his allies have spent their time and energy spreading lies about them. The most recent lies about immigrants are as dangerous as they are false, and they are part of the same tired playbook that we have seen from extremist Republicans time and time again.

From Springfield, Ohio, to Hudson County, New Jersey, immigrants are being vilified, threatened, and harassed. Immigrants don't feel safe going to work, picking up their children from school, or even going to their places of worship. This is a direct result of the dangerous rhetoric coming from the very top of the Republican Party, and it is unacceptable. It is past time that we return to the level of political discourse that lifts immigrants up, not tears them down.

I am immensely proud to represent New Jersey's 8th Congressional District, a community that is over 40 percent foreign born. I, myself, am the grandson of Cuban immigrants. Their story and the stories of so many in New Jersey and across the country are what make America great.

Our district is proof that when we stand side by side with immigrant families, embracing different ideas, cultures, and backgrounds, we make our communities stronger.

In Congress, I strive for leadership rooted in respect, and I would hope that all those who have the privilege of serving in elected office would do the same. That is how we promise a future for this country rooted in respect, integrity, and inclusivity.

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

□ 1130

RECOGNIZING SAMANTHA STELP

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

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my daughter, Samantha Stelp. As many of you know, I will be leaving Congress at the end of my term this year, so I would be remiss if I didn't recognize people who are very important in my life.

First, I want to say happy birthday, Samantha, because today is her 39th birthday.

Samantha is our oldest child. For those of you who don't know, over 30 years ago, I left my abusive ex-husband, and my young daughter at the time and I struggled. There were times when we had no place to live and no money. Samantha and I have been through a lot.

Then, of course, I happily got remarried. My husband, Joe, raised our daughter, Samantha.

Now, she is a grown woman. She has four kids of her own, my four grandkids, and she is absolutely amazing. I am so proud of her. She not only works full time, but she takes care of four kids ranging from 2 years old to 13 years old. She finds time to go to football games and school activities and paints things and does projects. I don't even know where she gets these talents.

I just want to say that I am proud of her. I thank her for always supporting me and for always being there for me. I love her.

RECOGNIZING JARED LESKO

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my son, Jared Lesko. As you know, I will be retiring from Congress this year, so I want to make sure I talk about the people important to me, including my son, Jared Lesko.

Jared is my youngest child. He is 26 years old. My husband, Joe, and I are proud of him. He is working in the IT field, has a great job, is very successful, and is getting married next March to his high school or grade school sweetheart, who he has known since eighth grade.

I am so excited. We are going to be going on a cruise for his wedding, and I will see my youngest son get married then. He is getting married to his sweetheart, Audrey, and they are going to have a wonderful life. He bought a home last year, and I couldn't be prouder of him.

He has been there supporting me from day one. I remember, years ago, he would help me out in the Phoenix heat to register people to vote. We sat out at the Peoria Sports Complex, handed out water, and asked people if they were registered to vote. I don't know how I convinced them, but I convinced my entire family to come help me. He has always been there for me.

I wish my son, Jared, much success now and in the future.

HONORING THOMAS F. CARLIN

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a good friend of mine who was a U.S. Army veteran, in the Vietnam war, and a union leader in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Thomas F. Carlin. We called him Tom Carlin.

Tom was a great guy who sacrificed and worked so hard for the working men and women of the DFW area.

In addition to serving in Vietnam, Tom worked for American Airlines for 40 years, and he held various leadership positions throughout his union career, including vice president of the Texas AFL–CIO for nearly 35 years.

Later in life, Tom battled the effects of Parkinson's disease, which he picked up when he was in Vietnam as a result of his exposure to Agent Orange, which so many of our veterans have suffered from, from the 1960s during the Vietnam war.

Because of his work in labor, Tom was also honored with induction into both the Texas AFL–CIO and the Texas Labor Management Hall of Fame.

Tom has just been a great guy, a great friend, and a great supporter. I have known him and his wife, Peggy, very well.

Tom was so proud of his son, who is a pilot for Delta Airlines, Tommy. Tommy has been with Delta for a while now. I have never met Tommy in person, but because Tom was so proud of him and talked about his only child, I felt like I have known Tommy forever.

That is the kind of family that Tom and Peggy put together, just great people who not only cared about their own family but their union family, veterans, and all north Texans. That is what Tom worked hard for, creating a better way of life for everybody.

Mr. Speaker, I give my condolences to the Carlin family, all of his union brothers and sisters, and everybody in north Texas because people will miss Tom Carlin and his big Irish smile and friendliness that he always brought to the table.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 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 (Mr. GUEST) at noon.

PRAYER

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

O bless the Lord, with all our soul. May all that is within us bless Your holy name.

May this be a day where we keep our tongues from speaking evil of other people with opposing thoughts. May this be the day when we do not allow ourselves to speak deceitful words against those who have angered or frustrated us, but let all that is within us bless Your holy name.

May we commit ourselves to turn from evil and do good, even when the wrong seems easier or more expedient. May we dedicate ourselves not just to seek peace but to pursue it.

Let all that is within us bless Your holy name. May we lift up holy hands, faithful hearts, and righteous minds without anger or dissension in prayer to You, not only on this day but in all the days of our service to You and to Your people.

Let all that is within us bless Your name, the name in which we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania 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.

TELEHEALTH WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Telehealth Awareness Week.

Throughout the COVID–19 pandemic and in recent years, telehealth services have added tremendous reach and value to communities across the country, especially in rural America.

As a former healthcare professional who spent nearly 30 years serving rural populations, I appreciate how telehealth has increased access to care across rural communities like those that I am proud to represent.

It is essential that we protect this vital resource as a viable option for patients.

During my time in Congress, I am proud to have led efforts to expand telehealth services for veterans and members of the armed services and their families.

To continue this progress, last year I introduced the bipartisan HEALTH Act to cut red tape and permanently allow community health centers and rural health clinics to provide telehealth services to their patients, including audio-only appointments for Americans who may not have access to broadband or the necessary technology to complete video appointments.

Mr. Speaker, telehealth is a crucial resource for providing care in underserved communities, and I will continue to advocate for the expansion of this essential resource.

CUTTING BACK ON WASTEFUL GOVERNMENT SPENDING

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

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the passage of my bipartisan bill to cut back on wasteful government spending, the LIVE Beneficiaries Act.

My bill, with my colleague, Representative GUS BILIRAKIS, passed the House with unanimous bipartisan support this week. That level of support speaks to just how much sense this bill makes.

It requires Medicaid to check the death records each quarter, so they stop paying benefits to deceased enrollees sooner. Between 2009 and 2019, more than $249 million in these improper payments were made across 14 States, $3.7 million in my State of Minnesota.

It is a commonsense bill in a town where more common sense is needed.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. VLADIMIR UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in our district in Parma, Ohio.

St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral was established in 1924 to fulfill the spiritual and social needs of the newly-arrived Ukrainians. After an increase in membership from World War II refugees, a new temple and parish center were built in Parma in 1958.

Parishioners established educational opportunities on religion, Ukrainian language, dance, music, and art that have benefited the local community to this day.

I commend St. Vladimir Cathedral for its role in producing upstanding citizens of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, and I wish them a very happy anniversary.

IMMIGRANTS BAIL OUT FEDERAL PROGRAMS

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the hypocrisy of the No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act.

My Republican colleagues seem to have missed the irony of proposing this bill. Right now, this month, we honor the contributions of the Latin community to this Nation, knowing that immigrants contribute nearly $100 billion in Federal taxes every year.

Immigrants bail out Federal programs with their labor and taxes, but it is the Federal Government that has to stop the bailouts?

Mr. Speaker, you miss me with that.

Chicago and Illinois know immigrants contribute to the economic and social vibrancy of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, you have to ask yourself: Why else might Republicans propose a policy that would strip billions in Federal funds from States like New York, California, and Illinois?

Can you think of a reason, Mr. Speaker?

I can. It is a political stunt to take money away from diverse communities and Democratic cities.

Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, I will be voting ''no'' on H.R. 5717, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

HATE HAS NO PLACE ON LONG ISLAND

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

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, hate has no place on Long Island.

Recently, we Long Islanders witnessed a disturbing act of vandalism and hate targeting the BAPS Temple in Melville, a sacred place for countless peaceful, family, and faith-focused Hindus who proudly call Long Island home.

In response, I joined more than a dozen elected officials and religious and community leaders who stood together to send a clear message: Acts of

hate and intolerance will never be tolerated in our communities.

America's strength comes from our foundation of religious and political freedom, and when these core values are attacked, then we unite as one.

I am proud of the bipartisan and united effort shown in standing with the BAPS community of Long Island in this difficult moment.

Together we will always rise to defend the principles that bind us as Americans and reject hate in all its forms.

RECOGNIZING MEDICAL RESEARCH WEEK

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

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a resolution recognizing Medical Research Week from September 16 through September 20, 2024.

This bipartisan resolution recognizes the breakthroughs of medical research improving health outcomes, securing global competitiveness, boosting job creation, educating the next generation of scientists, and strengthening our economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Indiana's Seventh District which has become a healthcare and innovation hub in America. In my district alone, the NIH has contributed $264 million in grants to 9 different research sites in 2023. In Indiana the NIH has supported 5,300 jobs for Hoosiers and over $1.1 billion of economic activity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

HONORING CHIEF JUSTICE HEAVICAN

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Justice Mike Heavican of the State of Nebraska who has announced his retirement after almost two decades of exemplary service as the head of Nebraska's Supreme Court and its entire judicial branch.

Through the years, the chief justice has led Nebraska's judiciary with integrity. Before his time on the bench, he served as a deputy county attorney, a county attorney, the U.S. Attorney, and then the chief justice.

Throughout his career he has preserved the independence of our judiciary while collaborating with the State's leaders to strengthen its engagement with the public.

During my time as Speaker of the Unicameral, I had the great honor of working with Chief Justice Heavican to establish the first and now annual tradition of the State of the Judiciary address to our State's legislature.

On behalf of the people of the first district, I want to extend best wishes to Chief Justice Heavican and our sincere gratitude for his decades of remarkable public service.

CELEBRATING NASA'S HIDDEN FIGURES CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENTS

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with passion and pride as an Ohioan to celebrate yesterday's Congressional Gold Medal recipients: Dorothy Vaughan, Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson, and Dr. Christine Darden, and all of the brilliant women who powered NASA's success during the space race.

Katherine Johnson's calculation made the Moon landing possible. Dorothy Vaughan became NASA's first Black supervisor. Mary Jackson broke barriers as NASA's first Black female engineer, and Dr. Christine Darden revolutionized supersonic flight.

Known as hidden figures, they calculated rocket trajectories, Earth orbits, and solved complex problems. Their genius was hidden by the shadows of segregation. They were the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of Ohio astronaut and former U.S. Senator, John Glenn, into orbit.

Mr. Speaker, let us continue to honor their legacy in the days ahead.

CONGRATULATING LAMYAH N. BOONE

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the National Society of High School Scholars announced that LaMyah Boone has been selected to join the prestigious organization.

Boone is a sophomore at KIPP Gaston College Preparatory. She is a member of her school's yearbook committee and the Dance Girls in the Panthers Marching Band.

Boone is the daughter of Kennedy and LaToya Boone. LaMyah is now a member of an exclusive community of scholars, a community that represents the bright future of eastern North Carolina.

Congratulations to LaMyah.

We look forward to seeing what the future has for her next.

ACCREDITATION FOR COLLEGE EXCELLENCE ACT OF 2023

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3724.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Ohio). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1455 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3724.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1214

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3724) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit recognized accrediting agencies and associations from requiring, encouraging, or coercing institutions of higher education to meet any political litmus test or violate any right protected by the Constitution as a condition of accreditation, with Mr. GUEST in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in the first section of House Resolution 1455 and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or their respective designees.

The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3724, the End Woke Higher Education Act. No woke week could possibly be complete without a robust debate regarding the state of free speech on college campuses. However, first I can't help but acknowledge the juxtaposition of this floor debate and debates in the university setting.

The Constitution's Speech and Debate Clause grants Members of Congress the absolute freedom of speech on the House floor. It is a privilege that has survived 248 years of nationhood.

Sadly, the privilege of the First Amendment and campus free speech has not. Therefore, I will use this time at this pulpit to make three conservative statements to express three truths that would otherwise be punishable offenses on today's college campuses.

Men and women are biologically different. This position held by swimmer Riley Gaines endangered her very life on a trip to San Francisco State University. Student activists assaulted Ms. Gaines during a speaking engagement, forcing police to lead her into a safe room.

DEI policies overlook qualified candidates. This sentiment expressed in a tweet by conservative-libertarian

Georgetown lecturer Ilya Shapiro led to a 122-day investigation and his eventual coerced resignation.

Finally, wear what you want on Halloween. This opinion, shared in an email by Professor Erika Christakis, sparked outrage at Yale. The unchecked student overreaction drove Professor Christakis to stop teaching classes.

Men and women are biologically different, DEI policies overlook qualified candidates, and wear what you want on Halloween—these three statements, as unobjectionable and inoffensive as they may seem, are widely censored on college campuses. That is because, for every example of retaliatory censorship, there are hundreds, if not thousands, of examples of self-censorship and social pressure to conform.

That is why I support H.R. 3724. Not only does H.R. 3724 aim to protect politically disfavored speech, but all speech. To achieve this goal, it would, among other things, mandate viewpoint neutrality in the college accreditation process, require robust free speech policies before public colleges access title IV funds, and prohibit universities from giving political litmus tests to students and faculty.

Mr. Chair, I thank Representative OWENS of Utah, Representative WILLIAMS of New York, Representative HOUCHIN of Indiana, Representative WALBERG of Michigan, Representative STEFANIK of New York, Representative CRENSHAW of Texas, Representative KILEY of California, and Representative MURPHY of North Carolina for their significant contributions to this bill.

With enough like-minded Members committed to the First Amendment, we can once again renew free expression as a pillar of post-secondary education.

Mr. Chair, I urge a ''yes'' vote on H.R. 3724, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose H.R. 3724, what my Republican colleagues call the End Woke Higher Education Act.

H.R. 3724 seeks to circumvent the First Amendment to establish a whole new scheme to regulate speech and association rights on campus outside of established precedents and practices.

The First Amendment protects some of our most deeply cherished rights as Americans. Any student currently who believes their First Amendment rights are being violated can bring a Federal case against their public college or university. In doing so, they have over 200 years of precedent and case law that carefully define and determine what those rights are under the First Amendment.

This includes precedents that specifically address the unique nature of colleges and universities as public entities that both must uphold constitutional rights and must provide students with safe learning environments.

With today's bill, the majority would have us throw out all of the centuries of case law and replace it with a hastily drafted substitute that claims to remove barriers that limit constitutional rights.

What the bill actually does is make public colleges and universities, who could be acting in good faith attempting to protect the safety and security of everyone present on their campus, subject to monetary judgments and possible loss of title IV student aid, counter to Supreme Court precedent.

In so doing, my colleagues, who purport to favor limited government, are micromanaging how colleges and universities must handle their internal governance processes.

Another one of the harmful, misguided policies contained in the bill creates a license for religious student organizations at public institutions to discriminate against LGBTQ+ and other students by allowing these organizations to avoid nondiscrimination requirements that apply to all other student clubs funded by student activity fees.

Student groups are an essential part of the college experience, but if this bill becomes law, minority students would be forced to subsidize student groups that discriminate against them.

In addition to micromanaging how college campuses dispute the First Amendment cases, this bill would undermine the legitimacy of the college accreditation process. For decades, federally recognized accreditors have served as one-third of the oversight triad of the U.S. higher education system, along with States and the Federal Government.

Accreditation is meant to be the gold standard for college quality and performance. After all, accreditation is the gateway to billions of dollars of Federal student aid each year. I recognize that the accreditation systems need improvement, but, unfortunately, H.R. 3724 does not make constructive reforms. Rather, it is a baseless attempt to inject culture wars into an ever-important accreditation process.

For example, the ''prohibition on litmus tests'' invites additional Federal oversight into the accreditation process. Under this bill, accreditors may not assess a school's ''commitment to any ideology, belief, or viewpoint.''

The majority complains that this will prevent a school from losing accreditation if they do not have a diversity, equity, and inclusion office. The reality is that there is no evidence that that is happening.

There are, conversely, several examples of State officials pressuring schools not to teach certain classes or hold subjects that they believe cross the line between academic pursuit and ideological beliefs. That is why the bill is so dangerous.

For example, under this bill, the Department of Education could potentially revoke an accreditor's recognition if that accreditor required science programs to teach evolution. If the accreditor said, no, if it is science, you have got to teach evolution, the Department could potentially revoke the accreditation, suggesting that such standards were an attempt to force a university to commit to a specific partisan, political, or ideological viewpoint or belief.

Well, I think if you are going to teach a science course, that the accreditors ought to have the option of requiring the fundamental basis be science.

H.R. 3724 represents a solution in search of a problem, fundamentally seeks to undermine students' First Amendment rights and their right to be able to join a student organization free of discrimination, and it undermines our accreditation system.

Mr. Chair, I oppose the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WILLIAMS), the bill's sponsor.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Chair, I thank Congresswoman FOXX for her courageous leadership in these historic and important times.

Mr. Chair, I am proud to speak in support of H.R. 3724, which includes my bill, the Respecting the First Amendment on Campus Act.

This package ensures transparency both in the accreditation process and at the institutional level, protecting the right to free speech, the liberty of religious conscience, and the safeguards against discrimination.

Our Nation's colleges and universities are at the very best when they facilitate the free, open, and civil exchange of ideas among students and faculty alike, with robust disagreements serving to teach students how to think and how to engage with those who come to the table with different perspectives.

In the interest of protecting students' ability to learn and grow from these interactions, this legislation ensures the universities do not stray from the guiding principles of the First Amendment. Throughout history, we have witnessed dangerous extremists weaponize educational institutions to promote their ideology and to suppress dissent. The open forum is worth protecting.

In the not-too-distant future, everyone in this Chamber will pass the torch to a new generation of leaders, not just in government, but in business, journalism, and every other sector of life.

We owe it to them to make sure that the educational halls in which they learn are more than a one-way conduit through which ideologues seek to cram their own views of the world on captive students. Their formative educational years should be spent thinking critically and discussing freely the issues that they will grapple with in their adult lives.

The prosperity of our Nation depends on that next generation and the ability

to think independently and engage productively with those who have different perspectives. Those are valuable tools they will have to use throughout their lives.

College students should feel secure in the knowledge that their rights are protected on campus, that campuses follow the law and certify their practices and policies on free speech to prospective students and families. Especially now, as students are increasingly unsure how their school will react to the turbulent political issues of today, it is necessary that institutions of higher education act with transparency and moral clarity, to protect the open forum and, by extension, the students they have been entrusted with.

This legislation speaks to universities directly: If you do not protect the lawful and Supreme Court-tested First Amendment rights of your students, you will lose your funding.

Mr. Chair, I urge the House to do right by our Nation's students and pass this bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GOLDMAN).

□ 1230

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Chair, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise today to discuss the next installment of Republican hypocrisy in the 118th Congress. This one relates to anti-Semitism.

My Republican colleagues have spent months haranguing university presidents for failing to protect Jewish students on college campuses, and on this, I agree. Many university presidents have failed to show appropriate moral clarity and leadership, but let me ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: Does the removal of a university president actually change the facts on the ground? Does it make Jewish students safer? The answer is unequivocally no, and certainly not in the near term.

I have spoken to Jewish students all around the country, and they remain scared and afraid as anti-Semitic encampments and protests have grown more threatening and even violent.

Despite all of their lipservice about combating anti-Semitism, this Republican bill makes it significantly more difficult for universities to keep Jewish students safe.

Under the guise of ending wokeness on college campuses, this bill would strip universities of their ability to enforce reasonable restrictions on campus protests. It limits time, place, and manner restrictions and allows for no-notice spontaneous protests, including anywhere on campus, such as Hillels.

That is right. The bill makes it easier for agitators and others to come onto college campuses and engage in anti-Semitic protests or encampments. Once again, all talk, no action from my Republican colleagues.

The most effective way for the Federal Government to combat anti-Semitism on campus is through the enforcement of the title VI antidiscrimination law by the Office for Civil Rights in the Department of Education, which requires universities to remedy any violations that make Jewish students or any other students unable to safely and securely get the education that they deserve.

Since October 7, OCR has opened more than 150 investigations into campus anti-Semitism, but they don't have anywhere near the resources to fully pursue those investigations—never mind that Donald Trump's Project 2025 wants to eliminate the Department of Education altogether, including the Office for Civil Rights.

If Republicans truly cared about Jewish students, as they say, they would support my Showing Up for Students Act, which would increase funding for OCR so that we can actually combat anti-Semitism on the ground at universities around the country. Yet, not a single Republican has cosponsored this bill—not one.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. PERRY). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Chair, instead, in the last budget, Republicans insisted on cutting funding for OCR, further hampering OCR's ability to fight anti-Semitism.

I, once again, ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to stop using anti-Semitism as a political weapon and join us to actually solve the problem. If you care about anti-Semitism on college campuses, you must oppose H.R. 3724 and instead join my Showing Up for Students Act so Congress can be part of the solution, not the problem.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the End Woke Higher Education Act, which upholds Americans' constitutional liberties and supports academic freedom on college campuses.

Sadly, over the years, we have seen our Nation's college campuses diverge from being places of thoughtful debate to a breeding ground for illiberal thought. Shoutdowns, disciplinary action, and political litmus tests have become pervasive on college campuses.

This trend threatens both our constitutionally guaranteed rights and the value of a college education. If we are to remain a tolerant society accepting of a diversity of ideas, then colleges need to be an open arena for thoughtful debate, discussion, and, of course, faith.

To protect individuals' faith on campus, H.R. 3724 also includes text from the Equal Campus Access Act, my bill to ensure commonsense protections for religious student organizations.

Over the years, we have seen a concerning increase of incidents on college campuses where religious student organizations have lost rights, benefits, and privileges due to faith-based practices.

Across the country, student groups are formed and meet to discuss political, social, or religious ideas and beliefs. These groups enrich the student experience and campus life. These groups must apply to the university for recognition, which allows them to use university space and receive student activity funding available to other recognized groups. However, religious groups have often been blocked from this recognition, putting their organization at risk.

The Equal Campus Access Act would clarify that no funds shall be made available to a public institution that denies a religious student group any rights similarly afforded to other organizations because of the religious group's beliefs, practices, or leadership standards.

Notably, in my State of Michigan, a religious student organization that had been a recognized student group at Wayne State University since 1956 was derecognized simply because it required its leaders to agree with its religious beliefs. The students had to sue their university in order to receive recognition, where a judge found the university had, in fact, violated the students' rights.

Students should not have to give up their First Amendment rights of speech, religion, and association to attend a public college.

I thank the chairwoman for including my bill in this package and Representatives BURGESS OWENS and BRANDON WILLIAMS for their leadership.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, we have received a letter from the American Council on Education, which says, in part, rather than respecting the First Amendment and what has been done to apply its principles across a wide range of higher education institutions, the provisions of title II of H.R. 3724 would undermine campus efforts to foster free speech and ensure student safety.

We are particularly concerned with the impact this legislation would have on campuses' ability to prevent discrimination and hateful incidents at a time of widespread national attention.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD a letter from the American Council on Education.

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION,
September 17, 2024.

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

Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON AND MINORITY LEADER JEFFRIES: On behalf of the undersigned higher education associations, we write regarding H.R. 3724, the End Woke Higher Education Act, which will be considered by the U.S. House of Representatives

this week. Title II of H.R. 3724 incorporates the provisions of H.R. 7683, the Respecting the First Amendment on Campus Act. We opposed the Respecting the First Amendment on Campus Act during its consideration by the Committee on Education and the Workforce. We now ask you to remove Title II from H.R. 3724 as it would undermine efforts to protect free speech on campus and provide safe learning environments free from discrimination. If Title II is not removed from the underlying bill, we would urge you and your members to oppose the bill if it is considered on the floor.

Colleges and universities are strongly committed to fostering open, intellectually engaging debate enriched by a diverse set of voices and perspectives. Freedom of speech, free inquiry, and academic freedom are fundamental to the quest for knowledge and to the educational mission of higher education institutions. Institutions take seriously their obligations to uphold the laws protecting these freedoms, which, for public institutions, include the First Amendment. Consistent with these obligations, institutions must also provide safe learning environments that are free from discrimination and harassment and in compliance with applicable federal and state laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Any proposed federal legislation in this area must reflect these twin institutional obligations.

Despite Title II's purported aims of ensuring that public institutions uphold First Amendment protections and provide clarity regarding campus speech policies, Title II would instead create new counterproductive federal mandates, undermining the goals it seeks to advance. Title II would impose a rigid, highly prescriptive, and costly regulatory and enforcement framework on nearly 1,900 public colleges and universities. Already subject to the protections afforded by the First Amendment, public institutions would have to implement a new campus-wide compliance scheme on top of existing policies and practices. As an example of the difficult and costly mandates that the legislation would impose, it would require institutions to develop ''objective, content- and view-point neutral and exhaustive standards'' in allocating funds to student organizations, which are extraordinarily varied. This could create a regulatory quagmire.

Under Title II's enforcement provisions, failure to comply with even minor reporting or disclosure requirements could result in loss of Title IV funding for an entire award year and often significantly longer. Penalizing students with a loss of financial aid does nothing to further the goals of this legislation and is disproportional to the underlying violation. While the bill exempts private institutions from some of its most onerous requirements, the legislation would nonetheless create a dangerous precedent that encourages further governmental intrusions into matters of academic freedom and institutional autonomy, which would undoubtedly have a chilling effect on private institutions as well.

In addition to the needlessly harsh penalty of loss of Title IV aid, the legislation would also spawn costly and time-consuming litigation by creating a new federal cause of action allowing individuals to sue a public institution for damages for any violation of Title II's requirements. Adding this new cause of action on top of existing legal remedies is unnecessary, duplicative, and would harmfully drain institutional resources away from efforts to protect students and campus free speech. Further, the bill would take the unprecedented and troubling step of waiving a public institution's sovereign immunity rights under the 11th Amendment based on its receipt of Title IV funding.

Given the recent focus of the Education and the Workforce Committee and other House Committees on incidents of antisemitism and the need for campuses to provide safe, discrimination-free environments for all students, we are mystified by Title II's inclusion of provisions that would tie the hands of campus administrators to address these issues, likely making campuses less safe. For example, the bill would mandate that any publicly accessible area of the campus be designated as a ''public forum,'' open to anyone—even if they are not a student, staff, or faculty member—making it more difficult for institutions to secure their campuses against outside agitators like the kind seen in some recent protests over the Israel-Hamas war. Further, Title II would prohibit institutions from factoring in potential student and public reactions when determining security fees for events, limiting their ability to safely manage controversial speakers and events which necessarily entail far greater security costs.

Rather than respecting the First Amendment and what has been done to apply its principles across a wide range of higher education institutions, the provisions in Title II of H.R. 3724 would undermine campus efforts to foster free speech and ensure student safety. We are particularly concerned with the impact this legislation would have on campuses' ability to prevent discrimination and hateful incidents at a time of widespread national tension. We urge the House to remove Title II from H.R. 3724, the End Woke Higher Education Act, or vote against the broader bill if it reaches the floor with Title II included.

Sincerely,

TED MITCHELL,
President.

On behalf of:
American Association of Community Colleges,
American Association of State Colleges and Universities,
American Council on Education,
Association of American Universities,
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities,
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS), the bill's sponsor.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairwoman FOXX for her remarkable vision and leadership.

Mr. Chair, I will speak to the ACE Act, which is a part of the End Woke Higher Education Act.

Our Nation's education system is built on the fundamental values of free speech, freedom of religion, and the guaranteed rights of hearty and healthy debates. These core principles are so inherent to America that we often take them for granted. We, over time, assume that these freedoms will always be safe, without any effort on our part to protect them. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

A glance at our university system reveals a troubling trend: Ideological conformity and intolerance when not compliant is undermining academic freedom.

There is a systemic acceptance of a new litmus test in the accreditation world. Institutions of higher learning are facing immense pressure from accreditors to conform to the anti-American Marxist doctrine of DEI and critical race theory or risk losing access to Federal funding. This is not the education our Founders envisioned in their quest for America to continue to be a more perfect Union.

My dad was a college professor for 40 years at Florida A&M. Being raised in Tallahassee, Florida, in the shadows of FAMU and Florida State, I remember distinctly the era when our Nation's colleges and universities prided themselves on merit and competition. It was in that era within the classrooms that value of free speech, free exchange of ideas, and high standards were proudly taught.

Fast-forward to 2024, and throughout our Nation, religious institutions and conservative colleges that seek to teach their own values, the same values that students are signing up for and paying for, risk losing Federal funding by doing this process, by teaching this process.

The ACE Act brings this attack on the foundation of our American culture to an end. It allows every educational institution in our country to return to its original mission, which is to educate students in the American tradition of free and open debate, to allow for the training of critical thinking skills, and to prepare them to enter and succeed in America's innovative and diverse workforce.

The ACE Act reinforces the autonomy of every school to develop their own curriculums and policies without undue pressure to conform to the Marxist agenda pushed by politicized accrediting bodies. Most importantly, this upholds our constitutional right of free speech, which is fundamental to preserving the legacy of freedom for all future generations.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in defending the basic American rights afforded to us by the Constitution and support the ACE Act, H.R. 3724.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the so-called End Woke Higher Education Act.

There is a lot we could be doing in Congress to improve higher education, and this is not it. This bill combines two extreme bills into one, attacking intellectual freedom and diversity on college campuses while fanning the flames of culture war rhetoric to score political points.

This so-called End Woke Higher Education Act would allow institutions of higher education to eliminate policies and programs that protect students and staff from discrimination because of who they are, where they come from, what they believe, or who they love.

By forbidding accreditors from considering diversity and inclusion efforts and allowing schools to require all applicants and employees to abide by a

statement of faith, colleges and universities would be free to remove curricula that highlight the historical experience of marginalized groups. They could reject students from attending federally funded institutions based on the student's religious beliefs.

Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia on college campuses is a pervasive problem, yet this bill would open the door for more schools to discriminate against Jewish or Muslim students solely because of their faith.

Is it woke to believe that Jewish and Muslim students should be able to attend the schools they choose and join the clubs that fit their interests? Is it woke to ask schools not to subsidize speakers that make certain groups of students feel unsafe on campus?

Though it is not typical to have a term in a bill that is undefined, there is no definition of ''woke'' in this bill. What is it? Do they believe it when they see it, or do they define it when they want to?

Instead of limiting access to inclusive, accurate curricula, we should be focused on vigorous enforcement of our civil rights laws that protect all students and provide equal opportunities.

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 increase funding for the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Education. That is important because the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, OCR, enforces a number of civil rights laws that apply to colleges and universities receiving Federal funding. The Office for Civil Rights has the crucial responsibility to uphold and enforce core nondiscrimination statutes that protect students on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and age.

Despite the massive increase in complaints received over the past several years, this office has only half the staff it had when it was established 45 years ago. In fact, House Republicans on the Appropriations Committee recently proposed a $10 million cut to the Office for Civil Rights. That is right. They proposed a $10 million cut to the Office for Civil Rights.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, if they are seriously concerned about religious discrimination on college campuses, why diminish the Federal enforcement agency's power to prevent cases of discrimination and, importantly, take enforcement action when these cases occur?

□ 1245

Federal anti-discrimination laws are critical tools, especially in today's political climate, to protect the civil rights of all students.

I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit and opposing H.R. 3724 because we don't need the End Woke Higher Education Act.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD the text of my amendment.

Ms. Bonamici of Oregon moves to recommit the bill H.R. 3724 to the Committee on Education and the Workforce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. ___. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education $280,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the End Woke Higher Education Act, a bill that will refocus college accreditation on academic excellence—there is a concept—and correct the First Amendment rights of college students.

The Federal Government pays billions in hardworking taxpayer dollars each year to colleges and universities assuming that accredited schools are preparing students to think academically and to earn a good job after graduation. It is increasingly clear that many students aren't prepared for life after college.

Today, $1.6 trillion of taxpayer dollars are missing from the Treasury because graduates aren't paying back their student loans.

Of course, Democrats think that is wonderful because they think it is the government's job to provide free college education for everyone.

Sadly, many college students leave their university with little to show for it besides crushing debt, bleak job prospects in the Biden-Harris economy, and too often, liberal brainwashing from what they were taught.

Students are suffering under the misguided priorities of our institutions, and accreditors are contributing to the problem.

Instead of working with colleges to ensure that academic progress will lead to student success, accreditors are determined to impose their diversity, equity, and inclusion standards on institutions.

This bill simply prohibits accreditors from forcing colleges to adopt DEI standards in order to receive accreditation.

In addition, this bill protects the fundamental rights of free speech and free association on college campuses.

That means religious clubs on college campuses can have the same access to resources that are available to any other student group.

Unfortunately, here in 2024, it is still common for faith-based organizations to be discriminated against on college campuses, which makes this legislation necessary and important.

Restricting First Amendment rights and empowering divisive ideology on our college campuses is not serving our students well. This legislation will help stop those harmful practices.

I thank my friend, Mr. OWENS, for leading on this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, we received a letter from the Association of Public & Land Grant Universities, which says, in part, the bill's ''purported solutions would radically undermine First Amendment jurisprudence, threatening the ability of public universities to ensure State property can be used for its intended educational purposes, and represents an astonishing level of Federal intrusion in matters traditionally respected as the purview of States and State entities.''

We received another letter from the ACLU, which says, in part, ''H.R. 3724 purportedly prohibits: partisan, political, ideological, social, cultural, or political viewpoints and beliefs; the disparate treatment of any individual or group of individuals on the basis of any protected class under Federal civil rights law; and violation of any right protected by the U.S. Constitution. In reality, H.R. 3724 would encourage these unlawful actions by permitting postsecondary institutions to eliminate curricula that covers historical contributions and lived experiences of some racial and ethnic groups while continuing such curriculum of other groups.''

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD letters from the Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities and the American Civil Liberties Union.

ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC & LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES,
Washington, DC, September 16, 2024.

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

Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON AND MINORITY LEADER JEFFRIES: As president of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), a membership association of more than 230 public research universities and systems, I write to express APLU's strong opposition to Title II of H.R. 3724, the ''End Woke Higher Education Act,'' which is expected to be considered on the House Floor this week. Title II contains the text of the Respecting the First Amendment on Campus Act, provisions of which are predominantly aimed at state entities given the application of the First Amendment to public institutions.

While APLU appreciates goals of the legislation to ensure public colleges and universities are upholding their obligations under the First Amendment and fostering learning environments in which students are exposed to a variety of perspectives, its purported solutions would radically undermine First Amendment jurisprudence, threatening the ability of public universities to ensure state property can be used for its intended educational purposes, and represents an astonishing level of federal intrusion in matters

traditionally respected as the purview of states and state entities.

Further, the timing of the legislation is particularly perplexing given the enormous challenges public universities faced in the spring and continue to face as targets from outside organizations seeking to sow campus unrest to generate global attention. The legislation would be a major boon to such organizations by making it substantially more difficult for public universities to preserve its property for intended educational uses while protecting the rights of the vast majority of campus communities simply seeking to receive an education, further scientific advancement, and fully enjoy the enriching experiences afforded on public university campuses. The legislation would also raise the need for institutions to direct substantial resources to administration rather than in support of students, including exposing state institutions to new threats from unscrupulous lawyers seeking paydays from state coffers through the legislation's waiver of state sovereign immunity and creation of new private rights of action.

The First Amendment combined with case law provides deep protections for free speech and association on campuses of public universities, while enabling institutions to put in place reasonable, viewpoint neutral restrictions to protect public safety and speakers while enabling their higher education mission. While some aspects of the legislation related to designated public forums reinforce precedent within some circuits, not all circuit courts have adopted such standards. As such, the bill would treat all public university outdoor property as if it was traditional public fora like a town square or the quintessential public university ''quad.'' However, public institutions own and maintain an incredible diversity of property including hospitals, bus stations, agricultural field stations, athletics fields, sewage plants, parking lots, residence halls, forests, nature preserves, museums, etc. We find it highly unusual that Congress would insert itself into the designation of state property in ways it would likely never consider for other non-federal public lands.

APLU is also concerned with the manner in which the legislation will drive up legal expenses of institutions, diverting resources that could otherwise be devoted in furtherance of public universities' education, research, and community engagement missions. For example, creating new private rights of action and conditioning participation in Title IV federal student aid programs on waiving state sovereign immunity are deeply concerning. Additionally, the legislation contains incredibly harsh penalties of loss of Title IV eligibility for what could be unintentional infractions due to ambiguities with the bill's extremely prescriptive standards. APLU questions the need for such penalties, waivers of sovereign immunity, and creation of private rights of action as the First Amendment provides adequate protections for free speech on campus and judicial remedies for institutional noncompliance.

As public institutions, campuses have obligations to ensure students and campus communities more broadly have exposure to an array of speakers and events that further an educational mission, including the arts and sciences. Public universities receive countless requests for use of their facilities, including from outside organizations, speakers, and candidates for public office. As part of allowing public university campus property to be used by outside organizations, institutions must assess fees to recover costs, including security fees. The legislation would preclude an institution from taking into consideration ''an anticipated reaction by students or the public'' as part of determining a security fee. This provision is particularly dangerous. Public universities can reasonably anticipate a greater security need in hosting a controversial public figure or provocative fringe organization than say a mundane scientific conference of physicians. With this provision and especially combined with provisions creating new legal exposures, public universities would be faced with an impossible choice of providing inadequate security creating threats to public safety or having events bankrupt public university budgets. As like other provisions of the legislation, this would make public university campuses even greater targets of outside provocateurs who under the bill can pass along the financial costs of their events to state taxpayers.

Lastly, APLU is concerned by numerous provisions of the legislation that micromanage state university policies at the federal level, needlessly overriding the judgments of states and institutional leaders. For example, prescriptive standards in the legislation regarding governance of student organization policies override the discretion of campus administrators who are best positioned to know the needs of their communities.

APLU urges members of Congress to oppose the legislation and instead work with the public university community on legislation that better addresses policymaker concerns without such deeply troublesome unintended consequences. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

MARK BECKER,
President, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

Re Vote ''NO'' on H.R. 3724, the Accreditation for College Excellence Act of 2023; Vote ''NO'' on H.R. 7683, the Respecting the First Amendment on Campus Act; Vote ''NO'' on H.R. 4790, the Guiding Uniform and Responsible Disclosure Requirements and Information Limits Act of 2023; Vote ''NO'' on H.R. 5339, the Roll back ESG to Increase Retirement Earnings Act

ACLU, NATIONAL POLITICAL ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, DC, September 18 2024.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The American Civil Liberties Union strongly urges you to vote ''NO'' on H.R. 3724, the Accreditation for College Excellence Act of 2023; H.R. 7683, the Respecting the First Amendment on Campus Act; H.R. 4790, the Guiding Uniform and Responsible Disclosure Requirements and Information Limits Act of 2023; and H.R. 5339, the Roll back ESG to Increase Retirement Earnings Act. These bills collectively and individually aim to undermine and dismantle policies and programs that both ensure compliance with non-discrimination laws and create welcoming and inclusive environments for students or employees. The ACLU will score these votes.

H.R. 3724, ACCREDITATION FOR COLLEGE EXCELLENCE ACT OF 2023

H.R. 3724 would prohibit accrediting agencies from requiring or encouraging public higher education institutions to consider inclusion and diversity efforts when assessing curricula and campus climates for students, faculty, and staff. Current accreditation standards concerning inclusion and diversity further non-discrimination and equal opportunity policies; foster diversity within curricula, the student body, and faculty; create a welcoming climate of respect and inclusiveness; encourage civic engagement; and measure achievement gaps between students. These programs and policies adopted by colleges and universities impact a vast population of students and staff, including women of all races and ethnicities, racial and religious minorities, veterans, people with disabilities, persons from low socioeconomic backgrounds, those who live in rural or urban geographic locations, and immigrants.

The bill would also permit educational institutions that are controlled by religious organizations to require applicants, students, employees, and independent contractors to provide or adhere to a statement of faith; adhere to a code of conduct consistent with one religious mission or certain religious tenets; and swear to a loyalty oath to vaguely ''uphold the U.S. Constitution.''

H.R. 3724 purportedly prohibits: (1) partisan, political, ideological, social, cultural, or political viewpoints and beliefs; (2) the disparate treatment of any individual or group of individuals on the basis of any protected class under Federal civil rights law; and (3) violation of any right protected by the U.S. Constitution. But, in reality, H.R. 3724 would encourage these unlawful actions by permitting post-secondary institutions to eliminate curricula that covers the historical contributions and lived experiences of some racial and ethnic groups, while continuing such curricula for other groups. In addition, H.R. 3724 would permit institutions to dismantle programs and policies that ensure compliance with non-discrimination protections for students, faculty, and staff; exclude students who practice certain religions from federally funded institutions; and mandate unconstitutionally vague loyalty oaths. The ACLU strongly urges you to vote ''NO'' on H.R. 3724.

H.R. 7683, THE RESPECTING THE FIRST AMENDMENT ON CAMPUS ACT

H.R. 7683 would wrongly prohibit consideration of lawful statements used to assess prospective applicants and faculty on their experiences, actions, and planned contributions. These prohibitions would undermine universities' efforts to consider the lived experiences of applicants and develop a well-rounded study body and faculty. For example, H.R. 7683 would preclude a public higher education institution from requiring, requesting, or considering a statement from a student applicant explaining how a social construct, such as race, ethnicity, gender roles or identity, socioeconomic status, religion, or nationality, has impacted their life or their ability to contribute to the institution.

However, this very type of statement was explicitly upheld by the Supreme Court. In Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College, the Supreme Court noted that higher education institutions may consider ''an applicant's discussion of how race affected the applicant's life, so long as that discussion is concretely tied to a quality of character or unique ability that the particular applicant can contribute'' to the institution.

In addition, this bill prohibits public higher education institutions from requiring, requesting, or considering a statement from a prospective or current faculty member explaining how their teaching, research or service has or would promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within the institution. Yet, such statements are clearly relevant to a faculty member's professional experiences and scholarship, and therefore it is understandable and appropriate to ask about them. Ultimately, the ''political litmus tests'' defined in this legislation will serve only to reduce diversity amongst students and faculty and would not protect speech. The ACLU strongly urges you to vote ''NO'' on H.R. 7683.

H.R. 4790, GUIDING UNIFORM AND RESPONSIBLE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION LIMITS ACT OF 2023 AND H.R. 5339, ROLL BACK ESG TO INCREASE RETIREMENT EARNINGS ACT

H.R. 4790 and H.R. 5339 aim to prohibit investors, including financial services companies investing pension and other retirement funds, from making investment decisions based on a company's commitment to environmental protections, public health and labor safety standards for the community at large, the social impact of diversity and inclusivity, and the general governance of organizations including shareholder rights. Not only do these bills disregard the desires and concerns of workers and investors across the country for nondiscriminatory and supportive workplaces, but they would have the perverse effect of disallowing the consideration of workplace diversity and environmental factors that contribute to the financial success of a business. Furthermore, a series of amendments offered by minority members of the Financial Services Committee that would have protected the will and economic interests of investors in investing in businesses that succeed by valuing and protecting their employees were all rejected. The ACLU strongly urges you to vote ''NO'' on H.R. 4790 and H.R. 5339.

The ACLU greatly appreciates your attention to this request, as we ask you to protect nondiscriminatory, inclusive and supportive workplaces and classrooms by voting ''NO'' on final passage of H.R. 3724, H.R. 7683, H.R. 4790, and H.R. 5339.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER ANDERS,
Director, Democracy & Technology.
KIMBERLY CONWAY,
Senior Policy Counsel.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY).

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Chair, one of the most important things that has happened in this Congress is the exposure of the alarming state of affairs at American universities.

Our institutions of higher learning have been gripped by retrograde prejudices and abhorrent ideologies that are in many ways abandoning the values of the enlightenment itself.

Fortunately, we are finally seeing accountability and a new course. Following testimony before the Education and the Workforce Committee that highlighted the true state of affairs on their campus, the presidents of several leading universities have resigned, including the presidents of Harvard, Penn, Columbia, and Rutgers.

What is more, several of these universities are reversing misguided policies like forced faculty diversity statements and are renewing their commitment to institutional neutrality.

Even the entire California public university system, the UCs and the CSUs, recently came out and said they are going to ban these disgraceful tent encampments that have produced chaos on their campuses.

This is a moment of reckoning for American higher education. A very important part of that is restoring the place of free speech on campus, which is why I am very happy that included in today's bill, H.R. 3724, is a measure that I introduced, the Free Speech on Campus Act.

This measure seeks to assure that free speech is not only protected as a legal right but is restored as a foundational principle in American higher education.

Now, my colleague on the other side of the aisle from New York stressed the importance of bipartisanship in these matters, and I could not agree more.

As a matter of fact, I developed this measure alongside one of the leading liberal scholars in California, the dean of UC Berkeley, Erwin Chemerinsky, someone who I don't agree with on much, but we were able to come together on a principle that transcends political differences.

The best way to resolve differences, to learn to find common ground, is the free and open exchange of ideas.

Unfortunately, many universities have lost sight of this and have become the most repressive institutions in American life.

They have stifled disfavored viewpoints and created an environment where students are afraid to speak their mind and participate in the marketplace of ideas.

We have seen universities adopt unconstitutional speech codes or designate only certain areas on campus as open to speech or allow a heckler's veto to shut down speakers or force faculty members to espouse certain points of view in order to get hired or built up entire bureaucracies devoted to censorship.

All the more pervasively, this last year, the very same universities allowed the banner of free speech to then falsely be used to justify not speech but illegal actions such as building tent encampments, occupying buildings, or setting up checkpoints to exclude students based on their identity.

As one example, Harvard University, which became the poster child for abhorrent, horrifying anti-Semitism on campus, was also ranked as the university with the worst protections for free speech. In fact, they got the worst ranking in the history of the survey.

These two things are not unrelated, by the way, because the biggest threat to hate, ignorance, and prejudice is reasoned argument.

Institutions that systematically shut down reasoned argument and debate allow retrograde ideas to flourish because they don't have the needed opposition.

This bill seeks to reverse this troubling trend and to restore First Amendment freedoms at the place where they are most vital, our institutions of higher learning.

My legislation ensures that our universities inform students of their First Amendment rights as soon as they step on campus.

As a condition of receiving Federal funds, universities will be required to provide new students with a written statement at orientation.

It will outline their First Amendment rights, affirm the institution's commitment to free expression, and guarantee that neither students nor invited speakers will have those rights violated.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from California.

Mr. KILEY. Too often, students arrive on campus without an understanding of why free speech is important or how it has been such an important force for progress throughout our Nation's history.

This legislation will make sure the First Amendment itself is a key part of their college education so they grasp its vital role in safeguarding freedom and democracy.

Mr. Chair, we may often disagree, sometimes fiercely, on a range of ideas, but we should all be able to agree on the importance of ideas themselves.

I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this legislation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, we received another letter from the Association of American Universities which says, in part, ''On behalf of America's leading research universities, I urge you to oppose H.R. 3724, the End Woke Higher Education Act. Title II ('Respecting the First Amendment on Campus') of this misguided legislation would dangerously undermine public universities' ability to implement crucial time, place, and manner policies for campus expression, jeopardizing their ability to protect student safety—particularly for vulnerable groups such as Jewish students—and disrupting the educational environment.''

Mr. Chairman, I include in the RECORD a letter from the Association of American Universities.

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES,
Washington, DC, September 16, 2024.

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

Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
House Minority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON AND MINORITY LEADER JEFFRIES: On behalf of America's leading research universities, I urge you to oppose H.R. 3724, the ''End Woke Higher Education Act.'' Title II (''Respecting the First Amendment on Campus'') of this misguided legislation would dangerously undermine public universities' ability to implement crucial time, place, and manner policies for campus expression, jeopardizing their ability to protect student safety—particularly for vulnerable groups such as Jewish students—and disrupting the educational environment.

It is puzzling that, at a time when the House has been focused on what colleges and universities are doing to protect students from hateful, intimidating, or harassing actions which impede an atmosphere conducive to effective learning, this legislation would actually remove critical tools that campuses use to protect students and reduce the likelihood of such outcomes.

Time, place, and manner policies are not abstract concepts; they are vital tools that have been repeatedly upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court for use by federal, state, and local governments, as well as university campuses. These content-neutral regulations govern when, where, and how speech activities occur on campus, balancing free expression with safety and educational needs. For example:

Time restrictions limit noisy demonstrations during class hours

Place restrictions designate appropriate areas for large gatherings

Manner restrictions regulate sound amplification use or require advance notice for major events

The U.S. Supreme Court has consistently recognized the constitutionality of these policies, holding that such restrictions are valid if they are content-neutral, narrowly tailored to serve a significant governmental interest, and leave open ample alternative channels for communication.

This Act seeks to broaden the requirements of that legal standard by simultaneously 1) reclassifying all generally accessible areas of campus at public institutions as traditional public forums and 2) weakening public universities' ability to regulate the time, place, and manner of campus protests by requiring them to allow a right of no-notice spontaneous assembly to any member of the public who wants to protest. The Act would also allow demonstrators a right to physically approach students on campus to distribute literature.

These added requirements will jeopardize this established legal framework within which universities consider a variety of factors, including free expression, campus safety, disruption of educational mission, and protection of students from the type of discrimination and harassment that creates an environment that impedes their ability to participate in their education.

By changing the requirements these policies, the Act would:

Endanger Jewish students and other vulnerable groups: Without the ability to manage the location and timing of demonstrations, colleges would struggle to prevent hostile groups from gathering near religious or cultural centers, potentially subjecting students to harassment or intimidation.

Disrupt the learning environment: Unrestricted protests could interfere with classes, exams, or even important events like Holocaust remembrance ceremonies, impeding the core educational mission of universities.

Create logistical nightmares: Colleges would be unable to effectively allocate resources for security or manage competing demands for limited campus spaces, potentially leading to chaos and increased safety risks.

Conflict with other legal obligations: The Act could make it nearly impossible for colleges to meet their responsibilities under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to protect students from discrimination while still allowing free expression.

Instead of this deeply flawed legislation, AAU strongly urges Congress to:

Protect colleges' ability to implement reasonable, content-neutral time, place, and manner restrictions as already established by judicial precedent.

Support initiatives that balance free expression with campus safety.

Encourage collaborative policy-making involving administrators, students, and faculty to address each campus's unique needs.

While the provisions relating to campus speech are our primary focus, AAU has additional concerns with other provisions in the Act relating to security fees and single-sex associations, some of which affect both public and private universities.

Despite its ''Respecting the First Amendment'' name, Title II of this legislation would not enhance free speech. Instead, it would create a potentially dangerous environment that could silence vulnerable voices and undermine the very purpose of higher education. I implore you to stand against this misguided legislation and protect the delicate balance of rights and responsibilities that our universities currently navigate.

Sincerely,

BARBARA R. SNYDER,
President.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, it is astounding to me that associations of higher education in this country are opposing this bill, absolutely astounding. That should send a message to the American people about what the status of higher education is right now.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY).

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 3724, the End Woke Higher Education Act.

As a former member of a board of trustees in a college, I am deeply concerned about the erosion of free speech on college campuses and political activism by administrators and college presidents as well as professors.

Institutions of higher education are chartered to foster academic excellence and prepare students for meaningful careers. Instead, they have become incubators of political activism and extreme progressive ideology.

One only has to look at recent FIRE reports and recent FIRE ratings to see the meteoric rise in self-censorship, which is happening on college campuses.

In one school, which I love dearly, 41 percent of students feel it is okay to shout down somebody who is coming to speak just because they disagree with them.

In some cases, even the most prestigious universities in our Nation have descended into hotbeds of anti-American and anti-Semitic hatred. We saw an American flag burned at Columbia University.

Thankfully, we have now seen several university presidents resign because of the ideological push that they are having on their campuses.

I believe that this is a symptom of extreme ideological influence that universities have allowed, permitted, and promoted to permeate its classrooms. They teach what to think, not how to think.

Sadly, this indoctrination is now going into the Nation's medical schools where we see this in the admissions process, fealty oaths, curriculum, promotion of faculty, and teaching what to think, not how to think.

I am proud that my bills, H. Res. 282, as well as the Campus Free Speech Restoration Act, were included in this legislation.

Academic freedom is central to vigorous debate and the exploration of ideas. Academic freedom means listening to more than one side. We must celebrate differences in thought, not censorship with those we disagree with.

Let's restore sanity on our college campuses across the country by seizing this opportunity to protect academic freedom.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3724, the End Woke Higher Education Act.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I received another letter from the American Federation of Teachers which says, in part, ''Academic freedom and the right to peacefully protest on our college campuses are hallmarks of a functioning democracy and a thriving economy. Unfortunately, the bill before you today does not respect the vital and dynamic role that higher education plays in promoting knowledge, pluralism, and democracy. The bill would limit the ability of campuses to stand up against hate and bigotry, which runs counter to the very core of higher education's fundamental purpose.''

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

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

Mr. Chair, we have groups that are supporting this bill, strong support. Over the years, we have worked with experts in the field to craft these policies.

Let me read just some of the praise. The James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal states: This legislation is an essential step in restoring the fundamental purpose of higher education to foster free inquiry and equip students to think critically and independently.

Too many institutions have prioritized ideological conformity over academic excellence. Accreditation bodies and universities have increasingly promoted DEI initiatives that risk undermining intellectual diversity and free expression.

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I won't read all of these, but Young America's Foundation has given strong support, as has the Defense of Freedom Institute. The American Council of Trustees and Alumni stated: ''The respecting the First Amendment on Campus Act is a step in the right direction toward protecting freedom of speech, association, and religion on college and university campuses across the country.''

''. . . Congress is listening to major public concerns as the battle for the soul of American education continues to play out in the form of hegemonic diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, the heckler's veto, disinvitations, and deplatforming.''

In addition, we have the National Panhellenic Conference, the North American Interfraternity Conference, the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, the Defense of Freedom Institute, Foundation for Individual Rights

and Expression, and Young America's Foundation supporting this bill.

Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to the time remaining?

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. BOST). The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 6½ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, could you advise how much time remains on this side?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Chairman, we also received a letter from the Americans United for Separation of Church and State and Interfaith Alliance that says, in part, that ''we oppose the provision on 'political litmus tests' in accreditation, because it is unnecessary and unwise.

''The provision seems aimed, in part, to allow religious colleges to ignore accreditation standards and still maintain accreditation. Current law and regulations, though, already require accreditors to give significant deference to religious schools.''

''This bill seeks to go further, though, by requiring accrediting agencies to permit religious schools to discriminate against all students and employees. The bill would allow religious schools to require adherence to a statement of faith or religious code of conduct, which could be written so broadly as to allow religious schools to discriminate against people because of sex, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Every single student, employee, and contractor, including janitors, IT administrators, nurses, and more, could face discrimination—and for students, perhaps even on the basis of their parents' relationship or frequency of church attendance.

''Moreover, this goes beyond what title VII allows religious colleges to do in employment. Religious employers may favor religion—and only religion—in their employment practices. Title VII 'does not confer upon religious organizations a license to make those [employment] decisions' on the basis of race, national origin, or sex. Decades of case law makes clear that religious employers do not get a license to discriminate on other grounds, even when such discrimination is motivated by religion or carried out under a 'code of conduct.' ''

Mr. Chairman, what we have heard today from the other side are attempts to micromanage and insert themselves into the colleges and universities under the thin guise of protecting students.

In reality, this bill is one of many culture war bills that would strip America's educational institutions of their freedoms to explore the subjects that make up a comprehensive and rigorous academic experience.

For a coalition that claims to support limited government, they are using valuable title IV funds as a weapon to beat colleges and universities into submission. This stops us from having the necessary discussions on difficult issues about race, gender, and inequity that would help us improve our higher education system.

Mr. Chairman, for these reasons, we must reject the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Chair, I indicate to my friends and colleagues that we have an opportunity in the bill before us today to make a strong stand for free speech.

This bill does not mandate any political viewpoint or ideology. It simply demands, from the accreditation process down to the classroom, that all levels of postsecondary education respect the free speech rights of students.

Postsecondary education should empower students to discover truth and think critically. American universities risk losing sight of this core mission by refusing to engage with certain viewpoints.

The End Woke Higher Education Act will restore the essential freedoms that make our universities the global leaders of open debate and intellectual growth, ensuring that the next generation of Americans can think for themselves and engage in the pursuit of truth.

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

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute, consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118–49, shall be considered as adopted.

The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3724

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''End Woke Higher Education Act''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

TITLE I—ACCREDITATION FOR COLLEGE EXCELLENCE

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Accreditation for College Excellence Act of 2024''.

SEC. 102. PROHIBITION ON POLITICAL LITMUS TESTS IN ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(a) OPERATING PROCEDURES REQUIRED.—Section 496(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1099b(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (8);

(2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(10) confirms that the standards for accreditation of the agency or association do not—

''(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B)—

''(i) require, encourage, or coerce any institution to—

''(I) support, oppose, or commit to supporting or opposing—

''(aa) a specific partisan, political, or ideological viewpoint or belief or set of such viewpoints or beliefs; or

''(bb) a a specific viewpoint or belief or set of viewpoints or beliefs on social, cultural, or political issues; or

''(II) support or commit to supporting the disparate treatment of any individual or group of individuals on the basis of any protected class under Federal civil rights law, except as required by Federal law or a court order; or

''(ii) assess an institution's or program of study's commitment to any ideology, belief, or viewpoint;

''(B) prohibit an institution—

''(i) from having a religious mission, operating as a religious institution, or being controlled by a religious organization (in a manner described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), or (6) of section 106.12(c) of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this paragraph)), or from requiring an applicant, student, employee, or independent contractor (such as an adjunct professor) of such an institution to—

''(I) provide or adhere to a statement of faith; or

''(II) adhere to a code of conduct consistent with the stated religious mission of such institution or the religious tenets of such organization; or

''(ii) from requiring an applicant, student, employee, or contractor to take an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States; or

''(C) require, encourage, or coerce an institution of higher education to violate any right protected by the Constitution.''.

(b) LIMITATION ON SCOPE OF CRITERIA.—Section 496(g) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1099b(g)) is amended to read as follows:

''(g) LIMITATION ON SCOPE OF CRITERIA.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not establish criteria for accrediting agencies or associations that are not required by this section.

''(2) INSTITUTIONAL ELIGIBILITY.—An institution of higher education shall be eligible for participation in programs under this title if the institution is in compliance with the standards of its accrediting agency or association that assess the institution in accordance with subsection (a)(5), regardless of any additional standards adopted by the agency or association for purposes unrelated to participation in programs under this title.''.

SEC. 103. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this title prevents religious accreditors from holding and enforcing religious standards on institutions they choose to accredit.

TITLE II—RESPECTING THE FIRST AMENDMENT ON CAMPUS

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Respecting the First Amendment on Campus Act''.

SEC. 202. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 112 the following new section:

''SEC. 112A. SENSE OF CONGRESS; CONSTRUCTION; DEFINITION.

''(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—

''(1) ADOPTION OF CHICAGO PRINCIPLES.—The Congress—

''(A) recognizes that free expression, open inquiry, and the honest exchange of ideas are fundamental to higher education;

''(B) acknowledges the profound contribution of the Chicago Principles to the freedom of speech and expression; and

''(C) calls on nonsectarian institutions of higher education to adopt the Chicago Principles or substantially similar principles with respect to institutional mission that emphasizes a commitment to freedom of speech and expression on university campuses and to develop and consistently implement policies accordingly.

''(2) POLITICAL LITMUS TESTS.—The Congress—

''(A) condemns public institutions of higher education for conditioning admission to any student applicant, or the hiring, reappointment, or promotion of any faculty member, on the applicant or faculty member pledging allegiance to or making a statement of personal support for or opposition to any political ideology or movement, including a pledge or statement regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion, or related topics; and

''(B) discourages any institution from requesting or requiring any such pledge or statement from an applicant or faculty member, as such actions are antithetical to the freedom of speech protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution.

''(b) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in sections 112B through 112E shall be construed to infringe upon, or otherwise impact, the protections provided to individuals under titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.).

''(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of sections 112C, 112D, and 112E, the term 'covered public institution' means an institution of higher education that is—

''(1) a public institution; and

''(2) participating in a program authorized under title IV.''.

SEC. 203. DISCLOSURE OF FREE SPEECH POLICIES.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), as amended by section 202 of this title, is further amended by inserting after section 112A the following new section:

''SEC. 112B. DISCLOSURE OF POLICIES RELATED TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH, ASSOCIATION, AND RELIGION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—No institution of higher education shall be eligible to participate in any program under title IV unless the institution certifies to the Secretary that the institution has annually disclosed to current and prospective students and faculty—

''(1) any policies held by the institutions related to—

''(A) speech on campus, including policies limiting—

''(i) the time when such speech may occur;

''(ii) the place where such speech may occur; or

''(iii) the manner in which such speech may occur;

''(B) freedom of association, if applicable; and

''(C) freedom of religion, if applicable; and

''(2) the right to a cause of action under section 112E, if the institution is a public institution.

''(b) INTENDED BENEFICIARIES.—The certification specified in subsection (a) shall include an acknowledgment from the institution that the students and faculty are the intended beneficiaries of the policies disclosed in the certification.''.

SEC. 204. FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND RELIGION.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), as amended by section 203 of this title, is further amended by inserting after section 112B the following new section:

''SEC. 112C. FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND RELIGION.

''(a) STUDENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS TO FURTHER PROTECT SPEECH AND ASSOCIATION.—

''(1) PROTECTED RIGHTS.—A covered public institution shall comply with the following requirements:

''(A) RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS.—A covered public institution that has recognized student organizations shall comply with the following requirements:

''(i) FACULTY ADVISORS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—A covered public institution may not deny recognition to a student organization because the organization is unable to obtain a faculty advisor or sponsor, if the organization meets each of the other content- and viewpoint-neutral institutional requirements for such recognition.

''(II) ALTERNATIVE.—An institution described in subclause (I) shall ensure that any policy or practice related to the recognition of a student organization—

''(aa) in the case of an organization that meets each of the other content- and viewpoint-neutral institutional requirements for such recognition but is unable to obtain a faculty advisor or sponsor, provides for an alternative to any requirement that a faculty or staff member serve as the faculty advisor or sponsor as a condition for recognition of the student organization, which alternative may include—

''(AA) waiver of such requirement; or

''(BB) the institution assigning a faculty or staff member to such organization; and

''(bb) does not require a faculty or staff member of the institution assigned to serve as faculty advisor pursuant to item (aa)(BB) to participate in, or support, the organization other than by performing the purely administrative functions required of a faculty advisor.

''(ii) APPEAL OPTIONS FOR RECOGNITION.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—A covered public institution shall provide an appeals process by which a student organization that has been denied recognition by the institution may appeal to an institutional appellate entity for reconsideration.

''(II) REQUIREMENTS.—The appeal process shall—

''(aa) require the covered public institution to provide a written explanation for the basis for the denial of recognition in a timely manner, which shall include a copy of all policies relied upon by the institution as a basis for the denial;

''(bb) require the covered public institution to provide written notice to the students seeking recognition of the appeal process and the timeline for hearing and resolving the appeal;

''(cc) allow the students seeking recognition to obtain outside counsel to represent them during the appeal; and

''(dd) ensure that such appellate entity did not participate in any prior proceeding related to the denial of recognition to the student organization.

''(B) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS.—A covered public institution that collects a mandatory fee from students for the costs of student activities or events (or both), and provides funds generated from such student fees to one or more recognized student organizations of the institution, shall—

''(i) establish and make publicly available clear, objective, content- and viewpoint-neutral, and exhaustive standards to be used by the institution to determine—

''(I) the total amount of funds made available for allocations to the recognized student organizations; and

''(II) the allocations of such total amount to individual recognized student organizations;

''(ii) ensure that allocations are made to the recognized student organizations in accordance with the standards established pursuant to clause (i);

''(iii) upon the request of a recognized student organization that has been denied all or a portion of an allocation described in clause (ii), provide to the organization, in writing (which may include electronic communication) and in a timely manner, the specific reasons for such denial, copies of all policies relied upon by the institution as basis for the denial, and information of the appeals process described in clause (iv); and

''(iv) provide an appeals process by which a recognized student organization that has been denied all or a portion of an allocation described in clause (ii) may appeal to an institutional appellate entity for reconsideration, which appeals process—

''(I) shall require the covered public institution to provide written notice to the students seeking an allocation through the appeal process and the timeline for hearing and resolving the appeal;

''(II) allow the students seeking an allocation to obtain outside counsel to represent them during the appeal; and

''(III) require the institution to ensure that such appellate entity did not participate in any prior proceeding related to such allocation.

''(C) ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY FEES FOR EVENTS.—A covered public institution shall establish and make publicly available clear, objective, content- and viewpoint-neutral, and exhaustive standards to be used by the institution to—

''(i) determine the amount of any security fee for an event or activity organized by a student or student organization; and

''(ii) ensure that a determination of such an amount may not be based, in whole or in part, on—

''(I) the content of expression or viewpoint of the student or student organization;

''(II) the content of expression of the event or activity organized by the student or student organization;

''(III) the content of expression or viewpoint of an invited guest of the student or student organization; or

''(IV) an anticipated reaction by students or the public to the event.

''(D) PROTECTIONS FOR INVITED GUESTS AND SPEAKERS.—A covered public institution shall establish and make publicly available clear, objective, content- and viewpoint-neutral, and exhaustive standards to be used by the institution related to the safety and protection of speakers and guests who are invited to the institution by a student or student organization.

''(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATION.—The term 'recognized student organization' means a student organization that has been determined by a covered public institution to meet institutional requirements to qualify for certain privileges granted by the institution, such as use of institutional venues, resources, and funding.

''(B) SECURITY FEE.—The term 'security fee' means a fee charged to a student or student organization for an event or activity organized by the student or student organization on the campus of the institution that is intended to cover some or all of the costs incurred by the institution for additional security measures needed to ensure the security of the institution, students, faculty, staff, or surrounding community as a result of such event or activity.

''(b) EQUAL CAMPUS ACCESS.—A covered public institution shall not deny to a religious student organization any right, benefit, or privilege

that is otherwise afforded to other student organizations at the institution (including full access to the facilities of the institution and official recognition of the organization by the institution) because of the religious beliefs, practices, speech, leadership standards, or standards of conduct of the religious student organization.

''(c) FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION.—

''(1) UPHOLDING FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION PROTECTIONS.—Any student (or group of students) enrolled in an institution of higher education that receives funds under this Act, including through an institution's participation in any program under title IV, shall—

''(A) subject to paragraph (3)(A), be able to form a single-sex social organization, whether recognized by the institution or not; and

''(B) be able to apply to join any single-sex social organization; and

''(C) if selected for membership by any single-sex social organization, be able to join, and participate in, such single-sex organization, subject to its standards for regulating its own membership, as provided under paragraph (3)(C).

''(2) NONRETALIATION AGAINST STUDENTS OF SINGLE-SEX SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS.—An institution of higher education that receives funds under this Act, including through an institution's participation in any program under title IV, shall not—

''(A) take any action to require or coerce a student or prospective student who is a member or prospective member of a single-sex social organization to waive the protections provided under paragraph (1), including as a condition of enrolling in the institution;

''(B) take any adverse action against a single-sex social organization, or a student who is a member or a prospective member of a single-sex social organization, based on the membership practice of such organization limiting membership only to individuals of one sex; or

''(C) impose a recruitment restriction (including a recruitment restriction relating to the schedule for membership recruitment) on a single-sex social organization recognized by the institution, which is not imposed upon other student organizations by the institution, unless the organization (or a council of similar organizations) and the institution have entered into a mutually agreed upon written agreement that allows the institution to impose such restriction.

''(3) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall—

''(A) require an institution of higher education to officially recognize a single-sex social organization;

''(B) prohibit an institution of higher education from taking an adverse action against a student who organizes, leads, or joins a single-sex social organization—

''(i) due to academic or nonacademic misconduct; or

''(ii)(I) for public institutions, because the organization's purpose is directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action and likely to incite or produce such action; or

''(II) for private institutions, because the organization's purpose is incompatible with the religious mission of the institution, so long as that adverse action is not based on the membership practice of the organization of limiting membership only to individuals of one sex;

''(C) prevent a single-sex social organization from regulating its own membership;

''(D) inhibit the ability of the faculty of an institution of higher education to express an opinion (either individually or collectively) about membership in a single-sex social organization, or otherwise inhibit the academic freedom of such faculty to research, write, or publish material about membership in such an organization; or

''(E) create enforceable rights against a single-sex social organization or against an institution of higher education due to the decision of the organization to deny membership to an individual student.

''(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) ADVERSE ACTION.—The term 'adverse action' includes the following actions taken by an institution of higher education with respect to a single-sex social organization or a member or prospective member of a single-sex social organization:

''(i) Expulsion, suspension, probation, censure, condemnation, formal reprimand, or any other disciplinary action, coercive action, or sanction taken by an institution of higher education or administrative unit of such institution.

''(ii) An oral or written warning with respect to an action described in clause (i) made by an official of an institution of higher education acting in their official capacity.

''(iii) An action to deny participation in any education program or activity, including the withholding of any rights, privileges, or opportunities afforded other students on campus.

''(iv) An action to withhold, in whole or in part, any financial assistance (including scholarships and on-campus employment), or denying the opportunity to apply for financial assistance, a scholarship, a graduate fellowship, or on-campus employment.

''(v) An action to deny or restrict access to on-campus housing.

''(vi) An act to deny any certification, endorsement, or letter of recommendation that may be required by a student's current or future employer, a government agency, a licensing board, an institution of higher education, a scholarship program, or a graduate fellowship to which the student applies or seeks to apply.

''(vii) An action to deny participation in any sports team, club, or other student organization, including a denial of any leadership position in any sports team, club, or other student organization.

''(viii) An action to withdraw the institution's official recognition of such organization.

''(ix) An action to require any student to certify that such student is not a member of a single-sex social organization or to disclose the student's membership in a single-sex social organization.

''(x) An action to interject an institution's own criteria into the membership practices of the organization in any manner that conflicts with the rights of such organization under title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) or this subsection.

''(xi) An action to impose additional requirements on advisors serving a single-sex social organization that are not imposed on all other student organizations.

''(B) SINGLE-SEX SOCIAL ORGANIZATION.—The term 'single-sex social organization' means—

''(i) a social fraternity or sorority described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 which is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code, or an organization that has been historically single-sex, the active membership of which consists primarily of students or alumni of an institution of higher education; or

''(ii) a single-sex private social club (including an independent organization located off-campus) that consists primarily of students or alumni of an institution of higher education.

''(d) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit an institution of higher education from taking any adverse action (such as denying or revoking recognition, funding, use of institutional venues or resources, or other privileges granted by the institution) against a student organization based on the student organization having knowingly provided material support or resources to an organization designated as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).''.

SEC. 205. FREE SPEECH ON CAMPUS.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), as amended by section 204 of this title, is further amended by inserting after section 112C the following new section:

''SEC. 112D. FREE SPEECH ON CAMPUS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—A covered public institution shall—

''(1) at each orientation for new and transfer students, provide students attending the orientation—

''(A) a written statement that—

''(i) explains the rights of students under the First Amendment to the Constitution;

''(ii) affirms the importance of, and the commitment of the institution to, freedom of expression;

''(iii) explains students' protections under title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) and the procedures for filing a discrimination claim with the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education; and

''(iv) includes assurances that students, and individuals invited by students to speak at the institution, will not be treated in a manner that violates the freedom of expression of such students or individuals; and

''(B) educational programming (including online resources) that describes their free speech rights and responsibilities under the First Amendment to the Constitution; and

''(2) post on the publicly accessible website of the institution the statement described in paragraph (1)(A).

''(b) CAMPUS FREE SPEECH AND RESTORATION.—

''(1) DEFINITION OF EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITIES.—In this subsection, the term 'expressive activity'—

''(A) includes—

''(i) peacefully assembling, protesting, speaking, or listening;

''(ii) distributing literature;

''(iii) carrying a sign;

''(iv) circulating a petition; or

''(v) other expressive activities guaranteed under the First Amendment to the Constitution;

''(B) applies equally to religious expression as it does to nonreligious expression; and

''(C) does not include unprotected speech (as defined by the precedents of the Supreme Court of the United States).

''(2) EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITIES AT AN INSTITUTION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A covered public institution may not prohibit, subject to subparagraph (B), a person from freely engaging in noncommercial expressive activity in a generally accessible area on the institution's campus if the person's conduct is lawful. The publicly accessible outdoor areas of campuses of public institutions of higher education shall be regulated pursuant to rules applicable to traditional public forums.

''(B) RESTRICTIONS.—A covered public institution may not maintain or enforce time, place, or manner restrictions on an expressive activity in a generally accessible area of the institution's campus unless the restriction—

''(i) is narrowly tailored in furtherance of a significant governmental interest;

''(ii) is based on published, content-neutral, and viewpoint-neutral criteria;

''(iii) leaves open ample alternative channels for communication; and

''(iv) provides for spontaneous assembly and distribution of literature.

''(C) APPLICATION.—The protections provided under subparagraph (A) do not apply to expressive activity in an area on an institution's campus that is not a generally accessible area.

''(D) NONAPPLICATION TO SERVICE ACADEMIES.—This subsection shall not apply to an institution of higher education whose primary purpose is the education of individuals for the military services of the United States, or the merchant marine.

''(c) PROHIBITION ON USE OF POLITICAL TESTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A covered public institution may not consider, require, or discriminate on the basis of a political test in the admission, appointment, hiring, employment, or promotion of

any covered individual, or in the granting of tenure to any covered individual.

''(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed—

''(A) to prohibit an institution of higher education whose primary purpose is the education of individuals for the military services of the United States, or the merchant marine, from requiring an applicant, student, or employee to take an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States;

''(B) to prohibit an institution of higher education from requiring a student, faculty member, or employee to comply with Federal or State antidiscrimination laws or from taking action against a student, faculty member, or employee for violations of Federal or State anti-discrimination laws, as applicable;

''(C) to prohibit an institution of higher education from evaluating a prospective student, an employee, or a prospective employee based on their knowingly providing material support or resources to an organization designated as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189);

''(D) to prohibit an institution of higher education from considering the subject-matter competency including the research and creative works, of any candidate for a faculty position or faculty member considered for promotion when the subject matter is germane to their given field of scholarship; or

''(E) to apply to activities of registered student organizations.

''(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term 'covered individual' means, with respect to an institution of higher education that is a public institution—

''(i) a prospective student who has submitted an application to attend such institution;

''(ii) a student who attends such institution;

''(iii) a prospective employee who has submitted an application to work at such institution;

''(iv) an employee who works at such institution;

''(v) a prospective faculty member who has submitted an application to work at such institution; and

''(vi) a faculty member who works at such institution.

''(B) MATERIAL SUPPORT OR RESOURCES.—The term 'material support or resources' has the meaning given that term in section 2339A of title 18, United States Code (including the definitions of 'training' and 'expert advice or assistance' in that section).

''(C) POLITICAL TEST.—The term 'political test' means a method of compelling or soliciting an applicant for enrollment or employment, student, or employee of an institution of higher education to identify commitment to or make a statement of personal belief in support of any ideology or movement that—

''(i) supports or opposes a specific partisan or political set of beliefs;

''(ii) supports or opposes a particular viewpoint on a social or political issue; or

''(iii) promotes the disparate treatment of any individual or group of individuals on the basis of race, color, or national origin, including—

''(I) any initiative or formulation of diversity, equity, and inclusion beyond upholding existing Federal law; or

''(II) any theory or practice that holds that systems or institutions upholding existing Federal law are racist, oppressive, or otherwise unjust.''.

SEC. 206. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT.—Section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(30)(A) The institution will comply with all the requirements of sections 112B.

''(B) An institution that fails to comply with section 112B shall—

''(i) be ineligible to participate in the programs authorized by this title for a period of not less than 1 award year; and

''(ii) in order to regain eligibility to participate in such programs, demonstrate compliance with all requirements of such section for not less than one award year after the award year in which such institution became ineligible.''.

(b) CAUSE OF ACTION.—The Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), as amended by section 205 of this title, is further amended by inserting after section 112D the following new section:

''SEC. 112E. ENFORCEMENT.

''(a) CAUSE OF ACTION.—

''(1) CIVIL ACTION.—After exhaustion of any available appeals under section 112C(a), an aggrieved individual who, or an aggrieved organization that, is harmed by the maintenance of a policy or practice by a covered public institution that is in violation of a requirement described in section 112B, 112C, or 112D may bring a civil action in a Federal court for appropriate relief.

''(2) APPROPRIATE RELIEF.—For the purposes of this subsection, appropriate relief includes—

''(A) a temporary or permanent injunction; and

''(B) awarding a prevailing plaintiff—

''(i) compensatory damages;

''(ii) reasonable court costs; and

''(iii) reasonable attorney's fees.

''(3) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—A civil action under this subsection may not be commenced later than 2 years after the cause of action accrues. For purposes of calculating the two-year limitation period, each day that the violation of a requirement described in section 112B, 112C, or 112D persists, and each day that a policy in violation of a requirement described in section 112B, 112C, or 112D remains in effect, shall constitute a new day that the cause of action has accrued.

''(b) NONDEFAULT, FINAL JUDGMENT.—In the case of a court's nondefault, final judgment in a civil action brought under subsection (a) that a covered public institution is in violation of a requirement described in section 112B, 112C, or 112D, such covered public institution shall—

''(1) not later than 7 days after the date on which the court makes such a nondefault, final judgment, notify the Secretary of such judgment and submit to the Secretary a copy of the nondefault, final judgment; and

''(2) not later than 30 days after the date on which the court makes such a nondefault, final judgment, submit to the Secretary a report that—

''(A) certifies that the standard, policy, practice, or procedure that is in violation of the requirement described in section 112B, 112C, or 112D is no longer in use; and

''(B) provides evidence to support such certification.

''(c) REVOCATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—In the case of a covered public institution that does not notify the Secretary as required under subsection (b)(1) or submit the report required under subsection (b)(2), the Secretary shall revoke the eligibility of such institution to participate in a program authorized under title IV for each award year following the conclusion of the award year in which a court made a nondefault, final judgment in a civil action brought under subsection (a) that the institution is in violation of a requirement described in section 112B, 112C, or 112D.

''(d) RESTORATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A covered public institution that loses eligibility under subsection (c) to participate in a program authorized under title IV may seek to restore such eligibility by submitting to the Secretary the report described in subsection (b)(2).

''(2) DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.—Not later than 90 days after a covered public institution submits a report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall review such report and make a determination with respect to whether such report contained sufficient evidence to demonstrate that such institution is no longer in violation of a requirement described in section 112B, 112C, or 112D.

''(3) RESTORATION.—If the Secretary makes a determination under paragraph (2) that the covered public institution is no longer in violation of a requirement described in section 112B, 112C, or 112D, the Secretary shall restore the eligibility of such institution to participate in a program authorized under title IV for each award year following the conclusion of the award year in which such determination is made.

''(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and on an annual basis thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions a report that includes—

''(1) a compilation of—

''(A) the notifications of violation received by the Secretary under subsection (b)(1) in the year for which such report is being submitted; and

''(B) the reports submitted to the Secretary under subsection (b)(2) for such year; and

''(2) any action taken by the Secretary to revoke or restore eligibility under subsections (c) and (d) for such year.

''(f) VOLUNTARY WAIVER OF STATE AND LOCAL SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY AS CONDITION OF RECEIVING FEDERAL FUNDING.—The receipt, on or after the date of enactment of this section, of any Federal funding under title IV of this Act by a State or political subdivision of a State (including any municipal or county government) is deemed to constitute a clear and unequivocal expression of, and agreement to, waiving sovereign immunity under the 11th Amendment to the Constitution or otherwise, to a civil action for injunctive relief, compensatory damages, court costs, and attorney's fees under this section.

''(g) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'nondefault, final judgment' means a final judgment by a court for a civil action brought under subsection (a) that a covered public institution is in violation of a requirement described in section 112B, 112C, or 112D that the covered public institution chooses not to appeal or that is not subject to further appeal.''.

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part A of House Report 118–685. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, and shall be considered 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, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part A of House Report 118–685.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 31, line 5, insert ''religion,'' after ''color,''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1455, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Chairman, for our entire history as a nation, our colleges and universities have been the example for other countries. Why? Because historically this Nation has ensured that colleges and institutions of higher learning have been places where we have embraced and encouraged critical thought.

We have embraced and accepted differences in thought, and we have tried to ensure that the individual rights enshrined in the Constitution inherent to each of us are protected in these places of higher learning.

Yet, over the course of the last year and a half, we have seen a consistent effort to attempt to silence one set of views. In fact, having traveled all across the State of New York for most of my adult life, I can tell you the SUNY college system has been a model of great institutions meant to bring people from different backgrounds and different experiences together not to be indoctrinated in a school of thought but, rather, to engage in critical thought.

Yet, over the last year and a half, we have seen consistently one set of thoughts, one set of beliefs being silenced in order to embrace another ideology or agenda. It isn't what our colleges and universities were about.

The End Woke Higher Education Act, importantly, seeks to uphold Americans' constitutional rights and restore diversity of thought and viewpoints at colleges without forcing a single perspective.

Part of the bill prohibits public colleges from asking or encouraging faculty and students to make a statement of personal belief in support of an ideology or movement that promotes the wrongful treatment of individuals. Imagine in 2024 having to even state that, yet here we are.

My amendment adds to this prohibition by taking it one step further. This says that public colleges cannot promote the wrongful treatment of individuals on the basis of religion.

Of course, this should be common sense; and, by the way, every institution should seek to protect individual students and faculty's freedom to express their faith as they see fit. Yet, unfortunately, over the past year we have seen far too many ugly events on college campuses incited and emboldened both by faculty and students allowed to impose their will and their beliefs in an intolerant and hostile way on others.

Just this week at Cornell University in my own district, a member of the faculty who spoke favorably about the October 7 terrorist attacks by Hamas on Israel was recently taken off leave. This individual recently taken off leave was brought back to full employment in the classroom.

I have met with college students, Jewish students, who simply want a safe place to learn, yet they feel marginalized because of the imposition of someone else's will in an intolerant and inexcusable way.

How are Jewish students supposed to feel when a professor who openly supports a terrorist attack against, in fact, some of their own family? How are they supposed to feel?

Colleges are to be the place where students are safe to learn and grow, to flourish in their own beliefs and even, I would offer, challenge their beliefs. When colleges don't provide this protection, yes, it is important that we remind folks that they all must uphold and protect the constitutional right to freedom of thought, freedom of speech, and freedom of expression.

My amendment simply seeks to strengthen the bill in chief by ensuring one's religious beliefs are not held against them nor is one's religious beliefs imposed on someone else as a doctrine or a statement that is necessary for employment or joining as a student.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues' support of the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment and yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York seeks to add religion to the definition of political tests, which already includes COVID categories of race, color, or national origin.

I fear this may cause confusion. As drafted, the language in the underlying bill's definition conforms with classes protected under title VI of the Civil Rights Act which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin in educational programs receiving Federal financial assistance.

There were a lot of debates when the law was written as to whether or not to include religion, and just like as it is now, it was not covered in the underlying bill. I think we are going to confuse the matter by trying to stick it in now.

Further, while religion is included in title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which covers employment discrimination, title VII protects discrimination also on the basis of sex. Notably, ''sex'' is not included in either definition of the political tests in the bill or by the amendment, which suggests supporters of the bill do not feel that the political tests that discriminate on the basis of sex need to be outlawed.

Mr. Chair, I just think that the inclusion of religion here would just confuse the matter of title VI or title VII. You would have another provision here with a cause of action where religion is in some, not in others, and for no apparent good reason other than a last-minute thought.

Mr. Chair, I would hope we would not accept the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Chairman, my colleague knows I respect him greatly. I know that he and I appreciate the expression of our faith in the way that we choose to do so. I don't think there is any confusion here at all. The beauty of this body is that when confronted with new challenges that face Americans, we are to debate them, consider them, and then apply reason as to establishing new policy.

I will address one comment. This is not some unnecessary last-minute thought. We have seen over the last 2 years hatred in the most vile form: intimidation, intolerance, violence committed against Jewish students, Jewish faculty. In my own district, threats of death against Jewish students, Jewish students locked in buildings, not being able to exercise not only their faith or participate in their education process overall.

This isn't last minute, and it certainly isn't unnecessary. It is timely, it is necessary, and it is appropriate. It also, by the way—perhaps to weaken my argument only slightly—goes both ways. This is an effort to ensure that nobody can impose a standard on one or the other. I ask for support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO).

The amendment was agreed to.

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AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part A of House Report 118–685.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end of title II the following new section:

SEC. 207. SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO ACTS OF VIOLENCE ON CAMPUS.

It is the sense of Congress that acts of violence committed on the campus of an institution of higher education are not protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1455, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, my amendment adds a sense of Congress that acts of violence committed on the campus of an institution of higher education are not protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution.

We cherish free speech in America. It is the foundation of our democracy, a beacon of liberty, and an essential right for every citizen.

We must remember that the First Amendment draws a clear line. It protects peaceful expression, not violent acts.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for his amendment, which restates what most of us think is present law, that violence is not protected by the First Amendment. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I thank my colleague for his comments.

What we have seen is an alarming rise in incidents where protests on college campuses turn violent against Jewish students.

This is not free speech. It is an assault on free speech, and it has no place in America, let alone in the institutions tasked with shaping the minds of the next generation.

Since the horrific October 7 terrorist attack on Israel, we have seen an explosion of anti-Semitism on college campuses. Across the country, Jewish students have been harassed, assaulted, intimidated, and subjected to the hostile and sometimes violent environments of their campuses.

Every Jewish student deserves the right to learn, to speak, and to participate in campus life without fear of being targeted.

In the wake of anti-Semitic incidents on college campuses across our country, violence against Jews has even gotten worse. Since October 7, fewer than half of Jewish students feel physically safe on campus.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I think any implication that the right to protest is an act of violence in and of itself would fly in the face of hundreds of years of First Amendment precedent. Those protests which, in fact, are violent are not protected. I am not sure that the amendment is necessary, but I am obviously not opposed to it.

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

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, again, I thank my colleague for his comments.

I think in light of the October 7 attack, in light of the violence we have seen on college campuses, and the very fact that Jewish students say they don't feel safe, it is important to restate what is law. It is important to restate that they have a right to be free, to be safe, and to learn.

Sometimes it is important that we state the obvious. Sometimes it is important that we stand and say what needs to be said, that anti-Semitism can't be tolerated. It can't be tolerated. It can't be tolerated.

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part A of House Report 118–685.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 17, beginning on line 1, after ''leadership standards'', insert '', including standards regarding religious identity, belief, or practice,''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1455, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, this amendment simply inserts or adds a clarifying clause.

While religious student groups are free to select people who aren't members of their religion to lead them, most people agree that it is reasonable for a Muslim student group to want its leaders to be, well, Muslim or a Catholic student group to want its leaders to be practicing Catholics.

Unfortunately, administrators of some of our universities keep showing that they disagree. Many believe that if a religious group requires that its leaders are of their religion that it is somehow unfair discrimination.

It is only common sense that a religious group should be able to require its leaders to agree with its religious message and mission. Because student leaders may lead the group's Scripture, prayer, or worship, they should have a familiarity and agree with the group's religious beliefs.

In 2018, the University of Iowa threatened to derecognize almost every religious group on campus: Christian, Jewish, and Muslim. It was a deliberate effort to force religious student groups to abandon their religious leadership requirements.

In 2021, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals held that the university administrators were personally liable for violating the religious groups' First Amendment rights, but that required 3 years of litigation.

In 2022, at the State University of New York at Cortland, a student organization was told that its selection process in which it asked potential leaders about their religious beliefs, as well as its requirements that its leaders demonstrate knowledge of and uphold the organization's religious teachings, was unacceptable.

Whether you understand the beliefs of an organization could obviously be relevant to your ability to lead it. The university changed course only after legal counsel sent a letter explaining the law.

In 2006, the University of Wisconsin-Madison derecognized a Catholic student organization because of its religious leadership and member requirements. The university eventually lost its case before the Seventh Circuit Court but not until 2011, long enough for an entire class of students to enroll and graduate without access to a recognized Catholic campus ministry.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, we received a letter, that I read from previously, from the Americans United for Separation of Church and State and Interfaith Alliance, which says, in part, relevant to this provision: ''We oppose the 'Equal Campus Access' provision of the bill because it would sanction discrimination by religious student groups at public colleges and universities.''

I would say that the amendment doesn't really cure the problem of the provision in the underlying bill, as I am speaking both against the underlying bill as well as the amendment.

''To ensure that all students can participate, colleges and universities often have nondiscrimination policies, frequently called 'accept-all-comers' policies, that require officially recognized student groups to allow any student to join, participate in, and seek leadership in those groups. These policies are important because they prevent student groups from discriminating. And because funding for student groups often comes from mandatory student-activity fees, accept-all-comers' policies also ensure that universities don't subsidize discrimination and guarantee that all students aren't forced to fund a group that would reject them as members.

''The Equal Campus Access provision, however, would prohibit public colleges and universities from enforcing accept-all-comers' policies.''

''Critically, this provision is not required by the First Amendment. Any student club can become a recognized group and access funds if it adheres to its school's nondiscrimination policy. And if a club decides it wants to impose requirements for membership and leadership that conflict with the school policy, it will not be silenced or driven off campus; instead, it, like any other club, simply will not be eligible for official recognition.''

I would hope that, Mr. Chair, that we would reject the amendment and the underlying bill on this provision because it would allow discrimination in violation of the policies, the accept-all-comers' policies, that many colleges elect to have.

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

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I will go back to the Eighth Circuit where it determined at the University of Iowa, that

the student groups, the religious groups, had the right to choose their leadership. You can go back to the University of Wisconsin-Madison where the same type of ruling came down.

That being said, in 2022, the law school at Madison decided to reject the initial application of a Christian Legal Society chapter because the group requires that its leader is Christian, which administrators claim was different than requiring believing Christian beliefs. They only relented after being challenged on the legality of their actions.

The underlying bill already establishes that public universities cannot discriminate against religious groups for their leadership standards, but we all know that sometimes, like my previous amendment, you need to state the obvious.

When we find an issue that public universities will persist in fighting, even after losing in court, it is important to spell things out clearly. My amendment does just that. It inserts the statement: '' . . . regarding religious identity, belief, or practice.'' It clarifies their right to choose their leadership based off of their beliefs.

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NUNN of Iowa) having assumed the chair, Mr. BOST, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3724) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit recognized accrediting agencies and associations from requiring, encouraging, or coercing institutions of higher education to meet any political litmus test or violate any right protected by the Constitution as a condition of accreditation, and, pursuant to House Resolution 1455, he reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Bonamici of Oregon moves to recommit the bill H.R. 3724 to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

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. BONAMICI. 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.

GUIDING UNIFORM AND RESPONSIBLE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION LIMITS ACT OF 2023

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1455, I call up the bill (H.R. 4790) to amend the Federal securities laws with respect to the materiality of disclosure requirements, to establish the Public Company Advisory Committee, 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 1455, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118–48, modified by the amendment printed in part B of House Report 118–685, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 4790

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Prioritizing Economic Growth Over Woke Policies Act''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

TITLE I—MANDATORY MATERIALITY REQUIREMENT

SEC. 1101. LIMITATION ON DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) SECURITIES ACT OF 1933.—Section 2(b) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(b)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by inserting ''; LIMITATION ON DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS'' after ''FORMATION'';

(2) by striking ''Whenever'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Whenever''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) LIMITATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Whenever pursuant to this title the Commission is engaged in rulemaking regarding disclosure obligations of issuers, the Commission shall expressly provide that an issuer is only required to disclose information in response to such disclosure obligations to the extent the issuer has determined that such information is material with respect to a voting or investment decision regarding the securities of such issuer.

''(B) APPLICABILITY.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect to the removal of any disclosure requirement with respect to an issuer.

''(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For the purposes of this paragraph, information is considered material with respect to a voting or investment decision regarding the securities of an issuer if there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable investor would view the failure to disclose that information as having significantly altered the total mix of information made available to the investor.''.

(b) SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934.—Section 3(f) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(f)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by inserting ''; LIMITATION ON DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS'' after ''FORMATION'';

(2) by striking ''Whenever'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Whenever''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) LIMITATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Whenever pursuant to this title the Commission is engaged in rulemaking regarding disclosure obligations of issuers, the Commission shall expressly provide that an issuer is only required to disclose information in response to such disclosure obligations to the extent the issuer has determined that such information is material with respect to a voting or investment decision regarding the securities of such issuer.

''(B) APPLICABILITY.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect to the removal of any disclosure requirement with respect to an issuer.

''(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For the purposes of this paragraph, information is considered material with respect to a voting or investment decision regarding the securities of an issuer if there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable investor would view the failure to disclose that information as having significantly altered the total mix of information made available to the investor.''.

TITLE II—SEC JUSTIFICATION OF NON-MATERIAL DISCLOSURE MANDATES

SEC. 1201. SEC JUSTIFICATION OF NON-MATERIAL DISCLOSURE MANDATES.

Section 23 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78w) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) NON-MATERIAL DISCLOSURE MANDATES.—

''(1) DISCLOSURE.—The Commission shall maintain a list on the website of the Commission that contains—

''(A) each mandate under the Federal securities laws and regulations that requires the disclosure of non-material information; and

''(B) for each such disclosure mandate, an explanation of why the mandate is required.

''(2) STUDY AND REPORT.—The Commission shall, every 5 years, issue a report to the Congress justifying each disclosure contained on the list required under paragraph (1).

''(3) NO PRIVATE LIABILITY FOR FAILING TO MAKE A NON-MATERIAL DISCLOSURE.—A person who fails to disclose non-material information required to be disclosed under the Federal securities laws or regulations shall not be liable for such failure in any private action.''.

TITLE III—PUBLIC COMPANY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SEC. 1301. PUBLIC COMPANY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is amended by inserting after section 40 (15 U.S.C. 78qq) the following:

''SEC. 40A. PUBLIC COMPANY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Commission the Public Company Advisory Committee (referred to in this section as the 'Committee').

''(2) PURPOSE.—The Committee shall—

''(A) provide the Commission with advice on its rules, regulations, and policies with regard to its mission of protecting investors, maintaining fair, orderly, and efficient markets, and facilitating capital formation, as they relate to—

''(i) existing and emerging regulatory priorities of the Commission;

''(ii) issues relating to the public reporting and corporate governance of public companies;

''(iii) issues relating to the proxy process for shareholder meetings held by public companies;

''(iv) issues relating to trading in the securities of public companies; and

''(v) issues relating to capital formation; and

''(B) submit to the Commission such findings and recommendations as the Committee determines are appropriate, including recommendations for proposed regulatory and legislative changes.

''(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The membership of the Committee shall be not fewer than 10, and not more than 20, members appointed by the Commission from among individuals who—

''(A) are officers, directors, or senior officials of public companies registered with the Commission under the Securities Act or 1933 and this Act, except for those public companies that own asset management, fixed income, investment advisory, broker-dealer, or proxy services businesses;

''(B) are executives or other individuals with senior managerial responsibility in business, professional, trade, and industry associations that represent the interests of such public companies; or

''(C) are professional advisers and service providers to such public companies (including attorneys, accountants, investment bankers, and financial advisers).

''(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—At least 50 percent of the Committee membership shall be drawn from individuals who would qualify for membership under paragraph (1)(A).

''(3) TERM.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Committee appointed under paragraph (1) shall serve for a term of 4 years.

''(B) VACANCIES.—Vacancies among the members, whether caused by the resignation, death, removal, expiration of a term, or otherwise, will be filled consistent with the Commission's procedures then in effect.

''(C) STAGGERED TERMS.—The members of the Committee shall serve staggered terms, with one-third of the initial members of the Committee each serving for 1, 2, or 3 years.

''(4) MEMBERS NOT ON OTHER ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—Public companies and other organizations that are currently represented on any other Commission Advisory Committee are not eligible to have representatives also serve on the Public Company Advisory Committee.

''(5) MEMBERS NOT COMMISSION EMPLOYEES.—Members appointed under paragraph (1) shall not be considered to be employees or agents of the Commission solely because of membership on the Committee.

''(c) CHAIR; VICE CHAIR; SECRETARY; ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The members of the Committee shall elect, from among the members of the Committee—

''(A) a Chair;

''(B) a Vice Chair;

''(C) a Secretary; and

''(D) an Assistant Secretary.

''(2) TERM.—Each member elected under paragraph (1) shall serve for a term of two years in the capacity the member was elected under paragraph (1).

''(3) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Chair may create subcommittees that hold public or non-public meetings and provide recommendations to the full Committee.

''(d) MEETINGS.—

''(1) FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS.—The Committee shall meet—

''(A) not less frequently than twice annually, at the call of the Chair of the Committee; and

''(B) from time to time, at the call of the Commission.

''(2) NOTICE.—The Chair of the Committee shall give the members of the Committee written notice of each meeting, not later than two weeks before the date of the meeting.

''(e) COMPENSATION AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Committee who is not a full-time employee of the United States shall—

''(1) be entitled to receive compensation at a rate not to exceed the daily equivalent of the

annual rate of basic pay in effect for a position at level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code, for each day during which the members is engaged in the actual performance of the duties of the Committee; and

''(2) while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of services for the Committee, be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in the Government service are allowed expenses under section 5703(b) of title 5, United States Code.

''(f) STAFF.—The Commission shall make available to the Committee such staff as the Chair of the Committee determines are necessary to carry out this section.

''(g) REVIEW BY COMMISSION.—The Commission shall—

''(1) review the findings and recommendations of the Committee; and

''(2) each time the Committee submits a finding or recommendation to the Commission, promptly issue a public statement—

''(A) assessing the finding or recommendation of the Committee; and

''(B) disclosing the action, if any, the Commission intends to take with respect to the finding or recommendation.

''(h) COMMITTEE FINDINGS.—Nothing in this section shall require the Commission to agree to or act upon any finding or recommendation of the Committee.

''(i) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—Chapter 10 of part I of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to the Committee and its activities.''.

TITLE IV—PROTECTING U.S. BUSINESS SOVEREIGNTY

SEC. 1401. STUDY ON DETRIMENTAL IMPACT OF THE DIRECTIVE ON CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY DUE DILIGENCE AND CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING DIRECTIVE.

(a) STUDY.—The Securities and Exchange Commission shall conduct a study to examine and evaluate—

(1) the detrimental impact and potential detrimental impact of each of the Directives on—

(A) United States companies, consumers, and investors; and

(B) the economy of the United States;

(2) the extent to which each of the Directives aligns with international conventions and declarations on human rights and environmental obligations; and

(3) the legal basis for the extraterritorial reach of each of the Directives.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, and the United States Trade Representative a report that includes—

(1) the results of the study conducted under this section; and

(2) recommendations for policymakers and relevant stakeholders on potential mitigating measures, alternative approaches, or modifications to each of the Directives that would address any concerns identified in the study.

(c) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—The Securities and Exchange Commission may request from private entities such relevant data and information as the Securities and Exchange Commission determines necessary to carry out the study required under this section and such private entities shall provide such requested data and information to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

(d) DIRECTIVES DEFINED.—In this section the term ''Directives'' means—

(1) the proposed directive entitled ''Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence'' adopted by the European Commission on February 23, 2022; and

(2) the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive of the European Commission effective January 5, 2023.

DIVISION B—BUSINESSES OVER ACTIVISTS ACT

SEC. 2001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Businesses Over Activists Act''.

SEC. 2002. LIMITATION WITH RESPECT TO COMPELLING THE INCLUSION OR DISCUSSION OF SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS.

Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78n(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) LIMITATION WITH RESPECT TO COMPELLING INCLUSION OR DISCUSSION OF SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Commission may not compel an issuer to include in a proxy statement of the issuer—

''(A) any shareholder proposal; or

''(B) any discussion (either from the issuer or otherwise) related to a shareholder proposal contained in the proxy statement.

''(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION RELATING TO STATE AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this Act or any other securities law shall be construed to provide the Commission the authority to preempt the State regulation of shareholder proposals or proxy or consent solicitation materials.''.

DIVISION C—PROTECTING AMERICANS' RETIREMENT SAVINGS FROM POLITICS ACT

SEC. 3001. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This division may be cited as the ''Protecting Americans' Retirement Savings from Politics Act''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this division is as follows:

TITLE I—PERFORMANCE OVER POLITICS

SEC. 3101. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS.

The Securities and Exchange Commission shall revise the resubmission requirements in section 240.14a-8(i)(12) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, to provide that a shareholder proposal may be excluded by an issuer from its proxy or consent solicitation material for a meeting of the shareholders of such issuer if the shareholder proposal addresses substantially the same subject matter as a proposal, or proposals, previously included in the proxy or consent solicitation material for a meeting of the shareholders of such issuer—

(1) for a meeting of the shareholders conducted in the preceding 5 calendar years; and

(2) if the most recent vote—

(A) occurred in the preceding 3 calendar years; and

(B)(i) if voted on once during such 5-year period, received less than 10 percent of the votes cast;

(ii) if voted on twice during such 5-year period, received less than 20 percent of the votes cast; or

(iii) if voted on three or more times during such 5-year period, received less than 40 percent of the votes cast.

TITLE II—NO EXPENSIVE, STIFLING GOVERNANCE

SEC. 3201. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS.

(a) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS.—A shareholder proposal submitted to an issuer pursuant to section 240.14a-8 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, may be excluded by an issuer from its proxy or consent solicitation material for a meeting of the shareholders of such issuer if the shareholder proposal—

(1) has been substantially implemented by the issuer by implementing policies, practices, or procedures that compare favorably with the guidelines of the proposal and address the proposal's underlying concerns; or

(2) substantially duplicates by having the same principal thrust or principal focus as another proposal previously submitted to the issuer by another proponent that will be included in such material.

(b) NULLIFICATION OF PROPOSED RULE.—The Securities and Exchange Commission may not finalize or apply the positions contained in the proposed rule entitled ''Substantial Implementation, Duplication, and Resubmission of Shareholder Proposals under Exchange Act Rule 14a-8'' (87 Fed. Reg. 45052), issue any substantially similar rule, or apply any substantially similar rule, including with respect to a no-action or other interpretive request.

TITLE III—EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN ESG SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS

SEC. 3301. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN ESG SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS.

A shareholder proposal submitted to an issuer pursuant to section 240.14a-8 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, may be excluded by an issuer from its proxy or consent solicitation material for a meeting of the shareholders of such issuer if the subject matter of the shareholder proposal is environmental, social, or political (or a similar subject matter).

TITLE IV—EXCLUSIONS AVAILABLE REGARDLESS OF SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL POLICY ISSUE

SEC. 3401. EXCLUSIONS AVAILABLE REGARDLESS OF SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL POLICY ISSUE.

An issuer may exclude a shareholder proposal pursuant to section 240.14a-8(i) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, without regard to whether such shareholder proposal relates to a significant social policy issue.

TITLE V—CORPORATE GOVERNANCE EXAMINATION

SEC. 3501. STUDY OF CERTAIN ISSUES WITH RESPECT TO SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS, PROXY ADVISORY FIRMS, AND THE PROXY PROCESS.

Section 4(j) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78d(j)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(10) STUDY OF CERTAIN ISSUES WITH RESPECT TO SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS, PROXY ADVISORY FIRMS, AND THE PROXY PROCESS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, and every 5 years thereafter, the Commission shall conduct a comprehensive study on shareholder proposals, proxy advisory firms, and the proxy process.

''(B) SCOPE OF STUDY.—The studies required under subparagraph (A) shall cover—

''(i) the previous 10 years, with respect to the initial study; and

''(ii) the previous 5 years, with respect to each other study.

''(C) CONTENTS.—Each study required under subparagraph (A) shall address the following issues:

''(i) The financial and other incentives and obligations of all groups involved in the proxy process.

''(ii) A consideration of whether financial and other incentives have created a process that no longer serves the economic interests of long-term retail investors.

''(iii) An analysis of whether regulations and financial incentives have created and protected the outsized influence of proxy advisors or a duopoly in proxy advice, and if so, what are the benefits and costs of that outsized influence or duopoly.

''(iv) The costs incurred by issuers in responding to politically-, environmentally-, or socially-motivated shareholder proposals.

''(v) An assessment, including a cost-benefit analysis, of the adequacy of the current submission thresholds in Rule 14a-8 (17 CFR 240.14a-8) to ensure that shareholder proponents have demonstrated a meaningful economic stake in a company, which is appropriate to effectively serve markets and shareholders at large.

''(vi) An examination of the extent to which the politicization of the shareholder proposal process is increasing the operating costs of public companies.

''(vii) An analysis of the impact that shareholder proposals have on discouraging private companies from going public.

''(viii) An evaluation of the risk that shareholder proposals may contribute to the balkanization of the U.S. economy over time.

''(ix) A thorough assessment of the economic analysis, if any, conducted by proxy advisory firms and institutional shareholders when recommending or voting in favor of shareholder proposals.

''(x) A review of the extent to which institutional investors, who owe fiduciary duties, rely on proxy advisory firm recommendations.

''(xi) An assessment of whether, in light of their significant influence on corporate actions and vote outcomes, proxy advisors are subject to sufficient and effective regulation to ensure that their policies and recommendations are accurate, free of conflicts, and benefit the economic best interest of shareholders at large.

''(D) REPORT.—At the completion of each study required under subparagraph (A) the Commission shall issue a report to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives that includes the results of the study.''.

TITLE VI—REGISTRATION OF PROXY ADVISORY FIRMS

SEC. 3601. REGISTRATION OF PROXY ADVISORY FIRMS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—The Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 15G the following new section:

''SEC. 15H. REGISTRATION OF PROXY ADVISORY FIRMS.

''(a) CONDUCT PROHIBITED.—It shall be unlawful for a proxy advisory firm to make use of the mails or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce to provide proxy voting advice, research, analysis, ratings or recommendations to any client, unless such proxy advisory firm is registered under this section.

''(b) REGISTRATION PROCEDURES.—

''(1) APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A proxy advisory firm shall file with the Commission an application for registration, in such form as the Commission shall require, by rule, and containing the information described in subparagraph (B).

''(B) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—An application for registration under this section shall contain—

''(i) a certification that the applicant is able to consistently provide proxy advice based on accurate information;

''(ii) with respect to clients of the applicant that vote shares held on behalf of shareholders, a certification that the applicant—

''(I) will provide proxy voting advice only in the best economic interest of those shareholders; and

''(II) has the requisite expertise to ensure that voting recommendations are in the best economic interest of those shareholders;

''(iii) information on the procedures and methodologies that the applicant uses to ensure that proxy voting recommendations are in the best economic interest of the ultimate shareholders;

''(iv) information on the organizational structure of the applicant;

''(v) an explanation of whether or not the applicant has in effect a code of ethics, and if not, the reasons therefor;

''(vi) a description of any potential or actual conflict of interest relating to the provision of proxy advisory services, including those arising out of or resulting from the ownership structure of the applicant or the provision of other services by the applicant or any person associated with the applicant;

''(vii) the policies and procedures in place to publicly disclose and manage conflicts of interest under subsection (f);

''(viii) information related to the professional and academic qualifications of staff tasked with providing proxy advisory services; and

''(ix) any other information and documents concerning the applicant and any person associated with such applicant as the Commission, by rule, may prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors.

''(2) REVIEW OF APPLICATION.—

''(A) INITIAL DETERMINATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the application for registration is filed with the Commission under paragraph (1) (or within such longer period as to which the applicant consents) the Commission shall—

''(i) by order, grant registration; or

''(ii) institute proceedings to determine whether registration should be denied.

''(B) CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS.—

''(i) CONTENT.—Proceedings referred to in subparagraph (A)(ii) shall—

''(I) include notice of the grounds for denial under consideration and an opportunity for hearing; and

''(II) be concluded not later than 120 days after the date on which the application for registration is filed with the Commission under paragraph (1).

''(ii) DETERMINATION.—At the conclusion of such proceedings, the Commission, by order, shall grant or deny such application for registration.

''(iii) EXTENSION AUTHORIZED.—The Commission may extend the time for conclusion of such proceedings for not longer than 90 days, if the Commission finds good cause for such extension and publishes its reasons for so finding, or for such longer period as to which the applicant consents.

''(C) GROUNDS FOR DECISION.—The Commission shall grant registration under this subsection—

''(i) if the Commission finds that the requirements of this section are satisfied; and

''(ii) unless the Commission finds (in which case the Commission shall deny such registration) that—

''(I) the applicant has failed to certify to the Commission's satisfaction that it is able to consistently provide proxy advice based on accurate information and to materially comply with the procedures and methodologies disclosed under paragraph (1)(B) and with subsections (f) and (g); or

''(II) if the applicant were so registered, its registration would be subject to suspension or revocation under subsection (d).

''(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—Subject to section 24, the Commission shall make the information and documents submitted to the Commission by a proxy advisory firm in its completed application for registration, or in any amendment submitted under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (c), publicly available on the Commission's website, or through another comparable, readily accessible means.

''(c) UPDATE OF REGISTRATION.—

''(1) UPDATE.—Each registered proxy advisory firm shall promptly amend and update its application for registration under this section if any information or document provided therein becomes materially inaccurate, except that a registered proxy advisory firm is not required to amend the information required to be filed under subsection (b)(1)(B)(i) by filing information under this paragraph, but shall amend such information in the annual submission of the organization under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

''(2) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 90 calendar days after the end of each calendar year, each registered proxy advisory firm shall file with the Commission an amendment to its registration, in such form as the Commission, by rule, may prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors—

''(A) certifying that the information and documents in the application for registration of such registered proxy advisory firm continue to be accurate in all material respects; and

''(B) listing any material change that occurred to such information or documents during the previous calendar year.

''(d) CENSURE, DENIAL, OR SUSPENSION OF REGISTRATION; NOTICE AND HEARING.—The Commission, by order, shall censure, place limitations on the activities, functions, or operations of, suspend for a period not exceeding 12 months, or revoke the registration of any registered proxy advisory firm if the Commission finds, on the record after notice and opportunity for hearing, that such censure, placing of limitations, suspension, or revocation is necessary for the protection of investors and in the public interest and that such registered proxy advisory firm, or any person associated with such an organization, whether prior to or subsequent to becoming so associated—

''(1) has committed or omitted any act, or is subject to an order or finding, enumerated in subparagraph (A), (D), (E), (H), or (G) of section 15(b)(4), has been convicted of any offense

specified in section 15(b)(4)(B), or is enjoined from any action, conduct, or practice specified in subparagraph (C) of section 15(b)(4), during the 10-year period preceding the date of commencement of the proceedings under this subsection, or at any time thereafter;

''(2) has been convicted during the 10-year period preceding the date on which an application for registration is filed with the Commission under this section, or at any time thereafter, of—

''(A) any crime that is punishable by imprisonment for 1 or more years, and that is not described in section 15(b)(4)(B); or

''(B) a substantially equivalent crime by a foreign court of competent jurisdiction;

''(3) is subject to any order of the Commission barring or suspending the right of the person to be associated with a registered proxy advisory firm;

''(4) fails to furnish the certifications required under subsections (b)(2)(C)(ii)(I) and (c)(2);

''(5) has engaged in one or more prohibited acts enumerated in paragraph (1);

''(6) fails to maintain adequate financial and managerial resources to consistently offer advisory services to clients that vote shares held on behalf of shareholders consistent with the best economic interest of those shareholders, including by failing to comply with subsections (f) or (g);

''(7) fails to maintain adequate expertise to ensure that proxy advisory services for clients that vote shares held on behalf of shareholders are tied to the best economic interest of those shareholders; or

''(8) engages in a prohibited act enumerated in subsection (j).

''(e) TERMINATION OF REGISTRATION.—

''(1) VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL.—A registered proxy advisory firm may, upon such terms and conditions as the Commission may establish as necessary in the public interest or for the protection of investors, which terms and conditions shall include at a minimum that the registered proxy advisory firm will no longer conduct such activities as to bring it within the definition of proxy advisory firm in section 3(a)(82), withdraw from registration by filing a written notice of withdrawal to the Commission.

''(2) COMMISSION AUTHORITY.—In addition to any other authority of the Commission under this title, if the Commission finds that a registered proxy advisory firm is no longer in existence or has ceased to do business as a proxy advisory firm, the Commission, by order, shall cancel the registration under this section of such registered proxy advisory firm.

''(f) MANAGEMENT OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—

''(1) ORGANIZATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—Each registered proxy advisory firm shall establish, maintain, and enforce written policies and procedures reasonably designed, taking into consideration the nature of the business of such registered proxy advisory firm and associated persons, to publicly disclose and manage any conflicts of interest that arise or would reasonably be expected to arise from such business.

''(2) COMMISSION AUTHORITY.—The Commission shall, within one year of the date of enactment of this section, issue final rules to prohibit, or require the management and public disclosure of, any conflicts of interest relating to the offering of proxy advisory services by a registered proxy advisory firm, including, without limitation, conflicts of interest relating to—

''(A) the manner in which a registered proxy advisory firm is compensated by the client, any affiliate of the client, or any other person for providing proxy advisory services;

''(B) business relationships, ownership interests, or any other financial or personal interests between a registered proxy advisory firm, or any person associated with such registered proxy advisory firm, and any client, or any affiliate of such client;

''(C) the formulation of proxy voting policies;

''(D) the execution, or assistance with the execution, of proxy votes if such votes are based upon recommendations made by the proxy advisory firm in which a person other than the issuer is a proponent; and

''(E) any other potential conflict of interest, as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors.

''(3) DISCLOSURE ON FACTORS INFLUENCING RECOMMENDATIONS.—Each registered proxy advisory firm shall annually disclose to the Commission and make publicly available the economic and other factors that a reasonable investor would expect to influence the recommendations of such proxy advisory firm, including the ownership composition of such proxy advisory firm and any meetings with, or feedback received from, outside entities.

''(g) RELIABILITY OF PROXY ADVISORY FIRM SERVICES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each registered proxy advisory firm shall—

''(A) have staff and other resources sufficient to produce proxy voting recommendations that are based on accurate and current information and designed for clients that vote shares held on behalf of shareholders to advance the best economic interest of those shareholders;

''(B) implement procedures that permit issuers that are the subject of proxy voting recommendations—

''(i) access in a reasonable time to data and information used to make recommendations; and

''(ii) a reasonable opportunity to provide meaningful comment and corrections to such data and information, including the opportunity to present (in person or telephonically) details to the person responsible for developing such data and information prior to the publication of proxy voting recommendations to clients;

''(C) employ an ombudsman to receive complaints about the accuracy of information used in making recommendations from the companies that are the subject of the proxy advisory firm's voting recommendations and seek to resolve those complaints in a timely fashion and prior to the publication of proxy voting recommendations to clients; and

''(D) if the ombudsman is unable to resolve a complaint to a company's satisfaction prior to the publication of proxy voting recommendations to clients, include in the final report of the firm to clients—

''(i) a statement detailing the company's complaints, if requested in writing by the company; and

''(ii) a statement explaining why the proxy voting recommendation is in the best economic interest of shareholders.

''(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) DATA AND INFORMATION USED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS.—The term 'data and information used to make voting recommendations'—

''(i) means the financial, operational, or descriptive data and information on an issuer used by proxy advisory firms and any contextual or substantive analysis impacting the recommendation; and

''(ii) does not include the entirety of the proxy advisory firm's final report to its clients.

''(B) REASONABLE TIME.—The term 'reasonable time'—

''(i) means not less than 1 week before the publication of proxy voting recommendations for clients; and

''(ii) shall not otherwise interfere with a proxy advisory firm's ability to provide its clients with timely access to accurate proxy voting research, analysis, or recommendations.

''(h) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION WITH RESPECT TO ILLEGAL RECOMMENDATIONS.—Any proxy advisory firm that endorses a proposal that is not supported by the issuer but is approved and subsequently found by a court of competent jurisdiction to violate State or Federal law shall be liable to the applicable issuer for the costs associated with the approval of such proposal, including implementation costs and any penalties incurred by the issuer.

''(i) DESIGNATION OF COMPLIANCE OFFICER.—Each registered proxy advisory firm shall designate an individual who reports directly to senior management as responsible for administering the policies and procedures that are required to be established pursuant to subsections (f) and (g), and for ensuring compliance with the securities laws and the rules and regulations thereunder, including those promulgated by the Commission pursuant to this section.

''(j) PROHIBITED CONDUCT.—

''(1) PROHIBITED ACTS AND PRACTICES.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this section, the Commission shall issue final rules to prohibit any act or practice relating to the offering of proxy advisory services by a registered proxy advisory firm that the Commission determines to be unfair, coercive, or abusive, including any act or practice relating to—

''(A) advisory or consulting services (offered directly or indirectly, including through an affiliate) related to corporate governance issues; or

''(B) modifying a voting recommendation or otherwise departing from its adopted systematic procedures and methodologies in the provision of proxy advisory services, based on whether an issuer, or affiliate thereof, subscribes or will subscribe to other services or product of the registered proxy advisory firm or any person associated with such organization.

''(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1), or in any rules or regulations adopted thereunder, may be construed to modify, impair, or supersede the operation of any of the antitrust laws (as defined in the first section of the Clayton Act, except that such term includes section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, to the extent that such section 5 applies to unfair methods of competition).

''(k) STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION.—Each registered proxy advisory firm shall, on a confidential basis, file with the Commission, at intervals determined by the Commission, such financial statements, certified (if required by the rules or regulations of the Commission) by an independent public auditor, and information concerning its financial condition, as the Commission, by rule, may prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors.

''(l) ANNUAL REPORT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each registered proxy advisory firm shall, not later than 90 calendar days after the end of each fiscal year, file with the Commission and make publicly available an annual report in such form as the Commission, by rule, may prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors.

''(2) CONTENTS.—Each annual report required under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, disclosure by the registered proxy advisory firm of the following:

''(A) A list of shareholder proposals the staff of the registered proxy advisory firm reviewed in the prior fiscal year.

''(B) A list of the recommendations made in the prior fiscal year.

''(C) The economic analysis conducted to determine that final recommendations provided in the prior fiscal year (other than recommendations relating to an issuer-sponsored proposal or recommendations consistent with that of a board of directors composed of a majority of independent directors) delivered to clients that vote shares held on behalf of shareholders were in the best economic interest of those shareholders.

''(D) The staff who reviewed and made recommendations on such proposals in the prior fiscal year.

''(E) The qualifications of such staff to ensure that each of the recommendations for clients that vote shares held on behalf of shareholders

were tied to the best economic interest of those shareholders.

''(F) The recommendations made in the prior fiscal year where the proponent of such recommendation was a client of or received services from the proxy advisory firm.

''(G) A certification by the chief executive officer, chief financial officer, and the primary executive responsible for overseeing the compilation and dissemination of proxy voting advice that the final recommendations (other than recommendations relating to an issuer-sponsored proposal or recommendations consistent with that of a board of directors composed of a majority of independent directors) delivered to clients that vote shares held on behalf of shareholders in the last fiscal year—

''(i) were based on internal controls and procedures that are designed to ensure accurate information and that such internal controls and procedures are effective;

''(ii) do not violate applicable State or Federal law; and

''(iii) were based on the best economic interest of those shareholders.

''(H) The economic and other factors that a reasonable investor would expect to influence the recommendations of such proxy advisory firm, including the ownership composition of such proxy advisory firm.

''(m) TRANSPARENT POLICIES.—Each registered proxy advisory firm shall file with the Commission and make publicly available its methodology for the formulation of proxy voting policies and voting recommendations to clients that vote shares held on behalf of shareholders and how that methodology ensures that the firm's voting recommendations are in the best economic interest of those shareholders.

''(n) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Registration under and compliance with this section does not constitute a waiver of, or otherwise diminish, any right, privilege, or defense that a registered proxy advisory firm may otherwise have under any provision of State or Federal law, including any rule, regulation, or order thereunder.

''(o) REGULATIONS.—

''(1) NEW PROVISIONS.—Such rules and regulations as are required by this section or are otherwise necessary to carry out this section, including the application form required under subsection (a)—

''(A) shall be issued by the Commission, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section; and

''(B) shall become effective not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section.

''(2) REVIEW OF EXISTING REGULATIONS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Commission shall—

''(A) review its existing rules and regulations which affect the operations of proxy advisory firms; and

''(B) amend or revise such rules and regulations in accordance with the purposes of this section, and issue such guidance as the Commission may prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors.

''(p) APPLICABILITY.—This section, other than subsection (n), which shall apply on the date of enactment of this section, shall apply on the earlier of—

''(1) the date on which regulations are issued in final form under subsection (o)(1); or

''(2) 270 days after the date of enactment of this section.

''(q) BEST ECONOMIC INTEREST DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'best economic interest' means decisions that seek to maximize investment returns over a time horizon consistent with the investment objectives and risk management profile of the fund in which the shareholders are invested.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 17(a)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78q(a)(1)) is amended by inserting ''proxy advisory firm,'' after ''nationally recognized statistical rating organization,''.

(c) PROXY ADVISORY FIRM DEFINITIONS.—Section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second paragraph (80) (relating to funding portal) as paragraph (81); and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(82) PROXY ADVISORY FIRM.—The term 'proxy advisory firm'—

''(A) means any person who is primarily engaged in the business of providing proxy voting advice, research, analysis, ratings, or recommendations to clients, which conduct constitutes a solicitation within the meaning of section 14; and

''(B) does not include any person that is exempt under law or regulation from the requirements otherwise applicable to persons engaged in such a solicitation.

''(83) PERSON ASSOCIATED WITH A PROXY ADVISORY FIRM.—With respect to a proxy advisory firm—

''(A) a person is 'associated' with the proxy advisory firm if the person is—

''(i) a partner, officer, or director of the proxy advisory firm (or any person occupying a similar status or performing similar functions);

''(ii) a person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the proxy advisory firm;

''(iii) an employee of the proxy advisory firm; or

''(iv) a person the Commission determines by rule is controlled by the proxy advisory firm; and

''(B) a person is not 'associated' with the proxy advisory firm if the person only performs clerical or ministerial functions with respect to a proxy advisory firm.''.

TITLE VII—LIABILITY FOR CERTAIN FAILURES TO DISCLOSE MATERIAL INFORMATION OR MAKING OF MATERIAL MISSTATEMENTS

SECTION 3701. LIABILITY FOR CERTAIN FAILURES TO DISCLOSE MATERIAL INFORMATION OR MAKING OF MATERIAL MISSTATEMENTS.

Section 14 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78n) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(l) FALSE OR MISLEADING STATEMENTS.—For purposes of section 18, the failure to disclose material information (such as a proxy voting advice business's methodology, sources of information, or conflicts of interest) or the making of a material misstatement regarding proxy voting advice that makes a recommendation to a security holder as to the security holder's vote, consent, or authorization on a specific matter for which security holder approval is solicited, and that is furnished by a person that markets the person's expertise as a provider of such proxy voting advice separately from other forms of investment advice, and sells such proxy voting advice for a fee, shall be considered to be false or misleading with respect to a material fact.''.

TITLE VIII—DUTIES OF INVESTMENT ADVISORS, ASSET MANAGERS, AND PENSION FUNDS

SEC. 3801. DUTIES OF INVESTMENT ADVISORS, ASSET MANAGERS, AND PENSION FUNDS.

Section 13(f) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(7) DISCLOSURES BY INSTITUTIONAL INVESTMENT MANAGERS IN CONNECTION WITH PROXY ADVISORY FIRMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Every institutional investment manager which uses the mails, or any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce in the course of its business as an institutional investment manager, which engages a proxy advisory firm, and which exercises voting power with respect to accounts holding equity securities of a class described in subsection (d)(1) or otherwise becomes or is deemed to become a beneficial owner of any security of a class described in subsection (d)(1) upon the purchase or sale of a security-based swap that the Commission may define by rule, shall file an annual report with the Commission containing—

''(i) an explanation of how the institutional investment manager voted with respect to each shareholder proposal;

''(ii) the percentage of votes cast on shareholder proposals that were consistent with proxy advisory firm recommendations, for each proxy advisory firm retained by the institutional investment manager;

''(iii) an explanation of—

''(I) how the institutional investment manager took into consideration proxy advisory firm recommendations in making voting decisions, including the degree to which the institutional investment manager used those recommendations in making voting decisions;

''(II) how often the institutional investment manager voted consistent with a recommendation made by a proxy advisory firm, expressed as a percentage;

''(III) how such votes are reconciled with the fiduciary duty of the institutional investment manager to vote in the best economic interests of shareholders;

''(IV) how frequently votes were changed when an error occurred or due to new information from issuers; and

''(V) the degree to which investment professionals of the institutional investment manager were involved in proxy voting decisions; and

''(iv) a certification that the voting decisions of the institutional investment manager were based solely on the best economic interest of the shareholders on behalf of whom the institutional investment manager holds shares.

''(B) REQUIREMENTS FOR LARGER INSTITUTIONAL INVESTMENT MANAGERS.—Every institutional investment manager described in subparagraph (A) that has assets under management with an aggregate fair market value on the last trading day in any of the preceding twelve months of at least $100,000,000,000 shall—

''(i) in any materials provided to customers and related to customers voting their shares, clarify that shareholders are not required to vote on every proposal;

''(ii) with respect to each shareholder proposal for which the institutional investment manager votes (other than votes consistent with the recommendation of a board of directors composed of a majority of independent directors) perform an economic analysis before making such vote, to determine that the vote is in the best economic interest of the shareholders on behalf of whom the institutional investment manager holds shares; and

''(iii) include each economic analysis required under clause (ii) in the annual report required under subparagraph (A).

''(C) BEST ECONOMIC INTEREST DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'best economic interest' means decisions that seek to maximize investment returns over a time horizon consistent with the investment objectives and risk management profile of the fund in which shareholders are invested.''.

TITLE IX—PROTECTING AMERICANS' SAVINGS

SEC. 3901. REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO PROXY VOTING.

Section 14 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78n), as amended by section 3701, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(m) PROHIBITION ON ROBOVOTING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall issue final rules prohibiting the use of robovoting with respect to votes related to proxy or consent solicitation materials.

''(2) ROBOVOTING DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'robovoting' means the practice of automatically voting in a manner consistent with the recommendations of a proxy advisory

firm or pre-populating votes on a proxy advisory firm's electronic voting platform with the proxy advisory firm's recommendations, in either case, without independent review and analysis.

''(n) PROHIBITION ON OUTSOURCING VOTING DECISIONS BY INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS.—With respect to votes related to proxy or consent solicitation materials, an institutional investor may not outsource voting decisions to any person other than an investment adviser or a broker or dealer that is registered with the Commission and has a fiduciary or best interest duty to the institutional investor.

''(o) NO REQUIREMENT TO VOTE.—No person may be required to cast votes related to proxy or consent solicitation materials.

''(p) PROXY ADVISORY FIRM CALCULATION OF VOTES.—With respect to votes related to proxy or consent solicitation materials with respect to an issuer, a proxy advisor firm shall calculate the vote result consistent with the law of the State in which the issuer is incorporated.''.

TITLE X—EMPOWERING SHAREHOLDERS

SEC. 3911. PROXY VOTING OF PASSIVELY MANAGED FUNDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b–1 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 208 (15 U.S.C. 80b–8) the following:

''SEC. 208A. PROXY VOTING OF PASSIVELY MANAGED FUNDS.

''(a) INVESTMENT ADVISER PROXY VOTING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An investment adviser that holds authority to vote a proxy solicited by an issuer pursuant to section 14 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78n) in connection with any vote of covered securities held by a passively managed fund shall—

''(A) vote in accordance with the instructions of the beneficial owner of a voting security of the passively managed fund;

''(B) vote in accordance with the voting recommendations of such issuer; or

''(C) abstain from voting but make reasonable efforts to be considered present for purposes of establishing a quorum.

''(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to a vote on a routine matter.

''(b) SAFE HARBOR.—With respect to a matter that is not a routine matter, in the case of a vote described in subsection (a)(1), an investment adviser shall not be liable to any person under any law or regulation of the United States, any constitution, law, or regulation of any State or political subdivision thereof, or under any contract or other legally enforceable agreement (including any arbitration agreement), for any of the following:

''(1) Voting in accordance with the instructions of the beneficial owner of a voting security of the passively managed fund.

''(2) Not soliciting voting instructing from any person under subsection (a)(1) with respect to such vote.

''(3) Voting in accordance with the voting recommendations of an issuer pursuant to subparagraph (B) of such subsection.

''(4) Abstaining from voting in accordance with subparagraph (C) of such subsection.

''(c) FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUERS EXEMPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to a foreign private issuer if the voting policy of the investment advisor with respect to such foreign private issuers is fully and fairly disclosed to beneficial owners, including the extent to which such policy differs from the voting policy for non-exempt issuers.

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COVERED SECURITY.—The term 'covered security'—

''(A) means a voting security, as that term is defined in section 2(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–2(a)), in which a qualified fund is invested; and

''(B) does not include any voting security (as defined in subparagraph (A)) of an issuer registered with the Commission as an investment company under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–8).

''(2) PASSIVELY MANAGED FUND.—The term 'passively managed fund' means a qualified fund that—

''(A) is designed to track, or is derived from, an index of securities or a portion of such an index;

''(B) discloses that the qualified fund is a passive index fund; or

''(C) allocates not less than 60 percent of the total assets of the qualified fund to an investment strategy that is designed to track, or is derived from, an index of securities or a portion of such an index fund.

''(3) QUALIFIED FUND.—The term 'qualified fund' means—

''(A) an investment company, as that term is defined in section 3 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–3);

''(B) a private fund;

''(C) an eligible deferred compensation plan, as that term is defined in section 457(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

''(D) a trust, plan, account, or other entity described in section 3(c)(11) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–3(c)(11));

''(E) a plan maintained by an employer described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of section 403(b)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide annuity contracts described in section 403(b) of such Code;

''(F) a common trust fund, or similar fund, maintained by a bank;

''(G) any fund established under section 8438(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code; or

''(H) any separate managed account of a client of an investment adviser.

''(4) REGISTRANT.—The term 'registrant' means an issuer of covered securities.

''(5) ROUTINE MATTER.—The term 'routine matter'—

''(A) includes a proposal that relates to—

''(i) an election with respect to the board of directors of the registrant;

''(ii) the compensation of management or the board of directors of the registrant;

''(iii) the selection of auditors;

''(iv) a matter where there is a material conflict of interest between or among the issuer, members of management, members of the board of directors, or an affiliate of the issuer;

''(v) declassification; or

''(vi) transactions that would transform the structure of the registrant, including—

''(I) a merger or consolidation; and

''(II) the sale, lease, or exchange of all, or substantially all, of the property and assets of a registrant; and

''(B) does not include—

''(i) a proposal that is not submitted to a holder of covered securities by means of a proxy statement comparable to that described in section 240.14a–101 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation; or

''(ii) a proposal that is—

''(I) the subject of a counter-solicitation; or

''(II) part of a proposal made by a person other than the applicable registrant.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on the first August 1 that occurs after the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE XI—PROTECTING RETAIL INVESTORS' SAVINGS

SEC. 3921. BEST INTEREST BASED ON PECUNIARY FACTORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 211(g) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b–11(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) BEST INTEREST BASED ON PECUNIARY FACTORS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the best interest of a customer shall be determined using pecuniary factors, which may not be subordinated to or limited by non-pecuniary factors, unless the customer provides informed consent, in writing, that such non-pecuniary factors be considered.

''(B) DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY FACTORS.—If a customer provides a broker, dealer, or investment adviser with the informed consent to consider non-pecuniary factors described under subparagraph (A), the broker, dealer, or investment adviser shall—

''(i) disclose the expected pecuniary effects to the customer over a time period selected by the customer and not to exceed three years; and

''(ii) at the end of the time period described in clause (i), disclose, by comparison to a reasonably comparable index or basket of securities selected by the customer, the actual pecuniary effects of that time period, including all fees, costs, and other expenses incurred to consider non-pecuniary factors.

''(C) PECUNIARY FACTOR DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'pecuniary factor' means a factor that a fiduciary prudently determines is expected to have a material effect on the risk or return of an investment based on appropriate investment horizons.''.

(b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than the end of the 12-month period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall revise or issue such rules as may be necessary to implement the amendment made by subsection (a).

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to actions taken by a broker, dealer, or investment adviser beginning on the date that is 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3922. STUDY ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DISCLOSURES IN MUNICIPAL BOND MARKET.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Securities and Exchange Commission shall—

(1) conduct a study to determine the extent to which issuers of municipal securities (as such term is defined in section 3(a)(29) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(29)) make disclosures to investors regarding climate change and other environmental matters; and

(2) solicit public comment with respect to such study.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall consider and analyze—

(1) the frequency with which disclosures described in subsection (a)(1) are made;

(2) whether such disclosures made by issuers of municipal securities in connection with offerings of securities align with such disclosures made by issuers of municipal securities in other contexts or to audiences other than investors;

(3) any voluntary or mandatory disclosure standards observed by issuers of municipal securities in the course of making such disclosures;

(4) the degree to which investors consider such disclosures in connection with making an investment decision; and

(5) such other information as the Securities and Exchange Commission determines appropriate.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) the results of the study required under this section;

(2) a detailed discussion of the financial risks to investors from investments in municipal securities;

(3) whether such risks are adequately disclosed to investors; and

(4) recommended regulatory or legislative steps to address any concerns identified in the study.

SEC. 3923. STUDY ON SOLICITATION OF MUNICIPAL SECURITIES BUSINESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Securities and Exchange Commission shall—

(1) conduct a study on the effectiveness of each covered rule in preventing the payment of

funds to elected officials or candidates for elected office in exchange for the receipt of government business in connection with the offer or sale of municipal securities; and

(2) solicit public comment with respect to such study.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall consider and analyze—

(1) the effectiveness of each covered rule, including whether each covered rule accomplishes the intended effect of such covered rule and has any unintended adverse effects;

(2) the frequency and scope of enforcement actions undertaken pursuant to each covered rule;

(3) the degree to which—

(A) persons subject to each covered rule—

(i) have in effect policies and procedures intended to ensure compliance with each such covered rule; and

(ii) are disadvantaged from participating in the political process generally and in relation to persons who solicit or receive government business or government licenses, permits, and approvals other than in connection with the offer or sale of municipal securities; and

(B) other State and Federal laws and regulations impact the solicitation of municipal securities business; and

(4) such other information as the Securities and Exchange Commission determines appropriate.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) the results of the study required under this section;

(2) an analysis of the extent to which persons affiliated with small businesses, as well as persons affiliated with minority and women opened businesses, have been affected by the covered rules; and

(3) recommended regulatory or legislative steps to address any concerns identified in the study.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED RULE.—The term ''covered rule'' means—

(A) Rule G–38 of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board; and

(B) Rule 206(4)–5 (17 CFR 275.206(4)–5).

(2) MUNICIPAL SECURITIES.—The term ''municipal securities'' has the meaning given the term in section 3(a)(29) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(29)).

DIVISION D—AMERICAN FIRST ACT OF 2023

SEC. 4001. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This division may be cited as the ''American Financial Institution Regulatory Sovereignty and Transparency Act of 2023'' or the ''American FIRST Act of 2023''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this division is as follows:

TITLE I—STOP EXECUTIVE CAPTURE OF BANKING REGULATORS

SEC. 4101. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FSOC CHAIRPERSON AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS.

(a) BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.—Section 10 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 247b), as amended by section 4401(b), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(11) REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FSOC CHAIRPERSON AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS.—The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System may not implement a non-binding recommendation made by the Chairperson of the Financial Stability Oversight Council or contained in an Executive Order unless the Board of Governors first provides the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate with—

''(A) notice that the Board of Governors intends to implement such recommendation;

''(B) a report containing the proposed implementation by the Board of Governors and a justification for such implementation; and

''(C) upon request, not later than the end of the 120-day period beginning on the date of the notice under subparagraph (A), testimony on such proposed implementation.''.

(b) OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY.—Section 324 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (12 U.S.C. 1) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FSOC CHAIRPERSON AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS.—The Comptroller of the Currency may not implement a non-binding recommendation made by the Chairperson of the Financial Stability Oversight Council or contained in an Executive Order unless the Comptroller of the Currency first provides the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate with—

''(1) notice that the Comptroller of the Currency intends to implement such recommendation;

''(2) a report containing the proposed implementation by the Comptroller of the Currency and a justification for such implementation; and

''(3) upon request, not later than the end of the 120-day period beginning on the date of the notice under paragraph (1), testimony on such proposed implementation.''.

(c) FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION.—Section 2 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1812) is amended by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

''(g) REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FSOC CHAIRPERSON AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS.—The Board of Directors of the Corporation may not implement a non-binding recommendation made by the Chairperson of the Financial Stability Oversight Council or contained in an Executive Order unless the Board of Directors first provides the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate with—

''(1) notice that the Board of Directors intends to implement such recommendation;

''(2) a report containing the proposed implementation by the Board of Directors and a justification for such implementation; and

''(3) upon request, not later than the end of the 120-day period beginning on the date of the notice under paragraph (1), testimony on such proposed implementation.''.

(d) NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION.—Section 102 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FSOC CHAIRPERSON AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS.—The Board may not implement a non-binding recommendation made by the Chairperson of the Financial Stability Oversight Council or contained in an Executive Order unless the Board first provides the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate with—

''(1) notice that the Board intends to implement such recommendation;

''(2) a report containing the proposed implementation by the Board and a justification for such implementation; and

''(3) upon request, not later than the end of the 120-day period beginning on the date of the notice under paragraph (1), testimony on such proposed implementation.''.

(e) FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY.—Section 1311 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4511) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FSOC CHAIRPERSON AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS.—The Director may not implement a non-binding recommendation made by the Chairperson of the Financial Stability Oversight Council or contained in an Executive Order unless the Director first provides the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate with—

''(1) notice that the Director intends to implement such recommendation;

''(2) a report containing the proposed implementation by the Director and a justification for such implementation; and

''(3) upon request, not later than the end of the 120-day period beginning on the date of the notice under paragraph (1), testimony on such proposed implementation.''.

TITLE II—ENSURING U.S. AUTHORITY OVER U.S. BANKING REGULATIONS

SEC. 4201. REQUIREMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH RULEMAKINGS IMPLEMENTING POLICIES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.—Section 10 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 247b), as amended by section 4101(a), is further amended by inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

''(12) REQUIREMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH RULEMAKINGS IMPLEMENTING POLICIES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System may not propose or finalize a major covered rule unless, not later than 120 days before issuing such a proposed or final rule, the Board of Governors provides the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate with notice, testimony, and a detailed economic analysis with respect to the proposed or final rule, including projections of economic costs, sectoral effects, and effects on the availability of credit, the gross domestic product, and employment.

''(B) MAJOR COVERED RULE DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'major covered rule' means a rule—

''(i) that the Board of Governors determines would have an effect, in the aggregate, on the economy of the United States of $10,000,000,000 or more during the 10-year period beginning on the date the rule takes effect; and

''(ii) that is intended to align or conform with a recommendation from a non-governmental international organization (including the Financial Stability Board, the Bank for International Settlements, the Network of Central

Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System, and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision).''.

(b) OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY.—Section 324 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (12 U.S.C. 1), as amended by section 4101(b), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) REQUIREMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH RULEMAKINGS IMPLEMENTING POLICIES OF NONGOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller of the Currency may not propose or finalize a major covered rule unless, not later than 120 days before issuing such a proposed or final rule, the Comptroller of the Currency provides the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate with notice, testimony, and a detailed economic analysis with respect to the proposed or final rule, including projections of economic costs, sectoral effects, and effects on the availability of credit, the gross domestic product, and employment.

''(2) MAJOR COVERED RULE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'major covered rule' means a rule—

''(A) that the Comptroller of the Currency determines would have an effect, in the aggregate, on the economy of the United States of $10,000,000,000 or more during the 10-year period beginning on the date the rule takes effect; and

''(B) that is intended to align or conform with a recommendation from a non-governmental international organization (including the Financial Stability Board, the Bank for International Settlements, the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System, and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision).''.

(c) FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION.—Section 2 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1812), as amended by section 4101(c), is further amended by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

''(h) REQUIREMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH RULEMAKINGS IMPLEMENTING POLICIES OF NONGOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board of Directors of the Corporation may not propose or finalize a major covered rule unless, not later than 120 days before issuing such a proposed or final rule, the Board of Directors provides the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate with notice, testimony, and a detailed economic analysis with respect to the proposed or final rule, including projections of economic costs, sectoral effects, and effects on the availability of credit, the gross domestic product, and employment.

''(2) MAJOR COVERED RULE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'major covered rule' means a rule—

''(A) that the Board of Directors determines would have an effect, in the aggregate, on the economy of the United States of $10,000,000,000 or more during the 10-year period beginning on the date the rule takes effect; and

''(B) that is intended to align or conform with a recommendation from a non-governmental international organization (including the Financial Stability Board, the Bank for International Settlements, the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System, and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision).''.

(d) NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION.—Section 102 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752a), as amended by section 4101(d), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) REQUIREMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH RULEMAKINGS IMPLEMENTING POLICIES OF NONGOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board may not propose or finalize a major covered rule unless, not later than 120 days before issuing such a proposed or final rule, the Board provides the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate with notice, testimony, and a detailed economic analysis with respect to the proposed or final rule, including projections of economic costs, sectoral effects, and effects on the availability of credit, the gross domestic product, and employment.

''(2) MAJOR COVERED RULE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'major covered rule' means a rule—

''(A) that the Board determines would have an effect, in the aggregate, on the economy of the United States of $10,000,000,000 or more during the 10-year period beginning on the date the rule takes effect; and

''(B) that is intended to align or conform with a recommendation from a non-governmental international organization (including the Financial Stability Board, the Bank for International Settlements, the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System, and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision).''.

(e) FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY.—Section 1311 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4511), as amended by section 4101(e), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) REQUIREMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH RULEMAKINGS IMPLEMENTING POLICIES OF NONGOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may not propose or finalize a major covered rule unless, not later than 120 days before issuing such a proposed or final rule, the Director provides the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate with notice, testimony, and a detailed economic analysis with respect to the proposed or final rule, including projections of economic costs, sectoral effects, and effects on the availability of credit, the gross domestic product, and employment.

''(2) MAJOR COVERED RULE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'major covered rule' means a rule—

''(A) that the Director determines would have an effect, in the aggregate, on the economy of the United States of $10,000,000,000 or more during the 10-year period beginning on the date the rule takes effect; and

''(B) that is intended to align or conform with a recommendation from a non-governmental international organization (including the Financial Stability Board, the Bank for International Settlements, the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System, and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision).''.

SEC. 4202. REPORT ON CERTAIN CLIMATE-RELATED INTERACTIONS WITH COVERED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—A Federal banking regulator may not meet with or otherwise engage with a covered international organization on the topic of climate-related financial risk during a calendar year unless the Federal banking regulator has issued a report to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate containing, for the previous calendar year—

(1) a complete description of the activities of the covered international organization in which the Federal banking regulator participates (including any task force, committee, or other organizational unit thereof); and

(2) a detailed accounting of the governmental and non-governmental funding sources of the covered international organization (including any task force, committee, or other organizational unit thereof).

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ''covered international organization'' means the Financial Stability Board, the Bank for International Settlements, the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System, and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.

(2) FEDERAL BANKING REGULATOR.—The term ''Federal banking regulator'' means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the National Credit Union Administration, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

TITLE III—BANKING REGULATOR INTERNATIONAL REPORTING

SEC. 4301. REPORTING ON INTERACTIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.—Section 10 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 247b), as amended by section 4201(a), is further amended by inserting after paragraph (12) the following:

''(13) REPORTING ON INTERACTIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—With respect to interactions between the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and a non-governmental international organization (including the Financial Stability Board, the Bank for International Settlements, the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System, and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision), the Board of Governors shall—

''(A) keep a complete record of all such interactions, including minutes of all meetings and any recommendations made during such interaction for international standardization with respect to open-market policies and operations, discount lending and operations (including collateral policies), or supervisory policies and operations; and

''(B) issue an annual report to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate containing—

''(i) all of the information recorded pursuant to subparagraph (A) with respect to the previous year; and

''(ii) with respect to each non-governmental international organization with which the Board of Governors had an interaction in the previous year, a description of the funding sources of the non-governmental international organization.''.

(b) OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY.—Section 324 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (12 U.S.C. 1), as amended by section 4201(b), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) REPORTING ON INTERACTIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—With respect to interactions between the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and a non-governmental international organization (including the Financial Stability Board, the Bank for International Settlements, the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System, and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision), the Comptroller of the Currency shall—

''(1) keep a complete record of all such interactions, including minutes of all meetings and any recommendations made during such interaction for international standardization with respect to discount lending and operations (including collateral policies) or supervisory policies and operations; and

''(2) issue an annual report to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate containing—

''(A) all of the information recorded pursuant to paragraph (1) with respect to the previous year; and

''(B) with respect to each non-governmental international organization with which the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency had an interaction in the previous year, a description of the funding sources of the non-governmental international organization.''.

(c) FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION.—Section 2 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1812), as amended by section 4201(c), is further amended is amended by inserting after subsection (h) the following:

''(i) REPORTING ON INTERACTIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—With respect to interactions between the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and a non-governmental international organization (including the Financial Stability Board, the Bank for International Settlements, the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System, and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision), the Board of Directors of the Corporation shall—

''(1) keep a complete record of all such interactions, including minutes of all meetings and any recommendations made during such interaction for international standardization with respect to discount lending and operations (including collateral policies) or supervisory policies and operations; and

''(2) issue an annual report to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate containing—

''(A) all of the information recorded pursuant to paragraph (1) with respect to the previous year; and

''(B) with respect to each non-governmental international organization with which the Corporation had an interaction in the previous year, a description of the funding sources of the non-governmental international organization.''.

(d) NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION.—Section 102 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752a), as amended by section 4201(d), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) REPORTING ON INTERACTIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—With respect to interactions between the Administration and a non-governmental international organization (including the Financial Stability Board, the Bank for International Settlements, the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System, and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision), the Board shall—

''(1) keep a complete record of all such interactions, including minutes of all meetings and any recommendations made during such interaction for international standardization with respect to discount lending and operations (including collateral policies) or supervisory policies and operations; and

''(2) issue an annual report to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate containing—

''(A) all of the information recorded pursuant to paragraph (1) with respect to the previous year; and

''(B) with respect to each non-governmental international organization with which the Administration had an interaction in the previous year, a description of the funding sources of the non-governmental international organization.''.

(e) FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY.—Section 1311 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4511), as amended by section 4201(e), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) REPORTING ON INTERACTIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—With respect to interactions between the Federal Housing Finance Agency and a non-governmental international organization (including the Financial Stability Board, the Bank for International Settlements, the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System, and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision), the Director shall—

''(1) keep a complete record of all such interactions, including minutes of all meetings and any recommendations made during such interaction for international standardization with respect to discount lending and operations (including collateral policies) or supervisory policies and operations; and

''(2) issue an annual report to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate containing—

''(A) all of the information recorded pursuant to paragraph (1) with respect to the previous year; and

''(B) with respect to each non-governmental international organization with which the Federal Housing Finance Agency had an interaction in the previous year, a description of the funding sources of the non-governmental international organization.''.

TITLE IV—SUPERVISION REFORM

SEC. 4401. REMOVAL OF THE VICE CHAIRMAN FOR SUPERVISION DESIGNATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The second undesignated paragraph of section 10 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 242) (relating to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board) is amended by striking ''and 2 shall be designated by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to serve as Vice Chairmen of the Board, each for a term of 4 years, 1 of whom shall serve in the absence of the Chairman, as provided in the fourth undesignated paragraph of this section, and 1 of whom shall be designated Vice Chairman for Supervision. The Vice Chairman for Supervision shall develop policy recommendations for the Board regarding supervision and regulation of depository institution holding companies and other financial firms supervised by the Board, and shall oversee the supervision and regulation of such firms.'' and inserting ''and 1 shall be designated by the President, by and with the consent of the Senate, to serve as Vice Chairman of the Board for a term of 4 years.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 10 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 241 et seq.) is amended by striking paragraph (12).

DIVISION E—LIMITATION ON SEC RESERVE FUND

SEC. 5001. LIMITATION.

During fiscal years 2026 and 2027, registration fees collected by the Securities and Exchange Commission shall not be deposited in the Securities and Exchange Commission Reserve Fund.

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

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today, we have an opportunity to put a stake in the ground and ensure our financial system remains the envy of the world by passing H.R. 4790, the Prioritizing Economic Growth Over Woke Policies Act.

Under the Biden-Harris administration, agencies that have traditionally been viewed as independent have been hijacked to push through a partisan environmental, social, and governance, or ESG, agenda.

Politically motivated, unelected bureaucrats are forcing these leftwing political priorities—which, by the way, Mr. Speaker, Democrats were unable to pass into law even when they had unified control of Congress—on the American people through financial regulation.

In other words, rogue Democrat-appointed regulators are forcing companies to waste limited time and resources on ESG political mandates that have little or nothing to do with a firm's financial performance.

These misguided ESG efforts don't benefit our banking system or our capital markets. They certainly don't help consumers, workers, job creators, everyday investors, or retirement savers.

That is why House Republicans are fighting back with the Prioritizing Economic Growth Over Woke Policies Act. This bill is critical to combat the risks woke ESG initiatives pose to the American people and our financial system. It is a combination of four packages consisting of 20 different bills from the Committee on Financial Services, including my GUARDRAIL Act, Congressman STEIL's Protecting Americans' Retirement Savings from Politics Act, Congressman NORMAN's Businesses Over Activists Act, and Congressman LOUDERMILK's American FIRST Act.

I applaud my colleagues for their work and appreciate their partnership. I also commend Chairman MCHENRY for his steadfast leadership to ensure protecting Americans and our financial system from out-of-bounds ESG mandates is a key priority for Republicans on the Committee on Financial Services.

I want to underscore, Mr. Speaker, why H.R. 4790 is so desperately needed. Under the Biden-Harris administration, rogue regulators are weaponizing independent agencies to pursue the objective of the political far left at the expense of our financial system and, more importantly, everyday investors.

SEC Chair Gensler and progressive Democrats are abusing our securities laws, overstepping their statutory authority, and redefining the long-accepted ''materiality standard'' to accommodate the demands of radical climate and social activists.

The materiality standard, which has been a pillar of American securities laws for decades, requires public companies to disclose information that has substantial likelihood to influence the financial judgments of a reasonable investor. Those are the standards that have been accepted, I believe, since 1976.

House Democrats have proposed legislation to require public companies to disclose nonmaterial information, including all information related to climate impact and emissions, human capital, and ''equity,'' whatever that might be, none of which have a substantial impact on a given firm's financial performance. None of these proposals were enacted into law.

More recently, Chair Gensler's rogue SEC has overstepped its authority by pursuing rulemakings to mandate similar nonmaterial disclosures. This includes finalizing the disastrous climate disclosure rule earlier this year.

Let me be clear: If this information is material to a business' financial performance and therefore affects the everyday investor, it is already required to be disclosed under the materiality standard.

That is where my GUARDRAIL Act, a key pillar of this legislation we are considering today, comes in. It protects U.S. capital markets and the financial interests of everyday investors by rejecting this new, prescriptive, and expansive notion of materiality by reining in SEC overreach.

Specifically, the bill prevents rogue regulators from mandating the disclosure of nonmaterial ESG information that would overwhelm, not inform, everyday investors, also known as reasonable investors.

At the same time, H.R. 4790 holds large asset managers and the proxy advisory duopoly of ISS and Glass Lewis accountable. These firms are abusing their outsized market influence to force leftwing political views on public companies, rather than aligning their shareholder voting with the financial interests of investors and economic goals.

The Prioritizing Economic Growth Over Woke Policies Act returns power to everyday investors and retirement savers from these unaccountable third parties. Additionally, the bill would require the SEC's shareholder proposal process to stop progressive activists from hijacking the proxy process to inject woke ESG initiatives into corporate boardrooms.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it actually would stop all left, right, or center activists' proposals from being introduced. That is a good thing for everyone. This will allow executives and directors to focus on creating shareholder value—by the way, their legal responsibility—and benefiting retirement savers and bolstering economic growth.

Finally, this bill would stop the alliance of leftwing activists, unaccountable global governance organizations, and politicized Biden-Harris regulators from weaponizing the U.S. banking regulatory framework to inject radical ESG initiatives to the detriment of consumers and American competitiveness.

With the Prioritizing Economic Growth Over Woke Policies Act, House Republicans are taking action to protect the financial system, workers, job creators, and everyday investors from radical ESG initiatives that put leftwing political goals above American prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4790, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, we are on the brink of yet another government shutdown brought to you by MAGA Republicans. I have lost track of how many times this has happened in this Congress. Frankly, I and the rest of America are just tired. We are exhausted.

There are real consequences when the government shuts down. It harms our national security. It harms our economy. It harms servicemembers, veterans, retirees, and vulnerable communities.

Instead of working to prevent a shutdown, we are debating a bill that seeks to divide America with fake culture wars that are really about denying the real dangers posed by climate change and denying the fact that our country's rich diversity is one of our greatest resources.

This bill, H.R. 4790, which I am calling the promoting MAGA priorities over economic growth act, is straight out of the Republicans Project 2025 playbook. It would restrict voting rights for investors, ban information that MAGA Republicans don't agree with, and block the government agency responsible for protecting our capital markets, the Securities and Exchange Commission, from directing public companies to report critical information that impacts their bottom line, including climate risk, company diversity, and employee welfare.

This bill flies in the face of the 80 percent of investors who want companies to disclose these metrics, known as environmental, social, and governance, or ESG, policies. Companies that prioritize these metrics perform better financially than their peers that do not.

Many studies have shown that companies that embrace the diversity of the United States outperform those that do not. Indeed, companies with the highest percentages of women board directors outperformed those the least by 53 percent when it comes to shareholder returns.

If we think about it, this is just common sense. When a company includes the views and perspectives that reflect the diversity of America, all of America is likely to see the value of that company.

When I was chairwoman of the committee, I created the first of its kind Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion. We received countless hours of testimony from researchers who confirmed that embracing diversity and inclusion is not just the right thing to do but is also good for the bottom line. It is good management.

Let me go through in more detail what this bill does.

First, H.R. 4790 strips American investors of their legal right to vote on and offer proposals that can influence the direction of the companies they own, particularly those related to ESG policies. The bill does this by giving management, rather than the SEC, the final say on whether a proposal gets included on the ballot at a company's annual shareholder meeting.

□ 1345

The effect of this bill would deprive investors of what is today, right now, a legal right to have proposals of any kind included.

There is a long history of shareholders pushing America's corporations to adopt practices that most of us take for granted today. This includes majority-independent boards, say-on-pay executive compensation, and annual director elections.

Today, investors are pushing companies to report ESG metrics, board diversity, and how workers are treated. Being able to offer, and then vote on these proposals, is a legal right of investors under current law. That is right. Shareholders are the legal owners of the companies they invest in and corporate executives work at their pleasure.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, who are so concerned about socialism, might need a refresher about how capitalism really works.

Second, H.R. 4790 undermines another critical component of our equity markets. The bill limits independent analysis and research by impeding key providers that investors use known as proxy advisers.

Proxy advisers are neutral third parties that provide shareholders and their representatives with independent analysis about items that are up for a vote on the corporate ballot. Proxy advisers also solve an important problem by doing the research on thousands of corporate votes that investors would otherwise have to do themselves. Management simply does not want ordinary investors to have this information as it may not align with their recommendations.

To be clear, investors pay for these services and do so because they don't just want to take management's word, and they shouldn't. By restricting what analysis and research ordinary investors can purchase and use, H.R. 4790 is effectively another MAGA book ban.

Third, H.R. 4790 severely limits the SEC's authority to direct companies to report data about their climate risks, diversity hiring, and employee welfare.

Instead of allowing the SEC to determine what information investors should see, as is currently settled law, under this bill, companies themselves would make this determination.

It shouldn't surprise anyone that a company's management is not inclined to share more than it has to, and if it gets too close, one can imagine that companies wouldn't share much of anything.

Congress authorized the SEC to be the arbiter of what is disclosed because our markets only work when investors—investors—have sufficient information to make informed investment decisions.

Finally, H.R. 4790 undermines the government's ability to coordinate with international partners and take commonsense steps to address financial risks like those posed by climate change. In fact, if the Federal Reserve hears from a European counterpart that requiring companies to guard against wildfire risk is important, the Fed would have to jump through several new hurdles before it could implement it, even in an emergency.

This extreme measure would even make it harder for our bank regulators to encourage banks to expand small business lending, an issue I tried to fix through an amendment but was blocked.

To be clear, this bill doesn't just have one or two poison pills in it. When each bill was separately considered in committee, not a single Democratic member voted for them.

H.R. 4790 strips the right of investors to vote and offer their own proposals to strengthen the companies they own, strips their access to independent research and analysis about the companies they own, and strips the government regulator of its authority to compel those companies to provide the market with critical information.

Is this America?

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I will just note that, yes, it is America, and I will note that the ranking member voted against a continuing resolution just yesterday to keep government open. However, I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that she will have another opportunity very, very soon.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK).

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4790, the Prioritizing Economic Growth Over Woke Policies Act. Not only is this bill important to restoring sound financial practices within the financial services sector, it includes two provisions that originated from legislation I introduced in this Congress. The most significant is my bill, H.R. 4823, the American Financial Institution Regulatory Sovereignty and Transparency Act of 2023, better known as the American FIRST Act.

The short title is an apt description of the bill's aim: to put American interests first in bank supervision and remove misguided political influence from our banking system. The American FIRST Act has three important key elements:

First, it removes undue political influence from banking regulations. In recent years, Mr. Speaker, we have seen bank policy used by regulators to further their political interests, not for what is best for banks or their customers. Bank regulators have proposed sweeping supervisory changes without critically evaluating the models they use to forecast climate-related financial risk. When nonbinding FSOC proposals are written into binding regulation, they deserve a high degree of scrutiny from lawmakers.

The truth is that the banking system shouldn't be a race to fill supervisory roles with partisan loyalists. It should be about safeguarding the financial system with a sober eye for objectivity.

Hastily pushing through regulations without a thorough economic analysis can have significant unintended consequences, especially on the average consumer.

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, aggressive climate regulations like those proposed by FSOC could have catastrophic effects on our energy sector. Small businesses and families in energy-producing States could face higher energy costs and reduced credit access.

My provisions in this bill will ensure that any regulatory action proposed by FSOC, or the executive branch undergoes a full review process so that the public better understands the tradeoffs that they are making.

My colleagues across the aisle call these reporting requirements hoops that regulators will be forced to jump through, but in reality, they are arguing against increased transparency and good governance in banking regulation.

Second, it ensures that bank regulators fall under U.S. authority. Bank supervisors at the Federal Reserve, FDIC, OCC, and others have consistently put the interest of large foreign banks ahead of our own. These policies aren't just abstract. They have significant implications for the stability of our financial system and for American competitiveness abroad.

For example, on May 22, 2022, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, a European-based, international organization, lowered transnational footprint standards for the largest European banks, which disadvantaged U.S. banks of the same size. Federal Reserve officials actually endorsed the changes, which put American banks and their borrowers at a significant disadvantage.

My bill addresses this problem by requiring U.S. financial regulators to periodically report on how they engage with their foreign counterparts. It also requires them to conduct a robust analysis before implementing any rule to conform with the recommendations of an international body. Specifically, it mandates that they conduct a thorough economic analysis, projecting the effects on credit markets, employment, and the broader economy before implementing any rules originating from a foreign nongovernment organization.

Third, it depoliticizes Federal Reserve supervision. The American FIRST Act calls for the elimination of the vice chairman for supervision at the Federal Reserve. This role was intended to centralize supervisory power within the Fed, but it has added another layer of complexity. Last year we experienced a significant banking crisis on the Fed's watch, which is hardly evidence that the system is more stable with another powerful bureaucrat in the mix. At worst, the position has unnecessarily politicized bank supervision allowing unchecked partisan bureaucrats to channel credit away from politically disfavored sectors.

Finally, I would also like to highlight another provision in this bill, previously introduced as H.R. 4649. This provision would require transparency from America's largest asset managers when voting the shares entrusted to them.

These large firms have historically relied on external proxy advisory firms to guide how they vote the shares they manage for other investors. Some of these proxy firms are actually foreign owned and managed entities which do not have the soundness of the U.S. economy as their primary interest.

This bill would require these large firms to disclose how often they vote in line with proxy advisory firms and to ensure that their votes are in the best interests of their shareholders.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for transparency and good governance and vote ''yes'' on H.R. 4790.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS), who is a member of the Committee on Financial Services and the co-chair of the Congressional Sustainable Investment Caucus.

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill.

As co-chairman of the Congressional Sustainable Investment Caucus, I am glad to join Ranking Member WATERS and other colleagues here to talk about protecting the freedom to invest.

Americans want their pensions and retirement savings to be invested responsibly.

Additionally, recent studies have shown that 80 percent of investors want to invest in companies that consider climate risks, diversity hiring, and employee welfare.

That is because investors understand that these factors have huge implications for the value of their investments and depend on disclosures to make informed choices.

Corporations are spending up to $500,000 a year to evaluate their sustainable business practices because investors are asking for this information. Many of these investors manage pensions and retirement savings for teachers, firefighters, police officers, and other hardworking Americans.

However, House leadership is bringing legislation to the floor that limits access to the very information that investors want.

I submitted an amendment that would have protected the right of investors to access these disclosures. Unfortunately, this amendment and others intended to increase transparency were rejected.

Mr. Speaker, the bill we are voting on today would make it more difficult for investors to maximize the returns on your retirement savings.

Why?

It is because House leadership is trying to make it more difficult to consider risk factors that they simply don't like.

According to a 2023 Statehouse Report, retirees' pension funds stand to lose billions of dollars due to Republican bills attacking sustainable and profitable investment practices.

Mr. Speaker, if you really believe in the free market and capitalism, then you need to give investors the freedom to make their own decisions.

We need to grow pension and retirement savings, not force them into shortsighted, riskier investments.

I know that giving responsible investors more information is a good thing. It is not a bad thing.

Evidence shows that bills targeting sustainable business practices directly harm taxpayers, investors, and hardworking Americans' retirement funds.

We should be giving investors the information they need to continue growing pensions and retirement funds. This bill would do the opposite.

Mr. Speaker, what was interesting in the introduction and the comments so far is they haven't talked about the markets. They were saying that we were going to be in a recession. In fact, just the opposite has happened.

In fact, Chairman Gensler and this administration have done such a good job that we saw the Dow Jones shoot past 40,000 points and now over 42,000 points.

Why?

It is because they are doing a good job. It is because they are giving the information to the investors that the investors want, and they are making good decisions.

However, they, again, want to burn the books when it comes to information.

Is this America?

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition, and I thank the leader, again, for yielding me time.

□ 1400

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) to speak on his work on protecting Americans' retirement savings from politics.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which will protect retirement savings from political interference by activists and their proxy adviser allies.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for including my legislation in this comprehensive package. My bill, the Protecting Americans' Retirement Savings from Politics Act, reins in proxy advisers and puts a stop to the political takeover of retirement investments.

Names like ISS and Glass Lewis may not make the headlines every day, but these two firms constitute a powerful proxy adviser duopoly. They are fueling a movement to weaponize Americans' retirement funds to push their political agenda. This hurts workers, our economy, and the returns on Americans' hard-earned retirement savings.

Under Chairman Gensler, the Biden SEC gutted safeguards that were meant to provide proxy advisers with accountability and transparency. The SEC has also given a green light to activists to inject politics into the boardroom by changing the rules and empowering unaccountable SEC staff. This has predictably led to a huge spike in politically motivated shareholder proposals.

ISS and Glass Lewis control 97 percent of the proxy adviser market, advising virtually all professional investors. ISS offers companies consulting services to address the same activist proposals they make recommendations on, which is an obvious conflict of interest.

My bill prevents this conflict and enforces the disclosure of other potential conflicts of interest.

On top of that, the proxy adviser firms don't bear any costs or responsibility or accountability for their misguided recommendations. Some of these proposals clearly harm shareholders' value. In some cases, they have even directed companies to do things that are against the law.

Hardworking Americans saving for retirement shouldn't bear these costs. Many, I think, would be shocked to learn that their investments aren't always being maximized to provide a secure retirement. Instead, they are being hijacked for political impact.

Congress needs to rein that in and prevent that abuse. My bill addresses this in several key ways.

First, it reforms the proxy process to reduce the number of duplicative, repetitive, and politically motivated shareholder proposals. Second, it establishes a registration process for proxy advisory firms, requiring them to disclose their conflicts of interest and methodologies, and restricting their ability to offer consulting services.

It also reimposes liability on proxy advisers for getting things wrong. It ends robovoting, the process that autofills proxy advisers' recommendations. This practice can magnify proxy advisers' errors and biases.

Third, the bill places requirements on institutional investors to ensure they are voting with Americans' best economic interests in mind. They can't just outsource judgment to conflicted proxy advisers. Retirement security is far too important.

The Protecting Americans' Retirement Savings from Politics Act is an essential part of this comprehensive and commonsense legislation. We need to step up to empower investors, restore transparency and accountability, and enhance competition.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), who is also the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Capital Markets.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, our capital markets and our capitalist system are the envy of the world.

How does that system work? Investors decide how to allocate capital, not the government. Investors control the corporation through voting, not the corporate insiders, not the board, and not the executives.

This bill is designed, with a Marxist tint in mind perhaps, to blind and cripple the capitalists of America, the shareholders, the investors.

Let's say an investor agrees with Republicans on how to allocate their money. That is fine, but some investors may care about the environment, or they may just believe that investing in low carbon is more profitable and investing in resilient companies is more profitable.

This bill blinds them. It says: You are just the investor, and the government has decided what criteria you are going to use, and we are going to blind you and not give you the information to make a decision based on carbon footprint. You don't decide. The government decides.

There is more for the Marxists here in this room. Not only does this deprive capitalists of the right to allocate capital, but it specifically helps the Chinese Communist Party because American corporations are going to have to decide, in many cases, do they sell their artificial intelligence secrets to the highest bidder in Shanghai? If the corporation wants to, its shareholders now can come forward and say: No, we care about America. We are patriots. Do not sell.

Under this bill, the shareholders cannot stop their company from selling AI to the Chinese Communist Party.

There is a lot here, not only for Marxists in general, but for the Chinese Communist Party in particular. They achieve that by blinding investors, by not giving them information, and crippling investors' ability to control their corporations.

It has obviously come to a low point here in Washington that you need a member of the Progressive Caucus to defend capitalism from the Republican Party, but I believe in a system in which investors have the information they want and get to vote on how the corporation behaves.

Instead, we will see. Investors can only make decisions based on the information that the Republican Party is willing to let them have, and investors can't stop their corporations from selling out our technology knowing that the insiders, the corporate board and

the executives, might have a giant payday, a huge bonus, a huge run-up in money, and they might sell our artificial intelligence secrets to Beijing, and the investors are blocked by this bill.

Marx would vote ''yes.'' I am voting ''no.''

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I will note that, for some, the louder and longer they say something, they hope people will believe it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Capital Markets.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and congratulate him on this compilation of 20 fantastic bills that were favorably reported out of Financial Services.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this package, which includes a bill of mine, H.R. 4662, the Corporate Governance Examination Act.

Too often, politically or socially motivated shareholders' proposals cause investors to shoulder increased and unnecessary costs. My legislation will examine whether the proposal process has become unnecessarily politicized and help ensure these proposals don't deter future investors or endanger current investors.

This important legislation would require the SEC to conduct comprehensive studies on shareholders' proposals, proxy advisory firms, and proxy process.

These studies will address key problems in politically and socially motivated proposals, such as financial incentives and obligations of involved parties, the impact on long-term retail investors, the influence of proxy advisory firms, and the costs incurred by companies in response to shareholders' proposals.

These studies will provide data-driven insights to enhance shareholders' value and promote transparent corporate governance practices.

I thank the Members who have bills in this package today for their incredible work toward upholding our capitalist society and urge my colleagues to support this package.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN), who is the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Still I rise, and I rise today in strong opposition to this legislation. On the subject of climate change, acknowledging the dangers posed by climate change benefits corporate America, as climate change is a threat to our financial system, as well as the global economy.

If insurance companies and their investors do not account for climate risk, they will either have to go bankrupt or exit certain markets, exacerbating the recent trend wherein some of the largest insurance companies are choosing to withdraw coverage from certain States.

Further, a 2023 study conducted by asset manager Nuveen found that more than 73 percent of U.S. investors said they were more likely to invest in a company that communicates its plans for effectively managing ESG-related risk.

Now on the question of diversity. When it comes to diversity, diversity is a benefit, not a detriment. Diversity benefits corporate shareholders by improving a company's performance.

A 2023 McKinsey report found that companies in the top 25 percent for both gender and ethnic diversity in their executive teams are, on average, 9 percent more likely to outperform their peers.

On the other hand, McKinsey found that companies in the bottom 25 percent for both gender and ethnic diversity are 66 percent less likely to outperform their peers.

In truth, this isn't about minorities and women not being qualified. In truth, it is about the fact that they are minorities and women in a society that has historically discriminated against them. Minorities and women are good for business.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I note that this bill is absolutely neutral on climate change and doesn't even reference it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), who is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Prioritizing Economic Growth Over Woke Policies Act, sponsored by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA), my good friend.

This important act includes two of my bills, the Protecting Retail Investors' Savings Act and the Banking Regulator International Reporting Act, to protect capitalism from the politicization of capital allocation and to curtail the Biden-Harris regulators' efforts to circumvent Congress and use regulation to force leftist climate policies down the throats of the American people.

In recent years, we have witnessed an alarming rise in asset managers favoring green and politically favored investments that deliver lower returns.

According to data from Morningstar last year, sustainable U.S. equity funds underperformed the broader S&P 500 Index by 5 percentage points. In 2022, the average sustainable ESG fund was down 19½ percent.

This stands to reason because ESG funds are, by design, less diversified. Studies show that fees for ESG funds average as much as 43 percent higher than non-ESG funds, further eroding investor returns. Too often, retail investors unwittingly sacrificed financial returns to advance the ESG movement.

It is time to stand up for American investors against the fraud of ESG. My bill would require investment advisers to prioritize financial performance over these nonpecuniary and political factors.

Additionally, the Federal banking agencies, in coordination with the Biden-Harris administration, are working with global governance bodies outside of our country and climate activists to put climate policies into supervision of U.S. financial institutions under the guise of concerns about safety, soundness, and stability.

When Congress questions their motives and actions, they claim they are just abiding by international standards in secret board meetings abroad. Congress and the American people deserve transparency and robust information on these meetings between U.S. regulators and foreign global governance groups, some of which include officials from our adversaries.

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, regulators' independence is being severely threatened, as they are being politicized to achieve the dreams of the Green New Deal. For the safety of our economy and for the retirement security of our constituents, we must pass this legislation to end the politicization of capital allocation, not to harm capitalism, but to depoliticize capitalism, to take the government out of capitalism.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this legislation.

□ 1415

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), who is also the ranking member of the Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 4790, a package of partisan, harmful financial services bills that would harm American investors and consumers.

Study after study has proven that diversity and racial equity in the workplace significantly improve company performance, leading to greater profits and enhanced levels of innovation. Failing to address these issues at a firm directly affects stock value and investment risk.

Therefore, investors should unquestionably have this data about the companies they are investing in. Shareholders ought to have a meaningful opportunity to bring these issues to the attention of management through the shareholder proposal and proxy statement process.

The bottom line is, diversity matters, diversity disclosures matter, and investors have the right to access the information they need to make informed investment decisions based on their own judgment of which factors indicate long-term value.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, dismissing certain disclosures as nonmaterial or irrelevant takes that decision out of the hands of the investor and impedes the asset managers' ability to mitigate risks to clients.

Lastly, instead of empowering investors and consumers, this majority has prioritized dismantling diversity and inclusion programs and a full-scale war on environmental, social, and governance policies that investors themselves are demanding.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. FITZGERALD), who has been putting a lot of effort into this.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4790.

This bill is an important step toward ensuring the information required to be disclosed to the Securities and Exchange Commission by issuers be material to voting or investment decisions. It also contains several other measures to push back on activist ESG shareholder proposals.

While shareholder engagement remains an important aspect of corporate governance, the consideration of shareholder proposals that deviate from the company's strategic direction or long-term goals has transformed boardrooms into partisan platforms.

Although the number of shareholder proposals is increasing, support is declining across the board. A 2009 study noted that costs directly incurred by companies due to such proposals were estimated to be about $87,000 per proposal, totaling $90 million annually.

The Performance over Politics Act, which is included in this package, would allow issuers to defer the resubmission of shareholder proposals for 3 years if those proposals are similar in nature.

These thresholds would respect the decisions of the majority of shareholders.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN), who is a member of the Financial Services Committee and the co-chair of the Congressional Sustainable Investment Caucus.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a former CEO who would have personally benefited from this legislation. I rise in strong, dare I say, vehement, opposition to this legislation.

Let me be very clear. The job of a CEO, especially in capital-intensive businesses like the one I used to run, is to be a prudent and responsible steward of other people's capital.

I should also be candid and say that sometimes investors can be a pain in the butt. When you are the CEO, you are managing their money. They may call you, and they may ask questions about wanting to dig into the details of your hiring policies. They may want to dig into the details of your internal governance policies. They may want to understand the degree to which your company is hedged out against future risks, ESG or otherwise.

It is very tempting in those moments, from my personal experience as a CEO, to say: ''You all don't understand this business as well as I do. I am so much smarter than you. I am going to ignore your questions because they are not material,'' and hang up the phone.

That is a great way to become an ex-CEO, which is exactly as it should be. When you tell them that they don't understand what I know about my company, they are inclined to correct you and say: ''No. It is not your company. It is my company.''

My Republican colleagues are doing exactly that with this bill. They are telling investors and shareholders that they do not have a right to decide what is material in their interest in these companies. Maybe that is an individual investor. Maybe that is a pension fund. They are saying that they don't matter.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you, our Nation's CEOs thank my Republican colleagues for their service, for looking out for them.

Now, we will always have a few lousy, self-interested CEOs who would like to fleece their investors, who would like to hide their liabilities, who would like to tell you to shut up and pound sand because you don't understand their business.

It is sad to me to see the Republican Party choose to associate with them and say we have their backs. I am proud to stand with our Nation's good CEOs and, more importantly, with all of our Nation's investors in strong opposition to this antimarket, antigrowth legislation.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN), who is a member of our Financial Services Committee.

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4790, and I thank our chairman, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA), for leading this very important bill.

The rising cost of living and inflation are making it hard for everyone, particularly those in ag States like Iowa. Over half of Iowans rely on some type of retirement account just to plan for their future—their kids' future, their future retirement, their ability to buy a first-time home.

However, some investment managers are now letting politics guide their decisions, not free market principles. They are working not to improve returns for their investors, retirees, or every American, but working in a way to align their politics before actual market-based principles.

That is why I believe we must pass this bill, which includes my Protecting Americans' Savings Act, and eliminate these tragic conflicts of interest. We cannot allow unelected bureaucrats, administrators, or political activists to gamble with Americans' hard-earned and well-invested future. The retirement savings that are being led here ensure that our companies do what is best for all Americans, including my constituents back home in Iowa, not the political motivations of a few.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation. I thank Mr. HUIZENGA for his strong leadership and work in making sure that this can come to the floor and pass.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA), who is also the vice ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this bill is just another extreme MAGA political stunt to undermine the safety and soundness of our banks and financial system.

Rather than focus on economic growth, it pushes extremist policies, stripping away critical environmental, social, and governance initiatives and disclosures.

Let's be clear: Climate risk is financial risk, and diversity is good business.

Just look at a recent McKinsey report: Top companies grow more when they consider climate risk and embrace diversity and inclusion than when they only look at the bottom line.

Let's make this simple. Why do Republicans want to take power away from shareholders? Why are they doing away with decades of progress in corporate transparency? Why do they want less information?

This is not an effort to secure economic growth for our Nation. It is an effort to deny reality, something that extreme Republicans are experts at.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NORMAN). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I, too, ask: Is this America?

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER), my good friend and a member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the chairman of the subcommittee and a great leader in Financial Services, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4790, the Prioritizing Economic Growth Over Woke Policies, as introduced by Mr. HUIZENGA.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, limits the disclosures that securities issuers must provide to the SEC, ensuring they only report information that is material to investors' decisionmaking.

H.R. 4790 also includes my bill, H.R. 4653, the Protecting U.S. Business Sovereignty Act.

My legislation defends American businesses from the overreach of foreign regulations like the EU's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, which threatens U.S. businesses by imposing costly compliance

burdens on U.S. businesses for participating even in a minor way in the EU.

Republicans are not against ESG, Mr. Speaker, as an investment choice. If individual investors want to prioritize environmental, social, or governance factors, that is their freedom. What we oppose is when these ideological views are mandated, when investors are forced to comply with burdensome regulations that prioritize political ideology over profitability, prioritize ideology over outcomes, which harms the economy and undermines the freedom to invest one's own wealth.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. Let's choose economic growth and the freedom of choice for American investors.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB), who is also the vice ranking member of the Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the so-called ESG debate is a fabricated political issue funded by corporate interests that are trying to protect their short-term profits at the expense of our workers, our retirees, and our communities.

The stakes are real, and hardworking families' retirement security is on the line.

Just look at the impacts at the State level, Mr. Speaker. Indiana's budget office, for example, has estimated that forcing their State pension system to divest from firms or funds that use ESG factors could reduce returns by $6.7 billion.

Public funding is also at stake. Let's look at Texas. It passed anti-ESG legislation at the State level, disrupting the municipal bond market. Public borrowing costs have now increased by roughly $400 million in Texas.

Anti-ESG efforts shield companies from accountability, put families' retirement savings at risk, and cost the public money.

All this is for corporate profits. Pensioners and retirees deserve better.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I want everyone to admit that this is all for corporate profits and that the American people deserve better.

These are retirees who worked incredibly hard, and we have to do everything we can to protect their investments. They deserve better. They deserve the transparency that these factors produce.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I simply note that if this was about protecting investors and maximizing their profit, we wouldn't force them to go into a lower return product like my colleagues are trying to do.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE), my friend and colleague, a member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, my friend from Michigan, for yielding me time to speak in support of this legislative package that includes my bill, H.R. 4657.

Mr. Speaker, under the Biden-Harris administration, economic growth has been sacrificed to pursue a woke agenda detrimental to Tennesseans. This is one of the many reasons I rise in support of my Michigan colleague's legislation, H.R. 4790.

The Tennesseans I represent can be assured that I will continue to prioritize working families over the woke socialist agenda known as ESG that far-left progressives are inserting into retirement accounts.

□ 1430

My bill that is included in this package, would protect retail investors and retirement savings from leftwing, activist shareholders and socially directed investment funds from abusing the shareholder process to advance their progressive political agendas.

Activist investors that force companies to take social positions on issues like abortion and climate change shouldn't be making business decisions.

My bill would offer companies respite from these harmful and extremist shareholder proposals, which is why my bill is referred to as the RESPITE Act in the Senate.

Tennesseans know firsthand how woke priorities don't align with our values or our financial interests. That is why we stood up to Tractor Supply Company and forced them to care about people again and not politics.

When the Securities and Exchange Commission came after our farmers to collect ESG-related information, the Tennessee Attorney General's office sued the SEC to remind them that they were overstepping by engaging in environmental policy.

Tennessee is proud to lead the charge against the woke agenda championed by the Biden-Harris administration.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to join me in voting ''yes'' on H.R. 4790, so that we can turn the focus back on promoting economic growth and not social wokeness.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN), a member of the Financial Services Committee and the co-chair of the Congressional Sustainable Investment Caucus.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, again, I oppose H.R. 4790 because it impedes shareholders' engagement with the companies they own, limits visibility into corporate decisionmaking, and ultimately weakens the foundation of America's strong free market.

For this reason, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If the House rules had permitted, I would have offered this motion with an important amendment to this bill.

My amendment would require companies to disclose when they abandon commitments to diversity, equity and inclusion, or DEI.

DEI initiatives at companies lead to more innovative and productive organizational cultures. Establishing a diverse workforce helps companies attract and retain top talent and ultimately drives better business outcomes.

I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD the text of this amendment 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: I hope that my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FLOOD).

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I support Mr. HUIZENGA's bill, H.R. 4790, the Prioritizing Economic Growth Over Woke Policies Act, and I thank him and Chairman MCHENRY for their leadership on this issue.

In particular, I highlight my bill within this larger package. It is called the Stop Executive Capture of Banking Regulators Act.

This bill applies a requirement to the Federal Reserve, the OCC, the FDIC, the NCUA, and the FHFA to report to Congress when they plan to implement a nonbinding recommendation from an executive order, or FSOC.

All the regulators I just listed are independent. Independent regulators are supposed to act according to their respective expertise. They shouldn't just adopt recommendations from the President or Treasury without their own due diligence.

This bill says that if they do choose to implement a nonbinding directive from the executive branch, they should tell Congress and the American people what they are planning to do and why. That is a commonsense requirement, and, frankly, this shouldn't be a partisan issue.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 4 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from California has 6 minutes remaining.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let me be clear. We all want our investments to grow. Investors want to be able to compare ESG metrics across companies because there is substantial research showing that companies that are actively managing their climate risk and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion are more profitable, not less.

Consistent and transparent disclosure on these metrics are critical for investors who are looking to maximize their investment growth, not just for

investors who are looking to put their money toward good causes.

This is not just about doing the right thing for the Earth or for employees. It is about doing the right thing for a company's bottom line, the right thing for the growth of our investments, and the right thing for investor choice.

My colleague has claimed that nothing in this bill would prevent an individual from investing in companies with ESG policies, but let's take a look at the facts.

This bill would make it harder for investors to access clear and consistent disclosures from companies on ESG metrics.

How can an investor make informed decisions without that information? They cannot, and that is why this bill is so harmful.

It is taking away investor rights and investor choice in order to force MAGA policies on all of us at the expense of investors. It is unacceptable.

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close.

Meanwhile, I again reiterate that the law requires any material information, including climate information, must be disclosed currently, if it is material.

I will continue to reserve the balance of my time until the gentlewoman is prepared to close.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill has been opposed by the Biden-Harris administration. In fact, this Statement of Administration Policy states that this bill ''would severely limit the ability of Federal financial regulators to protect consumers and investors.''

It also ''would disempower stakeholders and investors. . . .''

I include the Statement of Administration Policy in the RECORD.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 4790—PRIORITIZING ECONOMIC GROWTH OVER WOKE POLICIES ACT

The Administration opposes H.R. 4790, which would severely limit the ability of Federal financial regulators to protect consumers and investors.

Since 1934, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has worked to protect investors, safeguard markets, and enhance access to capital. Central to these efforts are the SEC's disclosure rules, which require companies that offer securities to the public to provide investors the information they need to make informed decisions. The changes proposed in H.R. 4790 would fundamentally limit the SEC's ability to fulfill its mission by prohibiting the agency from requiring companies to provide certain disclosures of information material to investment decisions, and instead allowing the regulated companies themselves the discretion to determine what must be disclosed.

The SEC also exists to ensure that companies are responsive to shareholder and investor concerns. However, H.R. 4790 would disempower stakeholders and investors, including by preventing the SEC from compelling companies to notify investors of other shareholders' proposals and by limiting the types of proposals that shareholders can introduce.

Finally, the bill also limits some independent agencies, including the Federal Reserve, from working to influence standards proposed by specified international organizations that work to improve the financial system, curtailing the Nation's ability to coordinate with international counterparts in the face of threats to the global economy.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I also point out that this bill is opposed by over 40 organizations and investor advocates. I include in the RECORD the letter these groups signed indicating their opposition to H.R. 4790.

September 17, 2024.

Re Opposition to anti-ESG bills that threaten workers' retirement security and our financial system, and weaken tools of corporate accountability.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON AND MINORITY LEADER JEFFRIES: Americans for Financial Reform (AFR) and the 39 undersigned organizations write in opposition to Prioritizing Economic Growth Over Woke Policies Act (H.R. 4790) and the Protecting Americans' Investments from Woke Policies Act (H.R. 5339), which are packages of several bills that are part of a broader, unpopular campaign against common sense investment practices. This campaign seeks to both force financial actors to ignore a slew of financial risks to the detriment of workers' retirement security and the integrity of our financial system, and weaken tools of corporate accountability. The bills at issue were marked up by the House Financial Services Committee (HFSC) and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. If passed, they would represent a giveaway to corporations at the expense of workers, investors, and the public.

The bills marked up by HFSC in July of last year were the culmination of what the committee's majority publicly characterized as ''ESG month''—a series of six hearings and a markup designed to discourage financial actors from taking into account environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors in their investment decision-making and undermine corporate accountability. The bills can be categorized based on the effects they would have: (1) undermine regulations that would equip investors with more information to make better investment decisions (H.R. 4790); (2) insulate the management of public companies from investor input and accountability, including by eliminating fundamental investor rights to file shareholder proposals (H.R. 4767 and H.R. 4655); and (3) hamstring the ability of federal banking regulators to respond effectively to micro- and macro-prudential risks to the financial system (H.R. 4823). For a more detailed discussion of these bills, see AFR's letter of opposition submitted ahead of the markup.

The bills marked up by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce in September would amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) with the effect of undermining workers' retirement security. Two of the bills—H.R. 5339 and H.R. 5337—have a longer history, mirroring two Trump-era Department of Labor (DOL) rules. Those rules were widely criticized and have since been rescinded because they produced significant confusion about what fiduciaries are allowed to consider when making investment decisions, and had a chilling effect on the consideration of financially relevant information—thereby putting workers' retirement security at risk. The other two bills would also harm workers saving for retirement, H.R. 5338 by interfering with efforts to increase diversity among asset managers managing workers' savings and H.R. 5340 by mandating confusing and misleading information be sent to investors. For a more detailed discussion of these bills, see AFR's letter of opposition submitted ahead of the markup.

Congress should not lend support to an effort that would harm the public interest and has triggered fierce and effective opposition from a broad coalition of diverse stakeholders. For example, state-level anti-ESG legislation—which included 161 pieces of legislation introduced in 28 states this year—faced significant pushback from public pension beneficiaries, retirement system officials, bank and local business associations, and unions. As a result, the vast majority of the bills were defeated. A strong coalition has also opposed past anti-ESG congressional actions.

Voters overwhelmingly oppose measures like these. Although the anti-ESG campaign is well-funded, polling decidedly shows a strong majority of voters do not support its goals. For example, 63% of voters do not believe the government should set limits on corporate ESG investments. And when it comes to how companies should operate in our society, ''most voters (76%) feel companies play a vital role in society and should be held accountable to make a positive impact on the communities in which they operate.'' This includes both the majority of Republicans (69%) and the majority of Democrats (82%), reflecting strong bipartisan support. Additionally, a recent poll by Public Citizen found that voters oppose Congress passing legislation to limit the type of information about a corporation's business record that is disclosed to pension and retirement fund managers, investors, and the public, and that voters would reward an elected official who favors requiring corporations to disclose environmental, social, and governance information about their business dealings to investors and the public.

For all the reasons stated above, the undersigned organizations urge you to oppose these anti-ESG bills. Thank you for your consideration of our perspective. Please do not hesitate to contact Natalia Renta if have any questions.

Sincerely,

Americans for Financial Reform; 17 Communications; 350.org; Adrian Dominican Sisters, Portfolio Advisory Board; AFL–CIO; Alabama Interfaith Power & Light; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); American Federation of Teachers; Center for Popular Democracy; ClientEarth USA; Communications Workers of America; Congregation of St. Joseph; Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise.

Environmental Defense Fund; For the Long Term; Global Reporting Initiative (GRI); Green America; Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility; International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Invest Vegan; League of Conservation Voters; Majority Action; Mercy Investment Services, Inc.; National Education Association; National Women's Law Center; NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice; Oxfam America.

Private Equity Stakeholder Project; Public Citizen; RFK Human Rights; Rhia Ventures; Rise Economy (formerly California Reinvestment Coalition); Sierra Club; SOC Investment Group; Stance Capital; Strong Economy For All Coalition; Take on Wall Street; The People's Justice Council; Tulipshare, Sustainable Investment Fund; Unlocking America's Future.

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time until the gentlewoman is prepared to close.

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

Mr. Speaker, we have talked a lot during this debate about investors, and I want to be clear that when I say ''investor,'' I am talking about people saving for retirement, their children's education, and to purchase a home. I am talking about Americans who have saved a few dollars in a mutual fund or purchased a few stocks.

These are the investors, and it is their rights that this bill tramples on. It tramples on their right to vote on and to offer proposals to strengthen companies they own, their right to information to evaluate their investment, and it undermines the regulator who works to protect investor rights.

This is taking us back. This is undoing the traditional investor rights that we have enjoyed for so long that are now being stripped while there is an attempt to undo what we are trying to do with climate change.

Well, I know that they don't believe in the science and what is happening with climate change, but this is going way beyond what I thought any of my colleagues on the opposite side of the aisle would do.

I understand that large public corporations want this bill because it would allow them to take investors' money but ignore them in every respect.

Shareholders are the legal owners of these companies, not the executives. Mr. Speaker, I think the executives simply forgot who they work for.

The shareholders are the ones who invest their hard-earned dollars in the company and deserve the right to participate in this small way.

This bill is a blatant denial of climate change and insulting to communities all across this country that have been burned by historical wildfires, flattened by monster hurricanes, and parched by record heat waves and droughts.

This bill is an attempt to make us see our neighbor as a threat rather than as a friend. It suggests wanting companies to reflect the diversity of America is itself un-American.

I know that there are those who don't like to see people like me in the boardrooms, who don't like to see people of color in the boardrooms, who don't like to see LGBT in the boardrooms.

We are not going back, Mr. Speaker. We are going to continue to fight this fight, and we are going to fight for the investors.

With that type of thinking, it leads the politicians to share fearmongering lies, like people eating pets rather than seeing that our diversity of people, ideas, backgrounds, and religions is our greatest strength and what sets America apart from the rest of the world.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues, the Members who spoke here today, as well as the 20 Members who included their bills in this particular package.

We have heard a lot of rhetoric. We have heard a lot of hyperbole. We have heard a lot of fearmongering, charged rhetoric, and, frankly, even some falsehoods today from my colleagues across the aisle.

I want to be clear, Mr. Speaker, that again, the law requires any material information, including climate, and all these other things that have been discussed today, must be disclosed to investors, if it is material.

Now, in 1976, the great Thurgood Marshall established standards of materiality in the TSC v. Northway case.

Thurgood Marshall realized, as did the rest of the Supreme Court, that having just arbitrary and capricious and sort of willy-nilly rules surrounding what should or shouldn't be disclosed and what should and shouldn't be informative to the reasonable investor—his words and their words—to the reasonable investor, they needed to put guardrails around that. In 1976, Thurgood Marshall did that.

This administration, after nearly 50 years, and their puppets in the supposedly independent agencies have turned that concept on its head.

We see this time and time again because they cannot do this through the legislative process. They are turning to those regulators who are abusing their situations.

Here are the facts. Unelected bureaucrats have hijacked and overhauled the public company shareholder proxy process.

Here are the facts. They have adopted rules and guidance that exceeds their statutory authority, and by the way, those same courts have been putting them back in their place.

Here are the facts. They have redefined the materiality standard. They have ceded authority over American financial regulation to global governance bodies.

Why would we do this? Why would we do this when the U.S. capital markets are the envy of the world? Capital comes to the United States because of our strength. Yet, they want to undermine and weaken it.

In response, our bill, H.R. 4790, the Prioritizing Economic Growth Over Woke Policies Act, will prevent regulatory overreach.

It will restore the materiality standard. It will restore the SEC's proxy voting process. It will hold large proxy advisory firms accountable.

It will block regulators from injecting ESG and other initiatives into our financial system. It will reassert sovereignty over American financial regulation to American regulators, not international bodies. Again, Mr. Speaker, the law requires any material information be included to the reasonable investor.

Let's seize this opportunity to protect workers, to create jobs, to protect those job creators and everyday investors from radical ESG initiatives that put leftwing political goals above American prosperity.

Let's ensure our financial system remains the envy of the world, Mr. Speaker. Let's vote ''yes''.

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

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 1455, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

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. 4790 to the Committee on Financial Services.

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

Mr. Casten moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4790 to the Committee on Financial Services with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

DIVISION E—DISCLOSURES

SEC. 5001. PUBLIC COMPANY DISCLOSURES WHEN ELIMINATING EMPLOYEES AND OFFICES THAT PROMOTE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(t) ELIMINATION OF EMPLOYEES AND OFFICES THAT PROMOTE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION.—Each issuer required to make quarterly reports under this section shall include in such report whether the issuer, during the reporting period, eliminated any employees or offices tasked with enhancing the issuer's commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the workforce and business practices of the issuer.''.

(b) INITIAL REPORT.—Each issuer required to make reports under section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 shall file a Form 8–K with the Securities and Exchange Commission stating whether the issuer has eliminated any employees or offices tasked with enhancing the issuer's commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the workforce and business practices of the issuer.

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 ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HUIZENGA. 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 will be 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 2 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1540

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (MIKE GARCIA of California) at 3 o'clock and 40 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:

The motion to recommit H.R. 3724;

Passage of H.R. 3724, if ordered;

The motion to recommit H.R. 4790; and

Passage of H.R. 4790, 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.

ACCREDITATION FOR COLLEGE EXCELLENCE ACT OF 2023

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. 3724) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit recognized accrediting agencies and associations from requiring, encouraging, or coercing institutions of higher education to meet any political litmus test or violate any right protected by the Constitution as a condition of accreditation, offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI), 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 195, nays 203, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 432]

YEAS—195

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Caraveo
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wild
Williams (GA)

NAYS—203

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Lopez
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym

NOT VOTING—33

Barragán
Blumenauer
Bush
Cárdenas
Cleaver
Clyburn
DesJarlais
Dingell
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Evans
Ferguson
Garcia, Robert
Granger
Grijalva
Grothman
Huffman
James
Joyce (OH)
Langworthy
LaTurner
Loudermilk
McHenry
Meuser
Pelosi
Phillips
Ryan
Stauber
Van Orden
Waltz
Wexton
Wilson (FL)
Zinke

□ 1605

Messrs. STRONG, GRAVES of Missouri, Mrs. LUNA, Messrs. RESCHENTHALER, FINSTAD, Ms. MALOY, Messrs. RUTHERFORD, CLYDE, VAN DREW, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. VEASEY, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. MRVAN 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. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 432.

Stated against:

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 432.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 213, nays 201, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 433]

YEAS—213

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis

D'Esposito
Davidson
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Lopez
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym

NAYS—201

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
Caraveo
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—17

Cárdenas
DesJarlais
Dingell
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Evans
Ferguson
Granger
Griffith
Grijalva
James
Miller-Meeks
Ryan
Sessions
Smith (NE)
Wexton
Zinke

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1613

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:

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 433.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 433, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

CONGRESSIONAL BASKETBALL GAME

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

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, rest assured, House of Representatives, that the basketball trophy will be back in our Chamber for another year.

Congratulations to the Members of Congress for defeating the Downtown Lobbyists two nights ago. We took it to them.

The civil servants of our society took it to Downtown. A big congratulations to the Members of Congress for defeating them.

This is an awesome event that we do. It supports Hoops for Youth, a big charity that goes to help youth sports, along with many of the other sporting activities that we do.

Just to finish it off, I congratulate and particularly recognize our captain and this year's MVP, retiring Member BRAD WENSTRUP. Can we get a round of applause?

You may hear rumors from Downtown that it required Enes Freedom, formerly Enes Kanter of the NBA, to help our team win, but that is unsubstantiated. We could have beaten them on our own.

GUIDING UNIFORM AND RESPONSIBLE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION LIMITS ACT OF 2023

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. 4790) to amend the Federal securities laws with respect to the materiality of disclosure requirements, to establish the Public Company Advisory Committee, 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 will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 206, nays 211, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 434]

YEAS—206

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)

Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NAYS—211

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
De La Cruz
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Lopez
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym

NOT VOTING—14

D'Esposito
DesJarlais
Dingell
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Evans
Ferguson
Granger
Grijalva
James
Rodgers (WA)
Ryan
Wexton
Zinke

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1621

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 ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. WATERS. 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 215, nays 203, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 435]

YEAS—215

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Lopez
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perez
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym

NAYS—203

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Peltola
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Griffith

NOT VOTING—12

DesJarlais
Dingell
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Evans
Ferguson
Granger
Grijalva
James
Ryan
Wexton
Zinke

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1628

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. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for today's votes due to a

death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 432, YEA on Roll Call No. 433, NAY on Roll Call No. 434, and YEA on Roll Call No. 435.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes today due to circumstances beyond my control. The roll call votes I missed included the MTR on H.R. 3724, passage of H.R. 3724, the MTR on H.R. 4790, and passage of H.R. 4790. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 432, "nay" on Roll Call No. 433, "yea" on Roll Call No. 434, and "nay" on Roll Call No. 435.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 19, 2024.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 19, 2024, at 3:20 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 1871.

That the Senate passed S. 3187.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9468.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

NO BAILOUT FOR SANCTUARY CITIES ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5717.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1455 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5717.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1635

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5717) to provide that sanctuary jurisdictions that provide benefits to aliens who are present in the United States without lawful status under the immigration laws are ineligible for Federal funds intended to benefit such aliens, with Mr. CLOUD in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees.

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

Mr. Chairman, in just 3½ years, President Biden and his border czar, KAMALA HARRIS, have allowed more than 7.6 million unvetted, illegal aliens into the United States. That is the equivalent of adding an entirely new State almost the size of Arizona, our 14th largest State, with nine congressional districts. Those not engaged in criminal activities are almost entirely destitute and are overwhelming public schools, hospitals, food banks, public housing, and social services.

This began the very first day of this administration, when Biden and HARRIS rescinded the remain in Mexico policy, ordered construction on the border wall halted, and literally instructed ICE to stop enforcing court-ordered deportations.

Today, ICE remains hog-tied in discharging its duty to remove even criminal illegal aliens from our midst. Before they can do so, they are now required to first develop a full profile of the criminal and to identify mitigating circumstances, such as if the criminal has high blood pressure or is a caregiver.

A former top ICE official told the Judiciary Committee that the Biden-Harris policies have made immigration enforcement more dangerous, more difficult to carry out, and less efficient overall. The flood of illegal mass migration at our southern border has thinned the ranks of ICE officers available to enforce laws within the interior because so many have been siphoned off to process illegals being allowed into our country.

When constituents ask me how this could be happening to their communities, I have to remind them that if they voted for Biden and HARRIS, this is exactly what they voted for, and if that surprises them, they weren't paying attention.

In 2019, KAMALA HARRIS told the ACLU she would slash funding for immigration detention and close private immigration detention centers. As ABC News has been forced to confess, HARRIS did, in fact, endorse taxpayer funding to provide transgender surgeries for illegal aliens detained in the United States.

Americans are beginning to realize the severe danger to public safety posed by cities and States that refuse to notify ICE so that dangerous criminals can be turned over to them for deportation once they have served out their sentences, as the law requires. Instead, the woke left releases these criminals back onto our streets and into our communities to prey on new victims.

Instead of ICE being able to take these criminals into custody while they are disarmed and in custody, ICE agents, instead, must track them down and confront them when they are armed and at large. This is the very essence of the sanctuary policies that so many Democrats, including Biden and HARRIS, have supported and facilitated.

Although current law already prohibits jurisdictions from refusing to cooperate with Federal immigration officials, jurisdictions controlled by leftist officials continue to do so. This bill changes that.

The growing list of Americans victimized by criminal aliens released back onto our streets, in defiance of Federal law, is truly appalling.

According to ICE, Cook County, Illinois, saw law enforcement release 1,070 criminal aliens and immigration violators in fiscal year 2019 despite requests by ICE to notify the agency before they are released from local custody. One of those criminals was a Mexican national who had been arrested for theft. After his release from custody, that illegal alien lured a 3-year-old girl into a McDonald's bathroom and sexually assaulted her. Had Chicago authorities cooperated with Federal officials, that man, a convicted aggravated felon who previously had been deported, could have been in ICE custody and instead removed to Mexico.

In January 2023, a 27-year-old illegal alien from Mexico was allowed to remain in the United States through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program despite his arrest for domestic violence in New Jersey. Local law enforcement ignored an ICE detainer and released him, where he went on to murder his girlfriend and a married couple.

Without this legislation, we should brace ourselves for what is to come. In 2019, KAMALA HARRIS committed to ending ICE detainers. H.R. 5717 would prevent any jurisdiction from ever doing so again.

Specifically, this bill renders sanctuary jurisdictions ineligible to receive certain taxpayer dollars that would bankroll illegal immigration in American communities. By denying certain Federal funding to jurisdictions that prohibit or restrict their cooperation with Federal immigration officials, the bill encourages sanctuary jurisdictions to end their anti-enforcement policies in favor of working with the Department of Homeland Security.

Today, Democrats will present far-fetched hypotheticals about how Republicans want to strip funding from program after program. On the contrary—to continue to receive these

funds, the jurisdiction would simply need to follow existing law. Isn't that what a nation of laws is all about?

It is absurd that a bill like this is even necessary. As we have seen time and time again, far-left jurisdictions would prefer to release dangerous criminal aliens back onto American streets than to deport them once they have served their sentence, as Federal law requires. This bill helps end this dangerous and tragic absurdity.

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

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

Mr. Chairman, rather than bring up an immigration bill that attempts to secure our border or address the broken immigration system, the Republican majority has brought us a bill that would simply bankrupt States and localities that have chosen a different path on immigration than the Republican agenda.

I am not surprised that this bill offers no solutions, though. Republicans have made it very clear that they are more interested in trying to scapegoat immigrants and score cheap political points, especially in these weeks leading up to the election, than in working to solve problems.

This legislation would prevent so-called sanctuary jurisdictions—in some cases entire States, like New York, California, and North Dakota—from receiving any Federal funds that might ''benefit'' undocumented immigrants, resulting in drastic cuts to education, transportation, law enforcement, and healthcare. This bill is being rushed to the floor without following regular order. Given how poorly written this bill is, it is clear why its supporters might have wanted to shield it from greater scrutiny.

The title of the bill implies that it is narrowly crafted and targeted at Federal funds for undocumented immigrants in sanctuary jurisdictions. In reality, however, its impact would be much, much wider. It would target not only States led by Democrats like New York, California, and Illinois, but Republican strongholds like Utah and North Dakota, and its impact would be felt across the country.

Let's think about how this bill would affect our communities. For example, local police protect the public. They do not check a person's immigration status when responding to a call for help or answering a 911 call. As a result, under this bill, State and local police forces will lose millions of dollars in Byrne JAG grants from the Department of Justice, one of the main ways that the Federal Government supports police equipment purchases, training, and officer salaries.

Likewise, States are required by law to provide students with a K–12 public education regardless of immigration status. As such, States receive billions of dollars from the Department of Education to fund K–12 education. Under this bill, any so-called sanctuary jurisdiction would lose this funding for all its students, regardless of their immigration status.

One more example that highlights how truly absurd this bill is: Last year, the Federal Government provided the States of California and New York, both of which are considered sanctuary jurisdictions under this bill, with $5 billion and $2.3 billion respectively to build and maintain highways, bridges, and pedestrian infrastructure. This funding benefits all of the States' residents, including undocumented immigrants, which puts the funding at risk under this bill.

□ 1645

My Republican colleagues will argue that we are reading the bill too broadly, but we know this is exactly what Republicans want to do.

The Trump administration has previously tried to condition Department of Justice funding on States changing their sanctuary city policies. Further, this concept is straight out of Project 2025, which specifically calls on a potential future Trump administration to try to coerce States and localities into adopting anti-immigrant policies by withholding Federal funds.

Republicans used the term ''sanctuary city'' the same way that Donald Trump tells stories about immigrants eating cats and dogs. They want their constituents to be afraid of immigrants and to imply that some cities harbor criminals and refuse to comply with Federal law. The truth is, in some cities, gaining the trust of immigrant communities is a key component of good policing.

The Major Cities Chiefs Association argues that when local police are viewed as colluding with immigration authorities, they may spur ''increased crime against immigrants in the broader community, create a class of silent victims, and eliminate the potential for assistance from immigrants in solving crimes or preventing future terroristic acts.'' Following this guidance, many cities across the country have adopted policies that limit contact between local police and Federal immigration agencies.

However, regardless of how someone may feel about sanctuary jurisdictions and community trust policies, the answer is not a blunt instrument that claws billions of dollars away from these States and localities. Our constituents send us here to fight for their interests, not to take away funds they depend on.

This is a dangerous and overly broad bill.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chair, I yield 8 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA), the author of this bill.

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Chair, you break it, you bought it. That is not a Republican saying. That is not a Democrat saying. That is just a widely accepted premise in our culture: You break it, you bought it.

Let me tell you, Mr. Chair, nobody broke the border like President Biden and Vice President and border czar KAMALA HARRIS, along with the mayors and Governors of sanctuary cities and States.

President Biden broke the border when he repealed 64 very effective Trump-era policies. Biden repealed remain in Mexico. Biden applied lower asylum standards. Biden stopped border wall construction. Biden even repositioned border agents away from the border to be in migrant processing centers behind desks just to process more and more migrants into the country.

By reversing Trump's very effective policies, President Biden and border czar and Vice President KAMALA HARRIS have created a wide-open border for illegal immigration and asylum abuse.

The immediate consequence of these actions was a surge in illegal border crossings, reaching levels we have never seen before. Now, every State, including New York, nearly 2,000 miles away from the southwest border, has become a border State.

While the Biden-Harris administration has done its damage, sanctuary city jurisdictions are only exacerbating this crisis even further. When cities like New York adopt sanctuary policies and forbid local law enforcement from coordinating with Federal officials on enforcing immigration law, they send a huge signal to those who are in our country illegally or those who would break our asylum laws.

The message is: Come to New York. Come because we will not enforce Federal immigration law here.

The migrants sure got the message. Mr. Chair, 100,000 migrants have passed through New York City since the spring of 2022. At the height of the crisis, there were over 64,000 migrants in the city's care, all at the taxpayers' expense.

New York's Governor recently proposed $5 billion more to address New York's migrant crisis at the same time she proposed cutting from our kids' public schools. Yet, New York State officials did absolutely nothing to change New York City's and New York State's sanctuary policies. Despite the uncontrolled crisis across the five boroughs, New York City has refused to change its sanctuary policies, the very policies incentivizing illegal immigration.

Those illegally crossing the border or who feign asylum to be paroled into the interior of our country know that if they make it to New York, they will be given taxpayer-funded food, shelter, healthcare, transportation, and social services. Hardworking American taxpayers will be the ones footing the bill, Mr. Chair.

If we do not put an end to these sanctuary city policies, that number will continue to balloon, costing families even more, all during a time of significant financial hardship and record inflation. New Yorkers, and indeed all

taxpayers, should not have to bear this burden.

Schools are at capacity. Our cities are overrun. Our law enforcement is stretched to the limit. Our social services are being overwhelmed. Our hospitals are overburdened. Local budgets are strained to the breaking point. Homeless Americans are having trouble accessing shelter services. Migrant children, many unaccompanied, are being exploited by smugglers, traffickers, and violent gangs, and they are being put to work illegally or, worse, abused and trafficked.

Instead of changing course, cities like New York have the audacity to turn around and demand more money from taxpayers from nonsanctuary jurisdictions to fund their failed sanctuary policies.

Today, Mr. Chair, enough is enough. My No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act is about accountability. It is about ensuring that cities and States that refuse to enforce Federal laws are not rewarded with Federal dollars related to their defiance.

Let the policymakers from sanctuary jurisdictions hear us loud and clear: If you incentivize illegal immigration in your city, knowing full well the migrants will come, don't come to the Federal Government for a bailout.

Let me make something also abundantly clear: This legislation will prohibit Federal funding from going toward fueling the root causes of the migrant crisis. In no way, Mr. Chair, can this legislation be construed to harm school systems, law enforcement, and other benefits for American citizens. Those entities will remain eligible for Federal funding under this legislation.

Mr. Chair, America is like a ship taking on water. My colleagues from the other side of the aisle, their solution is to merely build a bigger boat. My solution, Mr. Chair, is to plug the hole causing the crisis in the first place by cutting off Federal funds that would only exacerbate the crisis.

Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman for his support of my legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support the No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act.

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

Let's be real. The reason these migrants are in New York is because they were bused there involuntarily by Governor Abbott of Texas.

Mr. LALOTA's bill would remove from New York all Federal funding for schools, all funding for transportation, because it says that in a sanctuary State or city, anything that may benefit migrants will not be paid. As I said in my opening remarks, roads benefit migrants like anybody else, so no funding for roads, bridges, and highways. Schools benefit migrants like anybody else, so no funding for the schools.

This bill would essentially take all Federal funding away from New York State. Why Mr. LALOTA would introduce a bill to take basically all Federal funding away from our joint State of New York is a question his constituents are going to have to address in 2 months.

Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chair, here we are, wasting time again on the floor on a bill that has no chance of becoming law, when, meanwhile, Republicans have failed to pass a continuing resolution that would keep our government funded. Some in your party are even calling for a government shutdown, which would have detrimental effects on Americans across the country.

Are we dealing with that issue? No. Republicans couldn't pass their own bill, a partisan bill, to continue to fund the government, and we are not trying to do anything on that. Instead, we are here talking not about a bill that actually works for real solutions for our outdated immigration system, but we are once again talking about a bill that demonizes immigrants.

This is something that Republicans have refused to put forward, real solutions to our broken immigration system, because, in their own words, they want to keep immigration broken so that they can continue to demonize immigrants and continue to try to make this an election issue.

Here we are today, once again, debating a bill inspired by Trump's Project 2025 that would strip billions of dollars in vital Federal funds from States and localities across the country, including in my home State of Washington.

Under this bill, jurisdictions that want to keep the proper division between Federal enforcement and local law enforcement are penalized for doing just that, taking away any Federal funds that might ''benefit'' undocumented immigrants. That makes absolutely no sense on multiple levels.

First of all, community trust policies in these jurisdictions foster cooperation and trust between immigrant communities and local authorities. That is crucial for effective policing and public safety.

When immigrants feel safe reporting crimes and working with law enforcement, it actually strengthens public safety for everyone. That is why members of the Law Enforcement Immigration Task Force, which is made up of law enforcement officials from across the country, have expressed concern with this bill, stating that when local police are viewed as colluding with immigration authorities, ''undocumented residents may fear that they, or people they know or depend upon, risk deportation by working with law enforcement,'' and that ''this fear undermines trust between law enforcement and the communities we serve,'' which actually can facilitate an increase in violent crime.

That is law enforcement talking about what this bill would actually do. It would hurt our ability to protect public safety.

On top of that, local jurisdictions have neither the money, the training, nor the time to enforce Federal immigration laws, particularly when it undermines their own ability to build community trust and do their necessary work.

H.R. 5717 is just bad policy. It implements Trump's extreme Project 2025 agenda by stripping localities and States across the country of billions of dollars in Federal funding for education, transportation, infrastructure, law enforcement, and healthcare just because those funds might benefit undocumented immigrants, forgetting that they actually benefit everybody in the community.

Let's remember that undocumented immigrants are interwoven into our communities. Approximately 1.1 million U.S. citizens are married to undocumented immigrants, and over 600,000 U.S. citizen children live in mixed-status households where at least one person is undocumented, not to mention the DACA recipients who work in public schools, hospitals, and small businesses.

Attempts to punish cities and States for using funding in a way that benefits undocumented people take away the very necessary funding that communities across the country have been asking for, and it will inevitably also harm U.S. citizens and American communities in those same localities.

Welcome to Donald Trump and Stephen Miller's America, where the Federal Government tries to coerce State and local governments to adopt the most anti-immigrant policies. If they refuse to do so, well, then that entire community is going to be stripped of Federal funding for the most essential services.

We have recently seen how dangerous this rhetoric and this policy can be. For the past few weeks, Republicans have relentlessly pushed debunked myths about how Haitian immigrants have supposedly invaded Springfield, Ohio, and are eating people's pets.

Sadly, that led to the city having to evacuate city hall and lock down multiple hospitals due to bomb threats. Parents are afraid to send their kids to school as Springfield elementary schools were evacuated 2 days in a row because of the bomb threats.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington.

□ 1700

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chair, my Republican colleagues love to talk about so-called immigrant crime and chaos at the border, but the reality is that their callous disregard for the truth, for conspiracy theories and lies and demonization of immigrants, has brought crime and chaos to the residents of Springfield, Ohio, putting their well-being and security at risk.

Mr. Chairman, we are better than this. America is better than this. We

can fix the immigration system without ripping communities apart and stripping away billions of dollars in vital Federal funding. We can solve the problems at the border without fearmongering and scapegoating immigrants who are helping to build our communities across the country.

Unfortunately, that would require bipartisanship, compromise, and a commitment to actually solving the problem, all of which my Republican colleagues have made clear they have zero interest in doing.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this dangerous bill.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chair, every grant the Federal Government makes to States and localities comes with conditions that they must fulfill in order to receive those funds. This measure simply says to get Federal funds, you must obey Federal law.

Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO).

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Chair, I rise today not only to support this legislation, but let's also clarify for a moment: My colleague across the aisle suggested that it is time to get real. Law enforcement has been trusted in our communities to do their jobs and provide for public safety without Federal or State interference for years. Sanctuary city policies are actually handcuffing local law enforcement and precluding them from intervening in protecting American citizens. Sanctuary city policies keep local law enforcement from even being able to interact with Federal law enforcement, therefore making it impossible for them to do their jobs.

My colleague across the aisle said it is time to get real. The overwhelming number of illegal immigrants being transported to cities and States like New York is not at the hands of Governors of States, but of the Federal Government. I know this because, as a county executive, I saw it firsthand. In fact, it was imposed on my community and my law enforcement.

Since President Biden took office, over 11 million individuals have entered our country illegally. In the State of New York, because of sanctuary city policies, Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams have allowed for the transport of migrants—apparently, that is okay if Democratic mayors do it—to cities, communities, motels, and hotels throughout upstate New York.

One of my colleagues referred to the so-called crime committed by illegal immigrants. We are not suggesting that everyone who comes to this country commits a crime, but we are suggesting that when we interface with an illegal immigrant who does, in fact, break the law, law enforcement should be able to do its job and interact with Federal officials and, ultimately, arrest and deport individuals who break the law.

We know that this has occurred in our State. Just 1 month ago, a Peruvian serial killer wanted for 23 murders was arrested at the southern border, released based on the current administration's policy, and then transported to New York.

I don't think Governor Abbott drove him there. Instead, it is likely the Federal Government and our tax dollars brought him to New York, where he was arrested, living in Endicott, New York.

In another instance, an illegal immigrant raped and strangled a woman in Delaware County, New York. This individual committed a heinous act while out on bail for raping another woman, thanks to New York City's sanctuary city policy and cashless bail. This crime could have been prevented but was not.

At what point does the State of New York recognize that this is a crisis of their own making? No one will lose a dollar if States like New York and cities like New York would abandon sanctuary city policies and allow local law enforcement to do their jobs.

At times, I come here and it feels as if we are in some sort of version of the Wizard of Oz. Pay no attention to the crisis of our making. Look, over there—Project 2025. Pay no attention to the crimes being committed. Look, over there—an offensive tweet.

To my colleagues, it is very simple: Law enforcement can do its job well, and we ought to demand accountability from States that preclude them from protecting American citizens.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chair, once again, I point out that what everyone thinks of the Biden administration's immigration policies, the only effect of this bill would be to take all Federal funds away from States like New York, California, North Dakota, Utah.

Again, for Mr. MOLINARO, who represents New York, he will have to explain to his constituents why he thinks all Federal funds should be taken away from New York.

Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA), a new member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Chair, today, I rise to express my profound concerns about the No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act and its potential ramifications for cities like Chicago, which I proudly represent.

As the Nation's first sanctuary city, Chicago is a shining example of what it means to be a melting pot of cultures, backgrounds, and experiences. We are committed to the principles of inclusion, safety, and justice for all its residents, regardless of immigration status.

As a welcoming city and State, our policies are designed to build trust between our immigrant communities and local law enforcement, ensuring that everyone feels safe to report crimes and seek assistance without fear of deportation.

The No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act threatens to undermine these efforts by withholding essential Federal funds from cities that uphold such priorities. The bill proposes to penalize cities like Chicago, counties like Cook County, and States like Illinois by cutting off essential resources that support public safety, community service, education, and transportation.

Let me be clear: This legislation not only affects the bureaucratic operations of our city and State government, it would also deeply impact the daily lives of our own families and neighbors.

Federal grants play a vital role in equipping emergency response services and our law enforcement with the resources that they need to keep our communities safe. This bill would cut these funds, compromising our ability to effectively protect our communities and maintain our public safety.

Similarly, many of our community programs, which provide critical support to our most vulnerable populations, are also funded by Federal grants. Losing this funding will mean significantly reduced support for afterschool programs, fewer resources for schools and healthcare services, and less assistance for families facing economic hardship. It would decimate the Federal dollars used to maintain and improve our city's transportation infrastructure, from roads to public transportation to clean water access.

The Federal dollars threatened by this bill are essential for our economic growth and for the quality of life of all residents.

The message of this bill is clear: If a city chooses to embrace the immigrant communities and prioritize their safety and well-being, it will be punished. This is not only unjust but counterproductive.

Our Nation's strength lies in its diversity, and our cities' efforts to protect and support all residents should be applauded, not penalized.

Let us reaffirm our commitment to values that unite us rather than divide us. Let us support policies that uplift all of our communities and ensure they have the resources they need to thrive.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON), the chairman of the House Committee on the Budget.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chair, if those cities want the hard-earned tax dollars of our citizens, they need to respect our laws, our sovereignty, and the safety of the American people.

Mr. Chair, there are fewer things more despairing than having to pass laws to enforce laws because our chief law enforcement officer and Commander in Chief has fallen down on the job. If President Biden and Vice President HARRIS don't respect the laws of our land, I don't suspect other people will either.

I rise in support of H.R. 5717, the No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act.

Sanctuary cities are magnets. They are part of the perverse incentives that are drawing illegal immigrants into

this country. In fact, their mere existence is illegal under U.S. law. Title 8, Section 1324 of the United States Code prohibits the harboring of illegal aliens, making such acts a felony punishable by imprisonment up to 5 years. Other sections in title 8 prohibit local jurisdictions from withholding the immigration status of an individual from Federal authorities.

These rogue local officials who promote these policies and flout the rule of law are themselves acting as criminals, and they are a disgrace to our great country. They should be impeached or prosecuted.

These jurisdictions are sanctuaries for lawlessness, crime, and chaos that is a cancer pervading our country.

Sanctuary cities are a scourge to our country's law and order, to a civil society whose sacred duty is to provide for a common defense, promote domestic tranquility, and enforce the laws of the land.

As John Adams once said, this is ''a government of laws, not of men,'' and when we depart from that central tenet of this Republic, we are diminished as a people and weaker as a nation.

Mr. Chair, you get what you tolerate, and we have tolerated this recklessness for way too long. Sanctuary cities must be stopped. This legislation would prohibit Federal dollars from funding public services for illegal aliens in sanctuary cities.

Mr. Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to do the right thing, uphold the rule of law, and protect the American people. I urge them to vote for H.R. 5717.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOWMAN).

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5717. This bill is a deeply absurd and completely transparent attempt to fearmonger and continue stoking hatred of immigrants in our communities.

Let me be loud and clear: Immigrants make our communities stronger and more vibrant every single day, and Americans can see through these tactics.

Instead of recognizing the beauty of our diverse communities and working to serve them, Republicans are putting forth a bill that would actually strip billions in Federal funding from their own communities and even from entire States, including my home State of New York.

This bill is so broadly written that it could endanger Federal funding for school lunches, public schools, hospitals, public transportation, roads and bridges, police equipment, emergency response, and much more.

These are the institutions that keep us safe, healthy, and able to thrive, but Republicans are throwing it all away for what? For hate, for fear-mongering, and for their own power. Our job in Congress is to serve our communities, not destroy them just to score cheap political points that are completely unfounded in reality.

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 restore desperately needed title I funding for our public schools. I am a lifelong educator. I was a teacher, counselor, and middle school principal before coming to Congress.

I have watched as Republicans have tried to come for public schools. In the FY25 budget, they proposed to cut title I funding by 25 percent. In fact, Project 2025 wants to cut title I funding for schools completely. Think about what that would mean for our kids. That means 180,000 teachers gone.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from New York.

□ 1715

Mr. BOWMAN. Funding that improves academic achievement, provides high-quality learning opportunities, enables extracurricular activities and co-curricular activities and supplemental services are all decimated.

Schools are the backbone of our communities and the lifeblood of our democracy.

Increasing title I means more quality educators, more school-based programs to nurture students, smaller class sizes, and better student outcomes.

So my amendment would do just that. That is because it is far past time that we prioritize our kids, and our communities deserve a bill take actually meet their needs, not one that completely abandons them.

Mr. Chair, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit.

I include in the RECORD the text of this amendment.

Mr. BOWMAN of New York moves to recommit the bill H.R. 5717 to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end of the bill the following:

SEC. 4. APPROPRIATION.

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Education for fiscal year 2025, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $4,716,578,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, for carrying out title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (referred to in this Act as ''ESEA''): *Provided*, That $2,358,289,000 shall be for targeted grants under section 1125 of the ESEA: *Provided further*, That $2,358,289,000 shall be for education finance incentive grants under section 1125A of the ESEA.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I am ready to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Chairman, as we get closer to the end of our fiscal year with no resolution in sight, we are wasting our time with these absurd bills.

I know that Members of this Chamber have very mixed feelings about appropriations bills and the earmarks that go along with them, but only in this backwards Congress would Members think that stripping their constituents of Federal funding is good policy.

This legislation, which offers no solutions and would serve only to punish our communities, is opposed by law enforcement, organized labor, and civil and immigrant rights organizations.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Last week, the House Judiciary Committee received chilling testimony from Sheriff Mike Boudreaux of the rural Central Valley county of Tulare, California. What he told us should be an earsplitting alarm for every town and every city in America.

In the sanctuary State of California, the criminal cartels have sunk deep roots throughout the State. In his county alone, a single assassin for the Sinaloa cartel admitted to over 25 murders. The sheriff said:

> That he was responsible for a certain area of California and there were many other assassins assigned by cartels in California, throughout California, that were responsible for those areas.

Then he spoke to California's sanctuary State law. He told of a reign of terror committed by an illegal migrant over a 24-hour period in his county: a murder in Visalia, attempted murders an Exeter and Tulare, as well as shootings in Pixley, Sultana, and Visalia and an armed robbery in Exeter.

Here is the fine point of the matter: 2 days before this nightmare unfolded, this monster had been arrested, and ICE had requested a detainer so that they could deport him.

As Sheriff Boudreaux testified again:

> Due to California's sanctuary State law, the Sheriff's Office was legally prohibited from recognizing or honoring the detainer of this would-be murderer and we were further prohibited from notifying ICE of his release from jail.

This is the dystopian world the Democrats have created in California with their sanctuary law which was supported at the time by then-State Attorney General KAMALA HARRIS.

As Sheriff Boudreaux told us:

> Much of what I speak of in regard to California and the violence, as well as the human trafficking, it is mirrored in other States all throughout the United States. The cartel wants to control these migrant towns and truly lead the same way that they are in other countries, specifically in Mexico.

He estimated that well over 50 percent of the crimes that he is dealing with in his county are now being committed by illegal immigrants, but since he can't report or confirm these numbers, the official number is zero.

I might add that the NYPD estimates that 75 percent of the crimes that they are now dealing with in Manhattan are committed by illegal migrants.

If it has not come to your neighborhood yet, Mr. Chairman, it soon will if we continue down the path that we are on.

Mr. Chairman, the American people have precious little time to awaken and stop this insanity before it engulfs their towns, neighborhoods, and communities if it hasn't already. In the meantime, measures like this will assure that policies like this never again are allowed to threaten our families.

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

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

The bill is considered as read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5717

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 ''No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act''.

SEC. 2. SANCTUARY JURISDICTION DEFINED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under subsection (b), for purposes of this Act, the term ''sanctuary jurisdiction'' means any State or political subdivision of a State that has in effect a statute, ordinance, policy, or practice that prohibits or restricts any government entity or official from—

(1) sending, receiving, maintaining, or exchanging with any Federal, State, or local government entity information regarding the citizenship or immigration status (lawful or unlawful) of any individual; or

(2) complying with a request lawfully made by the Department of Homeland Security under section 236 or 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1226 and 1357) to comply with a detainer for, or notify about the release of, an individual.

(b) EXCEPTION.—A State or political subdivision of a State shall not be deemed a sanctuary jurisdiction based solely on its having a policy whereby its officials will not share information regarding, or comply with a request made by the Department of Homeland Security under section 236 or 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1226 and 1357) to comply with a detainer regarding, an individual who comes forward as a victim or a witness to a criminal offense.

SEC. 3. SANCTUARY JURISDICTIONS INELIGIBLE FOR CERTAIN FEDERAL FUNDS.

Beginning in the fiscal year that begins after the date of enactment of this Act, a sanctuary jurisdiction is ineligible to receive any Federal funds that the sanctuary jurisdiction intends to use for the benefit (including the provision of food, shelter, healthcare services, legal services, and transportation) of aliens who are present in the United States without lawful status under the immigration laws (as such terms are defined in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act).

The CHAIR. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in part C of House Report 118–685.

Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered 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, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part C of House Report 118–685.

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

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, beginning on line 3, strike ''Beginning'' and all that follows through ''Act'' on line 4, and insert the following: ''Beginning on the earlier of the date that is 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act or the first day of the fiscal year that begins after the date of enactment of this Act''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1455, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, there are nearly 300 sanctuary jurisdictions in the United States. That is 300 places in our Nation that refuse to cooperate with Federal law enforcement to detain and remove illegal aliens. That is why this underlying bill is so important.

There is not a single so-called sanctuary jurisdiction locality that intentionally refuses to uphold the law who should be receiving Federal funds. Every city, county, or State that has laws, regulations, resolutions, or policies protecting illegal alien criminals from ICE should not receive a penny of Federal funding for the benefits of those illegal aliens.

Unfortunately, these jurisdictions received over $300 million from the Department of Justice in 2021 alone.

My concern with this legislation, and it is a fairly minor one, is the timeline. Right now, the bill says that there will be a complete funding prohibition on food, shelter, healthcare, and other services for illegal aliens in sanctuary jurisdictions, but the funding ineligibility kicks in at the beginning of the fiscal year after the date of an enactment.

Practically, that could raise a circumstance in which the funding prohibition described in this bill wouldn't kick in until nearly a year after this bill becomes law.

In my view, that is too long. It is too long of a timeframe for these sanctuary cities, these jurisdictions, to get away with violating our laws and taking tax dollars from hardworking Americans.

This amendment amends section 3 of the text to ensure that the funding ineligibility for these jurisdictions become effective no later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this act and potentially even sooner.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, this amendment makes a bad bill even worse. The underlying legislation is already dangerous and overly broad. It would prevent so-called sanctuary jurisdictions, in some cases entire States, from receiving any Federal funds that might benefit undocumented immigrants, resulting in drastic cuts to education, transportation, law enforcement, and healthcare.

To make matters worse, this amendment would force this bill into effect within 60 days of passage. So even if States and localities wanted to change their policies to comply with this bill, they likely would not be able to do so in time.

Many State legislatures are only in session for parts of the year. The legislature for my State of New York, for example, is only in session 6 months out of the year and does not convene again until January 2025.

There has been no consultation with the relevant agencies to determine if this short timeline is feasible, not only to determine every sanctuary jurisdiction, but also what funds and programs are impacted.

This amendment makes this dangerous bill even more absurd.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, these jurisdictions are aiding and abetting criminals. They are ignoring and violating Federal law. They created this problem, so if they have to call a special session to fix the problem they created, that is on them. It shouldn't be the taxpayers of Tennessee who have to fund it.

I have got veterans in my community that aren't getting services because of illegal immigrants. There are only so many dollars to go around. Tennessee spends roughly $850 million a year annually for illegal immigrants. That is textbooks, that is computers for our kids, that is psychological evaluations and treatment for our veterans. If I have to choose between a citizen and an illegal who is violating our laws, I choose an American every single time.

Mr. Chairman, if Soros-funded sanctuary jurisdictions want to violate the law and turn their backs on America, on our citizens, and on law enforcement personnel, they should not be financially rewarded for doing so. There is no good argument my colleagues on the other side of the aisle can make that involves asking my constituents, hardworking Americans in middle Tennessee, to subsidize the lives of lawbreakers as well as the decisions of sanctuary jurisdictions who want to protect those lawbreakers.

It is time to defund and to deport. This is our country. We get to decide who comes in, and we get to decide who has to leave.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, again, this bill would take funds away not from illegal immigrants only; it would take funds away from everybody in many States and many cities. It would take virtually all funds for police; virtually all funds for highways, bridges, and roads; and virtually all funds for health and hospitals.

Most of the people who would suffer under this bill are American citizens.

The Republicans say: So what? They have made the choice to be a sanctuary space.

American citizens have this choice. They have the right to make decisions. That is what self-government is all about, and this bill comes along and says, let's take away the right of all of the people of New York, of California, of Utah, of North Dakota, and of Illinois to make decisions about their government. They are not really Americans. Let's take those rights away.

It is pernicious, and this amendment would say: Don't even give them the time to do it, and don't even give the Federal agencies the time to adjust their policies to do it.

This makes no sense.

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

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, the crazy conjecture of the consequences is clearly confounding.

Let's be honest. We are talking about the food, the shelter, and the healthcare that is going directly to illegal immigrants, nothing to American citizens. Keep in mind, it is the jurisdictions who created this problem. It is the jurisdictions that are violating our laws and making a mockery of our system and turning their backs on law enforcement.

Mr. Chair, you have girls and women all across the country who have been sexually assaulted by illegals. These are crimes that would never have happened if they were back in their home country if they had never been allowed in this country, if they had not been given sanctuary, had they not been released.

So when the gentleman talks about consequences, why doesn't he ask those women and those children?

Why doesn't the gentleman ask those families?

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I am not going to get into a debate over the Biden administration's immigration policy. That is a separate debate that is happening.

The fact of the matter is that this bill would take virtually all Federal funds away from many States and many cities in this country.

A sanctuary jurisdiction is ineligible to receive any Federal funds that the sanctuary jurisdiction intends to use for the benefit, including the provision of food, shelter, healthcare services, legal services, and transportation of aliens who are present in the United States without lawful status.

Aliens present in the United States without lawful status use our roads and highways, so no road and highway money for all the people who are born who are here. Aliens who are here go to schools, so no funding for education. Aliens who are here go to hospitals when they are sick, so no funding for healthcare.

This makes no sense. This bill would take large amounts of money and virtually all Federal funds in fact away from many States in the Union.

Mr. OGLES says it would leave more money for Tennessee. I don't know whether that is true or not, but it would take virtually all Federal funds away from most States, and frankly as a Representative from New York which would lose all Federal funds, I wouldn't vote for a nickel for Tennessee in that case. That is because all Americans, whether in Tennessee or New York or Pennsylvania or Illinois, should be treated equally and not sacrificed on the altar of someone's opinion of immigration policy.

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

□ 1730

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part A of House Report 118–685.

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

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add, at the end of the bill, the following:

SEC. 4. REPORT ON NONCOMPLIANCE.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate a report that includes a list of States, and political subdivisions of States, that have failed to comply with requests described in section 2(a)(2).

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1455, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, what this does is asks Homeland Security to produce a report. So-called sanctuary jurisdictions choose to undermine Federal law enforcement when it attempts to enforce our immigration laws. I am grateful we are considering the underlying bill to hold them accountable. I thank the chairman.

One policy that would make a city a sanctuary city is a prohibition or a restriction on government entities or officials from complying with lawful requests from the Department of Homeland Security under section 236 or 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

My modest amendment just asks that DHS provide an annual report to Congress detailing which jurisdictions have failed to honor such lawful requests. I believe having that information and having the report is important. Without it, it could be difficult to know which jurisdictions are complying with the law.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Chair, this amendment requires the Department of Homeland Security to provide an annual report to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees listing all the jurisdictions that failed to comply with a detainer request or inform the Department about the release of an individual. It is important for us to take a step back and remember what this bill is about. This bill is intending to strip Federal funding from jurisdictions that have ''sanctuary'' policies.

I think a report like this would be quite illuminating for Members across the aisle because it would show Republicans just how many of their own constituents are being harmed with their own legislation.

Communities in Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Georgia, North Carolina, just to name a few, would lose out on funding for central services, like public schools, infrastructure, and policing.

Yes, I think this report would help show exactly how damaging this legislation is, and, therefore, I do not oppose this amendment.

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

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

Mr. Chair, I thank my colleague for supporting my amendment.

As we look at the jurisdictions across the country that may be ignoring current Federal law, whether by ordinance, whether by order of the mayor, by statute, or just an unwritten rule, this report would illuminate and bring to light those jurisdictions that, quite frankly, are putting America at risk.

A border crisis is a disaster for the country. It has turned every State into a border State. It spurred drug trafficking, human trafficking, and other crime. There was just a bodega that was shut down that was trafficking illegals today.

It has caused resource crises for cities and towns across the country who have found that they don't have the resources to deal with the influx, the mass influx, of people the Biden-Harris administration has released upon them.

Again, this information is critical as we move forward, as we look for solutions and put an end to this crisis that is plaguing our country.

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

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

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, in closing, again, it is a simple report. It is valuable information. It is time that all cities, all communities enforce the Federal law. It is time to deport the illegals who are draining our system, taking money away from American citizens.

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

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MORAN). There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CLOUD) having assumed the chair, Mr. MORAN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5717) to provide that sanctuary jurisdictions that provide benefits to aliens who are present in the United States without lawful status under the immigration laws are ineligible for Federal funds intended to benefit such aliens, and, pursuant to House Resolution 1455, he reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with sundry amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. BOWMAN. 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. BOWMAN of New York moves to recommit the bill H.R. 5717 to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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.

Mr. BOWMAN. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

ENHANCED PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY ACT OF 2024

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9106) to direct the Director of the United States Secret Service to apply the same standards for determining the number of agents required to protect Presidents, Vice Presidents, and major Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9106

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 ''Enhanced Presidential Security Act of 2024''.

SEC. 2. UNIFORM STANDARDS FOR SECRET SERVICE PROTECTION OF PRESIDENTS, VICE PRESIDENTS, AND MAJOR PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES.

The Director of the United States Secret Service shall apply the same standards for determining the number of agents required to protect Presidents, Vice Presidents, and major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates.

SEC. 3. REPORT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the United States Secret Service shall conduct a comprehensive review of the provision of protection by the Secret Service for Presidents, Vice Presidents, former Presidents, and major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates, and submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate a report that includes the findings from such review, along with any recommendations for improving the provision of protection.

SEC. 4. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term ''major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates'' has the meaning given such term in section 3056 of title 18, United States Code, and includes any other Presidential or Vice Presidential candidate for whom the President has otherwise authorized the Secret Service to protect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MORAN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 9106.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER), my friend, who is the sponsor of this critical legislation.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

In America, elections are determined at the ballot box, not by an assassin's bullet.

In recent months, we have seen two such attempts on the life of former President Donald Trump: first in Pennsylvania, and most recently in Florida.

That these incidents were allowed to occur is a stain on our country. We have endured through assassinations of political leaders, including Presidents. It is destructive to our country. It is destructive to our democracy, our constitutional Republic, and it undermines the confidence that Americans have in their government and in the electoral process.

But for a millimeter's difference, Donald Trump would be dead. But for a millimeter's difference, an assassin would have upended our election. Regardless of how every American feels, regardless of how every American intends to vote, it is the right of the American people to determine the outcome of this election.

The idea that our election could be decided by an assassin's bullet should shake the conscience of our Nation, and it requires swift action by the Federal Government. It requires Congress to ensure that the Secret Service provides the same level of protection as it does to the President of the United States to the leading candidates for President. In this case, they are former President Trump and Vice President HARRIS.

Either one of them is going to be President come January 20, 2025, and the American people should get to make that choice.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) for assisting in immediately moving to introduce this legislation in the aftermath of the first assassination attempt on Donald Trump.

It is shocking that it took a second assassination attempt for Donald Trump to get the same level of protective detail from the Secret Service as the President of the United States. It shouldn't have come to that, which is all the more reason why this bill is necessary. It will ensure that this never happens again and that the Secret Service conduct an immediate review to determine what resources are

needed, what personnel is needed, and report immediately back to Congress.

This will ensure that every candidate running for President gets the same level of protective detail as the current President and that the same level of protective detail afforded to the Vice President is afforded to the Vice-Presidential candidate.

□ 1745

We have a responsibility to ensure their safety and their well-being.

I also commend my colleagues, Congressman MIKE KELLY and JASON CROW, who are leading the House Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump. Their work to investigate this incident and the detailed shortcomings within the Secret Service will certainly help Congress implement further meaningful reforms in the future and ensure the funding and resources are available.

I think the most important thing for the American people to understand is that it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that our elections are free, fair, and decided by the American people at the ballot box, and that any attempt, either by a foreign government or by a fellow citizen, to undermine that by trying to assassinate a political candidate must be stopped at all costs.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Speaker Johnson, Leader SCALISE, and Chairman JORDAN for swiftly moving to advance this legislation to the floor for a vote. I encourage every single one of my colleagues, regardless of their political views, regardless of whether they like or dislike one of the candidates, to recognize the fundamental fact that we have a responsibility to ensure their safety and well-being and let the American people decide who will be President, not an assassin and not an assassin's bullet.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 9106, the Enhanced Presidential Security Act of 2024, requires the Secret Service to apply the same standards for determining the number of agents required to protect Presidents, Vice Presidents, and major Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates.

It also directs the Secret Service to conduct a review of the provision of protection provided to these individuals and to report its findings and recommendations to Congress.

I support this legislation to ensure that the Secret Service has the tools, resources, and procedures necessary to keep our highest elected officials and candidates safe, which is critical to our democratic system of government.

In advancing this legislation, Republicans are hoping to distract from the common denominator in every successful assassination of a U.S. President, as well as the attempted assassination of President Reagan and the attempted assassination of former Presidents and Presidential candidates Theodore Roosevelt and Donald Trump. In every single one of these events, the weapon used was a gun.

The fact is that the work of the Secret Service is made infinitely more difficult by our lax gun laws.

This Congress, the Republican majority has repeatedly sought to further weaken our gun laws, endangering our children, our law enforcement officers, our communities, and even their own Presidential candidate.

Last year, after a mass shooter killed six people, including three children, at a school in Nashville, Republicans fought to make sure everyone could continue to acquire the accessory that shooter used in circumvention of the National Firearms Act.

Earlier this year, our Republican colleagues cheered as the Supreme Court, stacked with Republican nominees, struck down the regulation of bump stocks, allowing the accessory used in the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history to again be available to the public without even a background check.

When the Senate tried to bring up legislation to again regulate bump stocks, Senate Republicans blocked it. Similar legislation in the House has just one Republican cosponsor, and the Republican majority has refused to advance it.

Just today, Republicans used their control of the Judiciary Committee to advance a bill that would weaken the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, reinvigorate the black market for guns, and reopen the online and private sale loophole. That legislation would make it so that convicted felons, domestic abusers, and other dangerous persons who are prohibited from possessing a gun could easily get one without a background check. It would make it so that unlicensed sellers could, once again, profit from endangering our communities.

It doesn't stop there. Not only have they sought to unravel our gun laws through legislation and our courts, but our Republican colleagues have also sought to defund the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the primary agency tasked with enforcing our gun laws, including by helping State and local law enforcement solve violent crimes and keep guns out of the wrong hands.

The cumulative effect of these efforts is clear. We know from headline after headline that it is far too easy for violent individuals to get a gun and end a life or many lives in a matter of seconds. That is true whether the attacker targets schoolchildren, a domestic partner, a house of worship, or a Presidential candidate.

The challenges faced by the Secret Service would be vastly diminished if we passed any one of our many proposals to keep guns out of the wrong hands, but over and over, Republicans have prioritized access to deadly weapons over the safety of our communities.

I support this legislation because the Secret Service must be able to protect our highest elected officials and candidates, but this legislation will do nothing to make the rest of us any safer or change the fact that gun violence continues to take the lives of more than 100 Americans every single day.

As Republicans yet again rush headlong toward a government shutdown, unable to even manage the most basic aspects of governing, and as they continue to oppose every action to prevent gun violence, Democrats will continue to fight to make our communities safer for every American.

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

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, let me get this straight. Some crazy guy on the left tries to assassinate President Trump, and it is Republicans' fault? That is what we just heard.

Next thing they are going to say is, oh, some crazy guy on the left tries to assassinate President Trump, and it is President Trump's fault. Oh, wait a minute. They said that, too.

This is ridiculous. We have a bipartisan bill that Representative LAWLER went to Democrats to work with them on, something that everyone knows needs to happen, and what does the ranking member do? He says it is Republicans' fault. What do Democrats do? What does the left do? They say it is President Trump's fault. You cannot make this stuff up.

After all that President Trump has been through, they go to that. After they spied on his campaign, after Mueller, after impeachment, after they raided his home, after they tried the crazy 14th Amendment idea that the best way to beat him is not let him play the game, not let him go on the ballot—thank goodness the Supreme Court decided 9–0 that was bogus. That is what they do.

I wasn't even going to talk. I was going to let Mr. LAWLER, who has done the work on this, handle all this. His remarks were totally bipartisan, not partisan at all. I was just going to let this good piece of legislation that is going to go on suspension—everyone is going to vote for it—just let it happen, but no, they cannot help themselves. It is ridiculous.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER), who is working in the proper fashion on a good piece of legislation that will protect, as he indicated in his opening remarks, both former President Trump and Vice President HARRIS. That is what we want in America.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, on the issue of gun violence in America, I think about New York and the disastrous cashless bail law, which was put into effect and supported by the ranking member and continues to be supported by the ranking member, in which more than 80 percent of perps who are carrying and using a gun are released back out onto the street.

I will quote New York City Mayor Eric Adams: ''When it comes to guns, this year, 2,386 people were arrested with a gun. Of those, approximately 1,921 are out on the street.''

Eric Adams went on to say:

''Arrested with a gun, out on the street.''

''Gun arrests in custody, 19.5 percent. Out of custody, over 80 percent.''

''How do you take a gun law seriously when the overwhelming numbers are back on the streets after carrying a gun?''

Eric Adams says very clearly that you can't take it seriously when you refuse to prosecute people who use guns in the commission of a crime.

So many of my colleagues in New York have been so clueless about this. They talk about gun violence, but they have no problem allowing a criminal using guns in the commission of a crime to be put back on the street to do it again and again. It is wrong.

If you want to crack down on gun violence in America, then prosecute criminals who use guns in the commission of a crime, but no, we don't want to do that.

New York raised the age so 16- and 17-year-olds are being treated in family court rather than criminal court, and the gangs are using them, letting them use guns in the commission of a crime because they know they are going to get a slap on the wrist.

Let's get serious about gun violence in America. Let's crack down on criminals who actually use guns in the commission of a crime.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, this Nation is awash in guns. It is the only Nation where we have, time after time after time, school shootings, where we aren't even surprised at mass shooting events in schools. We are the only Nation that has mass shooting events because of our lax gun laws, because we are awash in guns.

Mr. LAWLER says we should prosecute people who use guns in crimes. I agree. We certainly should. We certainly should do that, and if the people of New York aren't, they should. I can't comment on the New York laws. I haven't been in the legislature in 32 years. Mr. LAWLER has been there more recently.

The fact of the matter is, this country is awash in guns, and Mr. JORDAN says that a left-winger attempted to assassinate former President Trump. We don't know that. The person who attempted to assassinate him, we know, researched the whereabouts of former President Trump. He researched the whereabouts of President Biden. He seemed to want to kill somebody, and the evidence seems to point out that the reason he attacked Trump and not Biden was because Trump was holding a rally near where he was. However, the fact is he is dead, and we don't know. We certainly don't know his political opinions.

In any event, this country is awash in guns.

While this bill is a good bill, we should equally protect our Presidential candidates, whether they are the incumbent President or the would-be President and Vice-Presidential candidates. The fact is that Presidential candidates and all of us are less safe because this country is awash in guns, and it is the only country in the world—I shouldn't say that—there are countries where genocide is being committed, like Darfur in Sudan, but it is one of the only countries in the world awash in guns.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES), the cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to partner with my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER), on a matter of urgent importance to our Nation.

The United States is entering an age of ever-escalating political violence, as evidenced by the violent assault on the United States Capitol on January 6 and as evidenced by not one but two attempted assassinations of a former President.

On July 13, the difference between an attempted assassination and a completed assassination was not the skill of the Secret Service. It was luck.

If the gunman had been slightly more precise in his shooting, or if the former President had moved ever so slightly to his right, the former President would have been killed. The fact that America stood inches and seconds away from a national crisis is itself a crisis.

The security of a major Presidential candidate, whether it be Democratic nominee Vice President HARRIS or Republican nominee former President Donald Trump, cannot be left to chance.

□ 1800

Hoping for the best and lucking out is not a policy prescription for protecting a President or a Presidential candidate.

Both the House and the Senate, both Democrats and Republicans, should be dedicated to a bipartisan, bicameral proposition that both major Presidential candidates of both parties are entitled to the highest level of Secret Service protection, not only for their sake, but for our Nation's.

One final point is that the Secret Service urgently needs not only more resources but also deeper structural reforms. Only 30 percent of the Secret Service budget is dedicated to protective operations. The remaining 70 percent is spent on legacy functions that trace back to the Secret Service's time in the Treasury Department.

The role the Secret Service plays in financial law enforcement does not reflect a rational allocation of resources and responsibilities. It is an accident of history and a relic of the past that should be reexamined by the United States Congress.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, once again, the Federal Government is just as it was this same time last year, on the brink of shutting down, threatening to cut off essential services for millions of Americans.

Instead of addressing the real needs of the American people, Republicans have spent this week spreading misinformation about immigrants, attempting to hide from their own record on reproductive care, and evading their responsibility to govern.

In bringing up this legislation, they seek to distract the American people from the fact that their own actions have repeatedly made every American, from Presidential candidates to schoolchildren, more at risk of gun violence.

When Democrats take back the House, we will work to make everyone in this Nation safer, but for today, I urge Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote on this commonsense, good legislation that is designed to protect our Presidential candidates, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9016, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

HONORING BISHOP W.C. MARTIN AND HIS WIFE, FIRST LADY DONNA MARTIN

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

Mr. MORAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop W.C. Martin, pastor of Bennett Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Possum Trot, Texas, and his wife, First Lady Donna Martin.

Nearly three decades ago, Bishop Martin and his wife, Donna, who already had two biological children, adopted another four, starting a movement of 22 families within the Possum Trot community to adopt or foster children without a home.

Mrs. Martin was inspired to adopt after the death of her beloved mother, Murtha, who had raised 18 children. She stated: And the Holy Spirit said, think about those other children out there that do not have what you had with your mother. I was overcome with such warmness, I walked back into the house, picked up the Yellow Pages, and called an adoption agency.

That is how it began. It concluded with 77 children finding loving homes in a community that simply decided that they would do what they could and give all that they had for the benefit of the most vulnerable and needy among them.

This story has been retold in the recent film, ''Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot,'' which is a story of inspiration for all of us to give more, to love more, and to do more for those around us.

I thank Reverend and First Lady Martin for living out their faith and for changing the destinies of so many young lives. They are remarkable.

RECOGNIZING KIM MCMILLION

(Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. KIM MCMILLION, who serves as my deputy district director for my Beckley office in West Virginia. Kim recently celebrated her 25th year working for a Member of the House of Representatives.

Throughout her career, spanning three different Members, Kim has served the people of West Virginia with a grateful heart, always working to find solutions when issues arise between Federal agencies and our constituents.

She is well known throughout the district for her work in assisting with identifying Federal grant opportunities, acquiring medals and Purple Hearts for veterans in the community, and her expertise in handling complex issues of immigration and Social Security affecting our constituents. She is truly a wealth of knowledge and an invaluable member of my staff.

Outside of her work, Kim's greatest joy is her family. She is a wonderful wife to her husband, Frankie, mother to Tyler and her late son Derrick, and grandmother to Jonathan, Charlee, and Abigail.

I am delighted to commend her here on the House floor and even more delighted that Kim and her family could be here today to celebrate her 25 years of service to the United States Congress.

I invite my colleagues to join me and her family in congratulating her on this achievement.

AMENDING THE FEDERAL RESERVE ACT

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

Mr. OGLES. Madam Speaker, we have heard time and time again in the Financial Services Committee and in our hearings across the Hill that there is a dire need for transparency and accountability among the banking agencies.

Yet, blatant partisanship has dictated the appointments of leftist bank regulatory officials during the Harris-Biden administration.

One of my bills was included in H.R. 4790, which passed the House earlier today. My bill, the Supervision Reform Act, amends the Federal Reserve Act to remove the confusing designation established by the Dodd-Frank Act for one of the members of the Board of Governors to be designated as vice chair of supervision.

The vice chair of supervision should not be afforded special treatment and be allowed to abuse the position to rewrite the narrative for the failures of the banking system and to cook up unjustified climate rules and force them on banks.

Americans are watching Kamalanomics eat away at their hard-earned savings, and the Fed's ESG-related partisan regulations are part of the problem.

It is time to end the confusion, which has been the result of Dodd-Frank's misguided creation of the vice chair for supervision position.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard time and again—at Financial Services Committee hearings and across the Hill—that there is a dire need for transparency and accountability among the banking agencies.

Blatant partisanship has dictated the appointments of leftist bank regulatory officials during Harris-Biden Administration, to include the Federal Reserve's Vice Chairman for Supervision Michael Barr.

Mr. Barr in particular appears to be far more interested in advancing his own partisan plans than in confronting the serious financial and regulatory costs on the American people by the Harris-Biden administration.

One of my bills was included in H.R. 4790, which passed the House earlier today. My bill, the Supervision Reform Act amends the Federal Reserve Act to remove this confusing designation, established by the Dodd-Frank Act, for one of the members of the Board of Governors to be designated as the ''Vice Chairman for Supervision''.

The Vice Chair for Supervision should not be afforded special treatment to write his own narrative on bank failures on behalf of the Federal Reserve System as a whole, but the current Vice Chair for Supervision did just that.

The Vice Chair for Supervision should not be afforded special treatment to undertake his own experiments on climate change with private banks, or to cook up unjustified climate rules at the Fed, but the current Vice Chair for Supervision did just that.

The current Vice Chair for Supervision's assertion of special powers has led to disastrous results regarding policy positions of Federal Regulators.

Americans are watching ''Kamala-nomics'' eat away at their hard-earned savings, and the Fed's ESG-related partisan regulations are part of the problem.

Fed-Supervised banks are supervised by their regional Fed. Banks in regions where supervisors have stayed focused on practical supervision to ensure safety and soundness face the confusion of worrying about how to balance the sound supervisory guidance of their own supervisor with that of the unnecessary ''Vice Chair for Supervision.''

It's time to end that confusion, which has been the only result of Dodd-Frank's misguided creation of the Vice Chair for Supervision position.

I am happy that my colleagues recognized this and passed H.R. 4790 to provide more clarity and transparency for the Federal regulators to ensure that they do not overstep their authority by forcing ESG initiatives.

CONGRATULATING DAVID PINCKNEY

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I congratulate my dear friend, chef Dave Pinckney, on his retirement from the Cherokee Country Club.

David has worked in the food industry since he was 16 years old, washing dishes at The Orangery, which was a very nice restaurant. As a matter of fact, at the time it was a 4-star restaurant in Knoxville.

Eight years later, David became the restaurant's executive chef. I went there one time with a very nice family. The Burchetts usually didn't dine at places like that. They didn't take coupons.

I was amazed to find that the menu was written in French. I was a little embarrassed, didn't know what to do, and the waiter said: Sir, the chef would like to prepare you something special.

When it came out, it was two small grilled steaks with some ketchup in the middle. It saved me from embarrassment, and I was fed. That was my dear friend, Dave Pinckney. He is a fraternity brother of mine.

My heart goes out to Dave. He just lost his dad who was a dear UT professor and was idolized by people on the UT campus and all around the State of Tennessee.

In 2006, Dave took a new job, though, as Cherokee Country Club's new executive chef, again, a country club I am not a member of.

As Jackie Gleason said: I would not join a country club that would have someone like me.

Clearly, I am not in line to be in the membership roles there.

He is known for dedicating himself to making high-quality meals and making sure every customer enjoyed the food he brings to them.

He also taught cooking classes, he helped his friends open popular restaurants of their own, and he has appeared on several TV shows to showcase his cooking skills.

The Cherokee Country Club has been lucky to have him, and I wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING CORPORAL BRANDON SCHREIBER

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

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Corporal Brandon Schreiber, a native Hoosier and a Newton County Sheriff's deputy who was shot in the line of duty on September 1. He passed away on September 11 as a result of his injuries.

Corporal Schreiber served with the Newton County Sheriff's Department for 8 years, 5 of which were full time.

Like so many law enforcement officers, Corporal Schreiber always put the needs of his community above his own. His friends and family described him as a light of empathy, even in the toughest of situations.

Corporal Schreiber leaves behind his beloved wife and their two children. Our thoughts and prayers are with Corporal Schreiber's friends and family and the Newton County Sheriff's Department during this difficult time.

APOLOGIZE TO PRESIDENT TRUMP

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I will comment on the horrific events of a week ago. For the second time in 3 months, President Donald Trump was the subject of an assassination attempt. The question is why and what can we do to prevent it from happening again.

I have followed politics my whole life. I have never seen such language of hate coming from President Trump's opposition as I have heard from anybody else.

Again and again, President Joe Biden has said: There is one existential threat. It is Donald Trump.

President Biden has said: Trump and the MAGA Republicans, whatever that is, represent extremism that threatens the very foundations of our Republic.

They claim it is going to be the end of our democracy. I am not sure they know what democracy means. In any event, their clear intent is to tell the American people that Donald Trump will permanently change the type of Nation we have.

This is absurd, and they ought to be called out for it by the mainstream press. They ought to be forced to—not forced, but begged to until they eventually do apologize to President Trump and say there is no evidence this is going to be the end of democracy, whatever that means, so we can avoid a third assassination attempt.

I beg these people to please come to the floor here and apologize to President Trump.

□ 1815

BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION FAILURES AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure now to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), the co-chair of the Border Security Caucus.

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I thank my fellow co-chair, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) for sponsoring this Special Order hour with me.

Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce tonight's Special Order. We are going to be discussing KAMALA HARRIS' tenure and her appalling record as the Biden border czar.

In this role, HARRIS has worked not to secure the border of America but instead to deliberately dismantle our borders and put our Nation's safety and sovereignty at grave risk. Her intentional negligence has exacerbated the largest illegal alien invasion in history, one probably not seen since the ancient Romans were overrun by the Germanic hordes in the 3rd century leading to its downfall, an invasion that continues to ravage our communities and our pocketbooks while creating avenues of entry for dangerous individuals who are bent on inflicting harm to Americans and our American way of life.

Since 2021, more than 350 suspected terrorists have been encountered attempting to cross our southern border. We know at least 99 illegal alien individuals from the FBI's terrorist watch list have been released into the United States after being in the custody of Customs and Border Patrol. How does this happen?

Shockingly, many of these vile criminals are earning their golden ticket into our country through the Biden-Harris administration's corrupt and dangerous CBP One app; in reality, an illegal granting of parole, by the way.

Since day one, this administration has viciously striven to reverse all of Donald Trump's effective border policies, remove vetting protocols for asylum seekers, hand out public benefits to illegals, and actively hinder States from safeguarding their own borders and citizens. My own, the Lone Star State of Texas, is one of them.

Border czar KAMALA HARRIS has overseen it all and must be held accountable.

It doesn't take a national security expert, or even a policymaker, for that matter, to comprehend that by dissolving our borders, we expose ourselves to countless threats from all over the planet. Clearly, HARRIS does not care about the consequences of her own policies. In fact, she and the liberal media would rather deny that she ever held the title of border czar. She is using semantics to pull the wool over our eyes, but the American people see right through it.

Tonight, you will hear how border czar HARRIS has failed every State, city, community, and citizen of our country; how her reckless policies have led to the death or victimization of countless Americans at the hands of the illegal aliens that she has funneled into our Nation; and how communities and families have been devastated by the costs and deadly drugs being smuggled across the border.

Madam Speaker, make no mistake about it. This is a self-made border crisis that KAMALA HARRIS has gone out of her way to create, and now the safety of our Nation is in jeopardy. She knows this, just as her boss does, and yet the only action we have seen is her running away from the consequences of her own failures.

My colleagues and I refuse to let her get away with it.

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. I appreciate serving with him on the Border Security Caucus. He does a great job there, and I appreciate it so much.

In Colorado, the Tren de Aragua has been overrunning Colorado communities. Border officials have referred to Tren de Aragua as MS–13 on steroids. These criminals are the worst that the world has to offer, and the Biden-Harris regime has allowed them to make themselves at home in Colorado communities.

Larry Medina was arrested by Aurora police in connection with a felony menacing at Whispering Pines Condominiums. The victim reported to police Medina pointed a firearm and threatened to kill him.

Jhonardy Pacheco-Chirinos was arrested on a first-degree assault warrant out of Adams District Court. The warrant stemmed from an assault in November 2023 at an apartment complex.

Jhonnarty DeJesus Pacheco-Chirinos was arrested in connection with a nonfatal shooting the day before at Fitzsimons Place apartments.

Luis Miguel Calzadilla-Rojas was arrested in connection with a nonfatal shooting in front of a probation officer.

Yoendry Vilchez Medina-Jose was arrested on a warrant stemming from an assault at Whispering Pines Condos.

Juan Carlos Mejia-Espana was arrested following a domestic dispute, also at Whispering Pines Condominiums. He had a weapon.

Carlos Aranguren-Mayora had numerous encounters with Aurora police officers and law enforcement agencies throughout the metro area. He faces a total of 38 charges, five active court cases.

Roiberth Daniel Mora-Marquez was arrested in connection with an April 4 dispute and assault over unpaid rent money. He is also a suspect in a nonfatal shooting.

Jose Miguel Reyes-Perez was arrested for aggravated assault, menacing, and motor vehicle theft.

This is what is going on in Colorado. I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LOPEZ) to discuss this further.

Mr. LOPEZ. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to highlight the most disgraceful failure of the Biden-Harris administration with respect to our southern border.

The most important job of a President is to protect our borders from invasion of any criminal element that seeks to undermine the safety of American citizens, our communities, and our Nation. President Biden, in his misplaced wisdom, determined that the best person suited for that job was not himself but his Vice President KAMALA HARRIS. He announced that as the border czar, KAMALA HARRIS was competent and understood what needed to be done to protect our southern border.

Boy, was he wrong in making that decision. Perhaps Vice President HARRIS misread the memo that stated she was tasked with protecting our border, not surrendering it. Her incompetence has made every State in America a border State, leaving local governments to deal with violent criminal gangs, thugs, murderers, sex traffickers, and drug smugglers.

In recent weeks, I, along with the rest of the public, have watched the events in Aurora, Colorado, with horror. As Members of a violent Venezuelan prison gang commandeered multiple apartment complexes, gave the green light to kill cops, and wreaked havoc on small Colorado communities, this administration insists that our border is secure.

If this administration won't do anything about the vicious gangs running rampant in our country, I will. I have introduced a bill that would compel the Department of Homeland Security to quickly detain and deport all illegal immigrants with known gang affiliations. This is a commonsense public policy that will help keep our streets safe and free from the terrors being perpetrated by these animals. I would urge my colleagues to join me in this worthwhile fight. A failure to do so will inevitably result in more senseless pain and suffering for our people.

The presence of the gang we saw in Aurora is not limited to that town. This group has spread like a cancer throughout our country, with incidents in Texas, Wisconsin, Indiana, Chicago, Florida, Louisiana, and New York, among many others.

A recent CBP report showed that over 500,000 individuals have been flown in and paroled by this administration in a massive and largely unseen mass parole program.

KAMALA HARRIS doesn't care about this crisis, and she doesn't care about the Americans that she is hurting. She never spoke to the past two Border Patrol chiefs who served during the Biden-Harris administration. She has only visited the southern border one time during the past 4 years. That is not leadership. That is not someone trying to solve a problem. That is someone who is trying to hide from a problem that she created.

This crisis has created real heartbreak and human cost. Many men, women, and children have been targeted and victims of abuse or trafficking. Something not often talked about is the mental health impact this has on the DHS law enforcement officers. In 2022, 17 members of the CBP committed suicide. The point is that something must be done.

We have a moral responsibility to right this wrong. We can start that effort by deporting the gang members that have been allowed to breed in our country. We should pass my commonsense legislation that ensures that illegal aliens with known gang ties are no longer allowed to live here and cause havoc.

I will fight every single day I am here to make that happen. I would urge all Members to do the same.

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative LOPEZ for his comments.

On August 4, 2024, Enforcement and Removal Operations Boston apprehended Guatemalan national Jorge Luis Castro-Alvarado, who was charged with raping a Massachusetts resident. Castro illegally entered the United States on an unknown date, at an unknown location without being inspected, admitted, or paroled by a U.S. immigration official. He was convicted of assault and battery on a family or household member. The court sentenced Castro to 18 months in prison and suspended all but 6 months of the prison sentence.

In early 2023, Juan Carlos Garcia Rodriguez became one of the up to 140,000 unaccompanied children with whom HHS has lost contact. Just months after HHS lost contact with Garcia Rodriguez, he ran away from his sponsor and assaulted and murdered 11-year-old Maria Gonzalez in Pasadena, Texas. Garcia Rodriguez was illegally smuggled to the U.S. border through Louisiana in 2023 by a guide paid for by his parents. Rodriguez was then processed as a UAC and later transferred to custody of the Department of Health. Despite this, Rodriguez was placed with an unrelated adult sponsor who was also an illegal alien.

I now yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE), who knows about the ravages of illegal migration.

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I rise today to address the ongoing and deadly border disaster that every week continues to take the lives and livelihoods of American citizens all over our country.

Border czar KAMALA HARRIS has failed in her assigned role to protect our country and to secure our borders. I submit that HARRIS never intended to have secure borders, and her primary focus has been to get rid of every successful border control measure that we had in place during President Trump's administration. From the beginning, HARRIS' goal was to flood our Nation with a tsunami of illegal immigrants so they could overwhelm our States and cities with populations that HARRIS ultimately hopes to turn into U.S. citizens whom she believes will create permanent Democrat control of the White House and Congress.

Due to the deliberate actions of the Biden-Harris administration, millions of illegal immigrants have been trafficked either by deadly Mexican cartels or by the illegal immigrant airlines and other transportation assistance run by this administration. This has led to horrific crimes being committed throughout America as daughters, sisters, and mothers are brutally attacked, raped, and murdered.

At the same time, Biden and HARRIS have lost over 320,000 illegal immigrant children. They are likely enslaved in sex trafficking or forced labor. It is not an exaggeration to say that KAMALA HARRIS has brought about a massive new era of slavery that our country has never seen. She has inflicted a humanitarian disaster on our Nation. American citizens are losing their lives by the hundreds of thousands because of this disaster.

Every week, we learn about new atrocities that are committed by this administration against the American people. Just yesterday, a former Border Patrol sector chief testified how the Biden-Harris administration directed our Border Patrol to hide information from the American people about the explosion of illegal immigrants with possible ties to terrorism who are entering our country. This former border chief further testified that he was forced to release hundreds of illegal immigrants every day into communities that were not prepared to handle such an influx.

The actions of Biden and HARRIS have been lawless, dangerous, and are purposefully designed to destabilize our Nation. Truly, there has been no more destructive administration in my lifetime, and they should be condemned for these horrific acts against the American people.

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments.

Enforcement Removal Operations Boston apprehended an unlawfully present 28-year-old Salvadoran national charged with numerous sex crimes against a child on Nantucket island. Officers from ERO Boston arrested Bryan Daniel Aldana-Arevalo September 10 in Nantucket. Aldana had unlawfully entered the U.S. on an unknown date, at an unknown location without having been inspected, admitted, or paroled by a U.S. immigration official. Nantucket authorities arraigned Aldana on July 26 in Nantucket District Court for one count of rape of a child with a 10-year age difference and two counts of indecent assault and battery on a child under 14.

Deportation officers from Enforcement Removal Operations Atlanta arrested an Ecuadorian fugitive listed as one of the country's 100 most wanted criminals. Officers apprehended Cesar Condor Vaca during a targeted operation in Greenville, South Carolina, on January 30. The assistant attache in Ecuador notified ERO Atlanta that Condor Vaca was wanted by Ecuadorian authorities for femicide. An ERO assessment revealed Condor Vaca legally entered the U.S. on March 15, 2021, and failed to depart as required. ERO Atlanta officers served him with a notice to appear. A notice to appear. He will remain in U.S. ICE custody pending removal proceedings.

Madam Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN), who knows the ravages of illegal migration in South Carolina.

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for leading this Special Order hour. The pictures, the posters of what Congressman BIGGS is showing demonstrate the horror that people are going through on an activity that this administration not only is condoning, they are encouraging it.

When you think about the last 3½ years, what this administration has subjected this country to, it is beyond comprehension. With the invasion at our border, he is basically changing the landscape of this country in a way that is going to take a long time to come back and recover from.

□ 1830

Yes, we are going to deport them when President Trump takes office, but look at the lost lives that Congressman BIGGS is showing, the members who are brazenly killing Americans.

Let me read some comments by czar HARRIS that point out what I am saying about this being so intentional. She has not disavowed any of the statements I am getting ready to read.

HARRIS has called the building of a border wall stupid and useless, labeling it as President Trump's medieval vanity project.

In both 2020 and 2024 campaigns, she has stated that detention centers would be shut down if she became President.

In the Senate, HARRIS supported cutting ICE bed numbers, stopping border wall construction, and opposed all of President Trump's effective border policies, including the remain in Mexico policy and the title 42 expulsions.

In 2019, border czar HARRIS stated in an ACLU survey that she supports providing transgender surgeries for detained illegal aliens.

It is bad enough what she is saying in all of these comments, but the scary part about it is she could actually become our President and put this country into a further declining position.

The policy changes which she advocates, along with ending the border wall—let me say, on the border wall, you ask any Democrat that has not said one word about the illegal immigration crisis, their position is walls don't work. If they don't work, then why, every time we have a dignitary or any foreign leaders from other countries, guess what goes up around the Capitol to protect us? A wall, a fence. It is insanity that they are denying this.

She is for restricting immigration officers from arresting, detaining, and deporting aliens; she is terminating asylum cooperative agreements with Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras; she, as I stated, was for ending the remain in Mexico policy; and she is for removing the adversarial nature of the asylum process, making it easier to grant frivolous asylum claims.

Folks, this is outlandish. Over 200,000 Americans have died from fentanyl. Over the past 24 months, law enforcement has seized an average of 2,020 pounds of fentanyl per month. That is enough to kill 458 million people.

My issue that needs to be highlighted all across this country is to at least have mercy on the children. There are 300,000 plus children that have not been accounted for and are either dead or in sex slave activity, and this administration, the blood is on their hands.

I thank the Congressman for leading this charge and the pictures that he is showing, because it puts a face on what this administration is doing to America.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate the gentleman from South Carolina.

Ellen Gutierrez Saez, Johan Salvo Alacon, and Manuel Eduardo Fuentes Gomez, three Chilean citizens living illegally in the United States, were arrested and believed to be part of a South American criminal gang operating in the United States whose members commit robberies, fraud, and traffic stolen property.

That group is believed to be responsible for at least 111 robbery incidents since February 2023.

Nathan Kharim Melendez is wanted in Mexico for the criminal charge of causing multiple injuries with a vehicle and abandoning the scene, fleeing the scene. He has been wanted by Mexican authorities since March of this year when he was named as the suspected driver of a car that ran over a 30-year-old woman, her 5-year-old daughter, and 2-year-old nephew. He was arrested in Phoenix, Arizona, in June of this year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CRANE), one who knows the ravages of illegal migration in Arizona.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity tonight from Mr. BIGGS.

Here we stand, 3 years after KAMALA HARRIS was installed as the border czar helping to spearhead this administration's deadly open-border policies, a task she has carried out with exceptional success for 42 months.

The number of individuals apprehended illegally crossing our southwest border who are on the terror watch list increased roughly 3,000 percent from the previous administration. That is a 3,000 percent increase on the border czar's watch.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle refuse to call it what it is: an invasion.

I also point out that we just commemorated the 23rd anniversary of 9/11. I have said this time and time again, but it bears repeating. It only took 19 depraved individuals to carry out the horrific attacks on that day.

Since Biden installed KAMALA as the border czar, close to 400 members of the terror watch list have attempted to infiltrate our Nation. When you combine that number with the nearly 2 million known got-aways that have evaded apprehension and permeated our communities, the likelihood of potential terror attacks in the near future is chilling.

What has to happen for this administration and this Chamber to say: Enough. We will finally take who we are letting into this country seriously?

How many foreign threats do we have to let in?

How many Americans have to be slaughtered at the hands of criminal aliens?

How many sexual predators have to be granted access to our communities before this administration wakes up?

KAMALA's record as border czar is a guidebook for what not to do to secure our border and ensure the safety of American families.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. CRANE's recounting of what is going on across our border.

ERO Boston removed Felipe Augusto De Oliveira, a 23-year-old Brazilian fugitive, from the United States who was wanted by authorities in his home country for attempted homicide.

U.S. Border Patrol apprehended De Oliveira on March 28, 2023, after he unlawfully entered the United States near Lukeville, Arizona. He was subsequently released on his own recognizance by a Department of Justice immigration judge, and I am sure we are looking for him still.

Enforcement and Removal Operations in Miami, in partnership with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's office, arrested Giovanni Radu, a 22-year-old citizen of Italy, who entered the United States as a nonimmigrant and violated the terms of his admission. He collected a total of $80,000 in the past year using a fake nonprofit.

He is facing State charges, including organized scheme to defraud, failure to register as a charitable organization, and a whole host of these things, as well as carrying a concealed weapon during a felony and battery on a law enforcement officer.

One who knows well, because she has some roots in Arizona as well as Florida, what is going on in the ravages of crime that is a result of this wide-open border is my friend, the gentlewoman from Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK).

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my outstanding colleague from the great State of Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) and also from the great State of Texas (Mr. BABIN) for hosting this Special Order this evening.

It is time to call a spade a spade. The wide-open border policy of the Biden-Harris regime is quite literally killing Americans across the country, and there is no denying this.

I myself have been to the border nine times, and I have ridden along with our agents through their shifts for hours seeing firsthand the horror, the trafficking, the crime, the gang members, and the abuse of women and children. I have seen the hundreds of thousands of wristbands littering the ground along the riverbanks. The wristbands that the cartels force people to wear to show which cartel they belong to, how much they have been paid, and, of course, what number they are.

It is such a big operation that the cartels have created the most efficient means possible to move people into the country illegally. What is worse, the American government, Biden and HARRIS, are helping the cartels do it.

How, you might ask? Well, it is by taking away critical resources from our Border Patrol agents, by not enforcing the current laws on the books, and by taking away policies that stop the flow of illegals, not by legislative action but through executive action, of course.

I suppose we shouldn't be surprised that Biden and his border czar, KAMALA HARRIS, don't care about the law. When it gets in their way, they subvert it.

It is clear they have zero regard for the American people, despite nearly 300 people a day dying of the trafficked fentanyl that comes across the border or the thousands who have fallen victim to violent crime by illegals. They just simply ignore us and pretend like it doesn't happen and it doesn't exist.

Now, while the Vice President, a/k/a border czar, pretends to care now all of a sudden about our southern border, I have a few questions for her.

Madam Vice President, do you know how many Americans have been harmed by criminal illegal aliens?

Do you know how many lives have been forever changed by the violence perpetrated against them by the people who broke our laws, who you invited here, you flew here, who have crossed our border and harmed our citizens?

As if every town in America wasn't already a border town, I ask this: What about the hundreds of thousands of unaccompanied minors trafficked into this country for whom the Federal Government knows nothing of their whereabouts?

The 325,000 kids that have been lost under her watch, what has she done about that?

Do their lives not matter?

These children have been forced into child labor situations, sex trafficking, and abuse. What has been done about that? It happened on her watch.

House Republicans have been correcting the record and shining a spotlight on the disastrous crisis at our southern border for 4 years now, sounding the alarm of the failures of this administration and particularly border czar HARRIS.

She is not fooling the American people by pretending to care all of a sudden. She is not fooling this Chamber. She is certainly not fooling the angel families who have lost loved ones due to the reckless policies that she and President Biden have put forth.

We need a real Commander in Chief, not a czar, not someone who is cackling, laughing, and making jokes. It is not a laughing matter. We certainly don't need a trafficker in chief. That is what we have now. We need a real Commander in Chief, and November is coming.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman and appreciate her comments and experience along the border.

In August of 2023, illegal alien Kindu Jeancy Zamambu was charged with felony first-degree sexual abuse and misdemeanor unlawful imprisonment for assaulting a woman at a hotel in Cheektowaga, New York.

Zamambu, a 23-year-old national of the Democratic Republic of Congo, entered California on February 13, 2023. He was arrested about 1 mile west of San Ysidro, which is the San Diego area. ICE enrolled Zamambu in Alternatives to Detention and released him into the U.S. Less than 6 months later, he was assaulting a woman in New York.

Next, is Daniel Hernandez Martinez from Venezuela. Within 6 months of his release in the United States, Venezuelan national Daniel Hernandez Martinez committed at least 22 criminal offenses in New York City.

He is charged with petit larceny on four separate occasions, criminal possession of stolen property on three occasions, multiple charges for menacing, assault, attempted assault, criminal mischief, possession of burglary tools, disorderly conduct, and more.

He was released into the United States without any legal justification.

In addition to his crimes, DHS records indicate he is a suspected member of the dangerous Tren de Aragua gang. Currently, there are no DHS records to indicate that ICE has removed him from the country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY), someone who knows the ravages of crime produced by illegal migration.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding the time and for hosting this Special Order hour to bring real attention to this crisis.

Just last month, a family of four was brutally murdered in the town of Irondequoit, New York, just outside of Rochester. Two little girls, babies, 2 and 4 years old, were slaughtered in cold blood by a man who should have never been on American soil in the first place. They were murdered beside their parents.

The murderer was an illegal immigrant wanted for murder in his own country, who somehow managed to sneak across our border, get a fake ID, and tear this family apart.

□ 1845

This is not an isolated case. Just last month, ICE agents from the Buffalo office arrested a Peruvian gang leader and a serial killer in Broome County near Binghamton. He was responsible for 23 murders in Peru. He was so callous of a killer that he had the victims' faces and names tattooed on his body, and here he was, hiding in plain sight in upstate New York.

How did we get here? Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, the failed border czar herself, and Democratic leaders removed the previous administration's border policies that actually worked, that were actually keeping America safer, and they allowed this border crisis to spiral out of control.

KAMALA HARRIS has had 39 months to get this border crisis under control. What has she done? Not a damn thing. Nothing. No action. No accountability.

What have we seen instead? Record-breaking illegal crossings at our southern border and also at our northern border, which is becoming a new hotbed of illegal crossings, rampant drug trafficking of deadly fentanyl into every community across the country, and violent criminals walking right into our neighborhoods.

It is not just Washington that is to blame. Democrats in my State capital of Albany and in New York City roll out the red carpet for illegal immigrants in New York State: driver's licenses for illegals, check; free housing, food, and debit cards for illegals, check. It is as if Governor Hochul and her Democratic allies put up a giant neon sign saying: Come on in. We are open.

Mr. Speaker, New York sanctuary State policies are endangering our citizens. This family in Irondequoit paid the ultimate price for the Democrats' reckless agenda.

Under President Trump's administration, we had control of our borders. We had policies that worked: building the wall, enforcing remain in Mexico, and ending catch and release.

Under Biden and HARRIS, all we have is chaos. The wall was halted. ICE and our Border Patrol have been limited. Criminals are running free in sanctuary cities like New York.

Let me also remind everyone that 185 Democrats voted against the Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act just yesterday. The bill is to ensure that anyone crossing our border with a history of violent assault, sexual assault, or domestic violence is turned away or deported immediately. Mr. Speaker, 158 Democrats voted against that bill.

I ask my colleagues: How many more lives need to be lost before this administration wakes up? How many more families must suffer? How many more families must be torn apart?

The American people are sick and tired of this crisis. They are sick of crime, open borders, and endless excuses. Enough is enough.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his stirring testimony.

Mr. Speaker, in November 2023, Jose Barrera Amaya was arrested for drunken conduct and fighting. DHS arrested Barrera Amaya, but the agency released him on the very same day. Just months after his first arrest in March 2024, Barrera Amaya was arrested for stabbing his neighbor and his neighbor's brother at a laundromat.

DHS first encountered Barrera Amaya in December 2021 along the U.S.-Mexico border. After being expelled pursuant to title 32, press reports indicated that Barrera Amaya had reentered the country as a got-away through Eagle Pass, Texas.

Jose Ibarra from Venezuela: Border Patrol apprehended Jose Ibarra in September 2022, and the Biden-Harris administration released Ibarra into the U.S. just 1 day later because it determined that Ibarra's release was warranted due to urgent and humanitarian reasons or a significant public benefit.

On February 22, 2024, Jose Ibarra murdered 22-year-old nursing student Laken Riley in Athens, Georgia. Riley's body was found on the University of Georgia campus after she had gone for a run.

A day later, authorities arrested the 26-year-old Venezuelan national in connection with Riley's murder and charged him with malice murder, felony murder, aggravated battery, aggravated assault, false imprisonment, kidnapping, hindering a 911 call, and concealing the death of another.

Laken Riley would be alive today if Biden and HARRIS were enforcing the law instead of releasing hardened criminals like Jose Ibarra.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN), who knows what the ravages of illegal migration have done to Georgia.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Representative BIGGS, for hosting tonight's Special Order hour, along with my good friend BRIAN BABIN, as well, talking about the devastating impact the crisis at our southern border is causing our country.

Every State is a border State. Obviously, we have lost a loved one in Georgia.

I got a text, interestingly enough, today from a small rural town in my district that basically they said it is a Third World country here. This is in rural America. She said that she doesn't mean to complain, but they can't even go to the grocery store.

I am sure it has been said here many times tonight: Over the past 4 years, the Biden-HARRIS administration has had an open-border policy. When those candidates, when they were running for President, raised their hands and said that we would give away free healthcare—every single one of them raised their hand. We should have known then what was going to happen.

I don't understand why the American people weren't alerted by that because I have been on mission trips to these countries. I have tried to help these people in their home country with medical, buildings, and other things. They have no healthcare.

Since the Biden-HARRIS administration took office, and with KAMALA HARRIS as border czar, there have been over 10 million illegal immigrant encounters and roughly 2 million known got-aways. Got-aways are here for a different reason. It is not good.

I can't tell you, for the Committee on Energy and Commerce, how many hearings we have had dealing with fentanyl, like a mom losing a child to fentanyl. It is the leading cause of death of men between ages 14 and 40 in our country. How can we continue to allow this?

Worsening the already dire situation, this administration has failed to remove 99.7 percent of illegal immigrants released into the United States, making every community and every State a border State.

I have been to the border multiple times, and what I have witnessed is this: It is the most inhumane process I have ever witnessed. It is disgusting that children are pinned up like animals. I asked the Border Patrol where these people get the money to pay the cartels, and I understand the cartels, Mr. Speaker, are making $32 million a week down there. I asked how they would pay for this. They said that they don't have the money. I asked what guarantees payment when they get here.

This is what we are allowing. This administration is allowing this. It is the most horrible thing I have ever heard. They are indentured servants in the beacon of freedom, indentured slaves to the cartels. Guess what? If those cartels don't get paid, they start killing off their family members. How disgusting.

How can this administration be allowed to continue this barbaric policy? They could put an end to it. I don't know why the Vice President on the campaign trail hasn't said she is going to stop this tomorrow. They can do it.

I saw and witnessed them coming across in a boat, and I said: Why don't you all stop the boat?

They said: You see those children? If we stop that boat, they will start throwing their children in the river.

How can we allow this, America? Like I said, it is barbaric. These are war criminals.

We lost a National Guard soldier trying to save someone from drowning. He drowned trying to save them in that river.

Folks, I could be here a long time, but enough is enough. The House has taken action by passing the most comprehensive border security bill in the history of the United States Congress, H.R. 2. The Senate has not taken up that bill.

We must secure this border. Call your Senators. Demand that they stop these horrible crimes we are seeing committed at this border.

Let me tell you something else that nobody's talking about. We have the most generous legal immigration system in the world. Why don't we talk about improving that system bipartisanly? We should be recruiting the best and the brightest into this country, the most skilled. One million people per year are legally allowed to apply for citizenship in this country and go through the process. We also have a million student visas.

We need to fix this problem and stop this inhumane and really just barbaric activity that this administration is carrying on with right now. It is disastrous.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for all of his good work on the issue.

Mr. Speaker, Jesus Enrique Ramirez Cabrera was arrested September 7 after abducting a high school girl in Manassas, Virginia. Cabrera allegedly approached the girl on her morning walk to school, falsely identified himself as a police officer, and then forced the girl into his car, abducting her. Thankfully, the girl was able to escape with minor injuries out of the moving car.

He was found and charged with abduction, robbery, impersonating a police officer, and petit larceny.

U.S. Border Patrol had arrested Ramirez Cabrera on December 9, 2023, after he unlawfully entered the United States near San Luis, Arizona. U.S. CBP issued Ramirez a notice to appear before a Department of Justice immigration judge and then released him from custody.

Here is another case that impacts Virginia. Jose Fabricio Veizaga-Vargas, who is a Bolivian, was arrested by U.S. Border Patrol on April 24, 2023. Now, remember this: On April 24, 2023, after he unlawfully entered the U.S. near El Paso, Texas, Veizaga was served with a notice to appear before a DOJ immigration judge, who released him on his own recognizance on April 25, 2023.

Following his arrest by Fairfax County Police on May 3, ERO Washington lodged an immigration detainer against Veizaga.

The Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court convicted Veizaga of misdemeanor sexual assault of a child aged 13 to 14 and sentenced him to 6 months in jail, but the court then suspended all 6 months of the sentence. The Fairfax County Adult Detention Center refused to honor the immigration detainer and then released him from custody without even notifying ERO Washington, D.C.

Veizaga was again arrested on August 8—this is all in 2023—by Fairfax

County Police and charged with misdemeanor DWI. The detention center refused to honor ERO Washington's immigration detainer again and released him without notifying ERO Washington, D.C.

Fairfax County Police arrested Veizaga a week later and charged him with seven counts of felony possession of child pornography, felony possession of obscene material with a minor. The detention center refused again to honor the immigration detainer and again released Veizaga onto the streets without notifying ERO Washington, D.C.

Ultimately, on August 19—remember, this is all in 2023—in Annandale, Virginia, 36-year-old Bolivian Jose Fabricio Veizaga-Vargas was apprehended by ERO, Enforcement Removal Operations, and convicted of sexually assaulting a Virginia child. He is also now charged with DWI and possession of child sexual abuse material.

The point of it is that we see how much havoc this one individual wreaked upon Virginia. That is what we have because of the Biden-Harris open-border policies.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD), my friend who has seen the ravages of illegal migration.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the distinguished gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) has led four border trips that I have been on during my time in Congress. I have been there six times, but four times under the leadership of Mr. BIGGS. I appreciate his leadership on the Border Security Caucus and his leading this Special Order hour tonight on this all-important policy and depicting the harm being done in our country, the existential threat to our country, which is the border invasion.

I find it interesting that Democrats don't care about the border invasion. They just don't like us to call it a border invasion. Democrats don't care about the illegal aliens flooding into our country. They just don't like us to call them illegal aliens because whether it is their policies on energy and climate, national security, national defense, law enforcement—or pro-criminal, I should say—their policies on transgenderism, abortion extremism, or this policy of tonight, the immigration border invasion, Democrats cannot be honest with the American people about what they really believe and what they really want to do to our country or they would never win another election.

□ 1900

If the American people fully understood the harm the Democratic Party is doing with this border invasion and that they are doing it on purpose, that it is the plan that they are executing, then they would never win another election. That is why border czar HARRIS, who has massively failed at her one job, the one job we know that she was given as Vice President, the border czar job, she is now trying to distance herself from this responsibility and the catastrophic impact upon the country.

The fundamental difference between Democrats or VP HARRIS and Republicans on the border and immigration is Republicans believe that America should decide who is able to come to our country and under what conditions.

Democrats believe that everyone around the world, that 96 percent of the world's population that does not live in the United States, is entitled to come to America legally or illegally in spite of whatever their background and their intentions might be.

For them, the noncitizens, the illegals, get to decide and set the policy. That is why they will never answer the question of how many is too many, or what is the end game?

Is it because they believe that these illegals flooding our borders are truly just unregistered Democrats who will vote for them legally or illegally in the next election?

That is why they oppose the SAVE Act. They didn't even want any efforts, any attempt to try to prohibit or prevent noncitizens from voting in our elections.

Are their policies because they want to transform America by flooding our country with non-Americans who don't speak our language; who don't know or respect our laws; who haven't earned their citizenship or demonstrated they can contribute to our society and make us better and stronger; who aren't familiar with, much less devoted to, our Constitution; and who haven't embraced our values or our culture, so that if you flood enough of them in here illegally or otherwise we will no longer at some point be America?

How do they not care about their own DHS's numbers of some 12 million illegals who have come over the past 4 years with some 3 million known gotaways, the truly dangerous ones who avoid apprehension, who avoid surrendering for the free social services, housing, education, healthcare, and so forth that is provided by the Biden-HARRIS administration?

The stress on our public safety has been so effectively shared tonight by Congressman BIGGS and the others who have spoken before me.

Do the Democrats and border czar HARRIS not believe the border invasion is happening?

Do they not believe it is a bad thing?

Again, if the American people knew and understood the Democrat position on the border and the illegal invasion, then they would never win another election if they realized they are doing this to us on purpose.

Only time will tell how dangerous the illegals are whom the border czar HARRIS has helped invade our country.

Only time will tell the harm that awaits the citizens of the United States from those who evaded apprehension, those who have the criminal backgrounds and the terrorist ties who are trafficking drugs and women and children into our country.

This is KAMALA HARRIS' America, and the American people are paying the price as has been described so effectively here tonight. The American people have had enough.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BIGGS for leading this Special Order tonight.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. GOOD for his remarks. It is a pleasure to hear from him and have him participate.

After everything we have heard tonight, it is no wonder that KAMALA HARRIS has been working hard to distance herself from her role as the border czar. Under her watch, more than 10 million illegal aliens have crossed our border, 350 terrorists have been stopped at the border, of which 100 of those were released into the country. That is just who we know about.

Since 2021, more than 200,000 Americans have died from fentanyl overdoses, and enough fentanyl has come into the country to kill 458 million people, more than enough to kill every American alive.

More than 300,000 children have been misplaced under the border czar's watch. In fact, she can't even tell you, Mr. Speaker, exactly how many are missing. She has no idea where they are. All we know is that sometimes you had an individual sponsor receive as many as 40, 50, or 60 unaccompanied young children whom we don't know now where they are, and we don't vet the sponsors anyway.

Now, KAMALA HARRIS wants us to believe that she would be tough on the border and that she would solve the crisis.

Why would anyone believe her?

What would she do differently than when she was second in command of the executive branch and designated the border czar?

The reality is she wouldn't do anything differently.

We know this not only from her record as the border czar but also from the policies she has supported throughout her career.

Let's just recount some of those. For instance, she called the border wall stupid, useless, and a medieval vanity project. That is not unlike one of Arizona's Congressmen, Mr. GALLEGO, who said that it was stupid and useless.

Here we have KAMALA HARRIS saying that the detention centers need to be shut down, promising to do so if she was President.

She has supported measures to reduce detention bed numbers and cut funding for border wall construction.

She opposed all of President Trump's effective border policies, including remain in Mexico and title 42.

She has even said she supports using taxpayer dollars to pay for sex change surgeries for detained illegal aliens.

Does that sound like someone who wants to fix the border?

Does that sound like a border State prosecutor which she now aggrandizes herself as as she goes around the country campaigning?

There should be no doubt that if KAMALA HARRIS is in the White House next year we will only get more of the same and maybe even worse.

Mr. Speaker, if you thought 10 million illegal aliens in 4 years was bad, you just wait. The American people should not be fooled.

Now, talking about not being fooled, here is what you have from former San Diego Sector Chief Agent Aaron Heitke who told members of the House Homeland Security Committee on Wednesday that the White House repeatedly tried to fake America out, to ''quiet the border-wide crisis.''

What was she doing? What was the Biden-HARRIS administration doing?

She was shielding information from the press and concealing crossings by dangerous migrants with terrorist ties.

This is what he said: ''I had to release illegal aliens by the hundreds each day into communities who could not support them.

''To quiet the problem, two flights a week were provided from San Diego to Texas. These flights simply brought aliens that would have been released in San Diego over to Texas.''

Each flight cost about $150,000.

That is what KAMALA HARRIS the border czar did.

What else did the administration do?

What else did she do to hide what is happening at the border?

For one thing, they don't count CBP One entrance or the Venezuela, Haiti, Cuba, Nicaragua program as encounters. So when you count and you see the number, Mr. Speaker, you are not going to see that.

So what does that mean?

It means the last 15 months CBP One people have come in and been released into the country under that fraudulent, illegal program, by the way. There are 815,000 just in that program that they don't count. Venezuela, Haiti, Cuba, and Nicaragua, 530,000 in the same period of time, 530,000.

Mr. Speaker, do you wonder why you have Tren de Aragua all over the country?

By the way, about 6 weeks ago, CBP actually issued from their headquarters to the field offices a notification saying: Hey, watch out, Tren de Aragua is now embedded and infiltrating the country, but it is moving to the Northeast part of the United States of America.

In the same memo, they said: Also, be aware that Iran and Iranian proxies are flooding our border with terrorists.

That is not BIGGS talking. That is KAMALA HARRIS' own administration admitting their failure.

How about this: Jerome Powell, the head of the Federal Reserve, just yesterday said: Do you know what is causing rising unemployment?

It is unfettered illegal immigration.

That is from KAMALA HARRIS' administration. They appointed Jerome Powell to be the head of the Federal Reserve. That is what you see from this border, Mr. Speaker.

Do you know what, Mr. Speaker? I have literally listened to some of my colleagues in our committee say: There is no crisis on the border. There is no problem on the border. El Paso, for instance, is a loving community. We don't have a problem.

Do you know what, Mr. Speaker?

We have a problem not just on the border anymore. Arizona is a transit for illegal migration. Phoenix is a hub for human sex and drug trafficking. We have got multiple interstates going through there, and the illegal migration comes up and goes from Phoenix and is distributed throughout the country.

That is why Arizona, Texas, California, and New Mexico now are not the only States suffering under the rampage of an invasion of illegal migrants. It is every State and every community.

So, Mr. Speaker, when you talk about who controls the borders, it is the cartels. The cartels control the border. There are multiple plaza fights going on right now between various factions, some within the Sinaloa cartel in and of itself, going after each other trying to pick up pieces so they can control the plaza. That is what is going on.

Why is it going on?

It is because this administration refuses to enforce the law. It is going on because when President Biden was elected, within 72 hours he had issued more than 100 executive orders, many of which were to basically emasculate the border security and policy of the previous administration under Donald Trump which was so successful.

I will give you now just one quick example, Mr. Speaker.

The Yuma sector, the last year Donald Trump was President, had fewer than 8,600 encounters. There have been weekends under this administration that they have had 8,600 encounters. The Tucson sector 60,000 per year on average under the previous administration.

Under this administration, there have been months, nearing 60,000. That is what you have to understand, Mr. Speaker. It isn't just numbers. These numbers represent people who come in here, some with benign intentions and others with malevolent intentions.

Mr. Speaker, this has got to stop, and it must end now, but this administration refuses to do it. H.R. 2 sits languishing over there in the Senate. It has been there for 1½ years. That is a bill that would bring this to a halt quickly.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities towards the President and Vice President.

STOP PROJECT 2025

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I founded the Congressional Task Force to Stop Project 2025.

Some people might be curious as to why I did that.

I have served in Congress for almost 12 years, and throughout that period, I have seen a lot of wild and extreme antics from across the aisle.

I have seen some of my colleagues try to chip away at our civil rights and roll back decades of progress.

I have seen the chaos and the division that Donald Trump has infused into our politics, including violent rhetoric and extreme policies that are completely beyond the pale of anything that has ever tried to pass for conservatism.

However, in this entire time, I have never seen anything that compares to the threat to our democracy, to our individual rights, and to the well-being of most Americans, the threat that is posed by Trump's Project 2025.

□ 1915

I encourage people to look it up and to read it because anyone who familiarizes themself with Trump's Project 2025 can see for themselves what an unprecedented takeover plan this is, to gut critical checks and balances that hold our democracy together, to roll back fundamental rights, to erode church-state separation, impose draconian policies that are deeply unpopular with most Americans, all so that MAGA politicians can take unprecedented governmental control over the lives of every person who calls America home.

Most Americans want nothing to do with this dystopic authoritarian scheme, but our House Republican colleagues are so excited about it that the majority is not even waiting for a potential second Trump Presidency. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are moving ahead right now to implement many parts of his Project 2025.

Everywhere we turn in this Congress, extreme MAGA Republicans are working straight out of the Project 2025 playbook. We are seeing it in committees, in press conferences, and every single day right here on the House floor.

Climate action, protections for the middle class, social safety nets, and abortion rights, these have all been on the chopping block in this Republican majority. It is like the majority lifted their legislative agenda right out of the pages of Project 2025.

Mr. Speaker, we believe sunlight is the best disinfectant, and that is one of the most important parts of our task force's work. Our Stop Project 2025 Task Force and many other Members of the House Democratic Caucus, as well, have been focused on doing something very simple but very important: showing people what Project 2025 actually says, bringing it out of the shadows, making sure every American knows the truth about what Trump and his allies here in Congress are planning and, in many cases, already trying to do.

It is important to think about how a potential second Trump Presidency would be very different. He now has absolute immunity, thanks to his extreme radical Supreme Court. We know that he will not have adults in the room next time around. His administration would not have any institutionalists pushing back against his dangerous agenda or his authoritarian impulses.

Unlike the chaos and lack of planning that marked his first Presidency, he now has Project 2025, a detailed, strategic blueprint for not only advancing extreme policies, but for clearing away all checks and balances and guardrails that might stand in his way.

Mr. Speaker, as disturbing as all of this is, it is important to remember we have only seen the tip of the Project 2025 iceberg because, on top of the 922 pages that they have actually published, which everyone can look up on the internet, they also have an extensive personnel program, including a resume database chock full of MAGA loyalists, a training academy to indoctrinate their self-described army of political operatives.

These are the people that they hope to repopulate the Federal workforce with after they have purged tens of thousands of civil servants. These things are happening right now.

Perhaps the most concerning part is the secret fourth pillar of Project 2025 that acknowledged its existence. Members of The Heritage Foundation have described it as being too controversial to actually share it with the public, so they haven't published it. It is the unreleased playbook outlining the steps that Trump would take in his first 180 days in office.

Congresswoman AYANNA PRESSLEY and I have reached out to Heritage in recent weeks demanding that they come before Congress to discuss this secret part of their plan and release it so that the American people can actually read it. To no one's surprise, the architects of Project 2025 have ignored our request. We think the public deserves to know what executive orders, emergency declarations, and other Presidential directives have been secretly prepared for Trump to make good on with respect to his vow to be a dictator on day one.

Today, our Stop Project 2025 Task Force has launched a tip line to gather any and all information we can about the hidden fourth pillar of Project 2025. Given the extremism we have already seen in the published parts of this plan and the evasiveness of Heritage and its coalition, we think it is important to turn to the public to get more information on this.

Anyone who may have seen or authored or come across any part of the secret fourth pillar of Project 2025 is encouraged to share what information that they may have access to through our dedicated tip line.

We are going to keep doing everything that we can to uncover their full agenda and to stop this government takeover scheme on behalf of the majority of Americans who want nothing to do with this dystopic plan.

I yield to my colleague, the assistant Democratic leader, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE).

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, let me just say a word of gratitude to my colleague, the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN), for founding and chairing the Stop Project 2025 Task Force. His determined leadership on this particular issue has been incredibly important, and I and so many of my colleagues on the House Democratic Caucus are grateful for it.

Right now, Mr. Speaker, Americans across the country are looking to leaders in Washington to solve problems, to address issues of critical importance facing our families and our communities across this great Nation. They are looking to us to lower costs, to grow the middle class, to build safer communities, and to put people over politics.

Unfortunately, Project 2025 calls for the very opposite. As H. Res. 1386 makes perfectly clear, extreme MAGA Republicans have authored a radical playbook that would harm middle-class families by raising taxes, allowing employers to stop paying overtime, repealing the Affordable Care Act, ending Medicare as we know it, opening the door for disastrous cuts to Social Security, and raising the retirement age, making workers work longer for less.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague from California said it so well. The American people do not want this plan. They don't support it. That much is clear.

I would encourage my House Republican colleagues to abandon the reckless plans articulated in Project 2025, which the majority has attempted to legislate on the floor over the course of these last several months, often throwing the House into chaos during the course of the 118th Congress.

I would encourage them to, instead, work with us collaboratively on policies that put people over politics, on policies that create an opportunity economy, on policies that ultimately ensure that our brighter days are ahead.

The stakes are simply too high, and, of course, Mr. Speaker, a great way to do precisely that would be to work with us on a bipartisan path forward to keep the government funded, to keep the government open, so that we can get back to the business that the American people expect us to consider on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) again for his leadership on this task force.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE) and agree with him. Many of our Republican colleagues have been trying to disown Project 2025. Certainly their nominee, Donald Trump, has been trying to do that in ways that are quite implausible, but it seems to me that anyone who wants to show that they do not support this radical authoritarian scheme, Project 2025, we are giving them a chance to do that with this resolution. We invite them to join us.

At this point, I yield to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT).

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) for yielding and for convening us here. I also thank the gentleman for not being swayed by the rhetoric that is happening outside, that is pulling people's attention away from this dire threat to our democracy that is Project 2025.

This is, in fact, a blueprint, as the gentleman has said and so many others have said, to the culmination of years of planning by Washington, D.C.'s, shadiest conservative groups, shadiest individuals, to upend the structures, institutions, and, indeed, the basic rights that actually make America great.

Project 2025 is a playbook for Donald Trump's second term and a plan for the destruction of America as we know it. Despite flashy headlines printed over American flags and men who give loud speeches about their love of freedom, this plan is, in fact, a destruction of our freedoms.

This is a plan, in many ways, related to the great replacement theory, a means to say that America should be a homogenous society, not recognizing that what makes this country so great is, in fact, not just our diversity, but our willingness to have the tug and pull of different ideas.

I can remember when this House was a place where people compromised, where people negotiated, where we did not think that one was right or the other, that we tried to work together. Those days are long gone, and those of us who want to stick our heads underground and pretend that Project 2025 is not a reality, shame on you.

Many of my colleagues who want to pretend that they don't know what this is, that they haven't read it, just because you haven't read it doesn't mean it is not real.

This is a manifesto to ensure that Donald Trump has the ability to do what he wants to be, which is to be a king, to take away the rights that so many of us have, to restrict free speech

in schools, to only allow far-right-approved agendas and curricula, to make sure that schools are a place where children are indoctrinated to one idea, not to many ideas and let parents go back and have discussions with their children about those various ideas and instill in them what they believe is right.

I am a parent of five children. I do not have the fear that my children can hear other ideas because I know what I am putting in them and that that is what they are going to do.

These parents who are afraid of their children hearing about slavery, but also not recognizing that we have moved beyond that and are still moving forward and correcting ourselves are doing a disservice to their children. It will cut title I funding that supports low-income schools and results in budget cuts at over 60 percent of public schools across our country.

Project 2025 and its tenets will eliminate Head Start, a program that currently supports 800,000 children across our country, increasing the number of Americans living in childcare deserts. It will erode our freedoms under the vague guise of making America great.

Yes, because it is a Republican plan, Project 2025 calls for severe cuts to Medicare and Social Security. We can't have a Republican plan without a cut to Social Security and Medicare. Then they hide their hand and pretend that that was not a cut that they wanted.

Project 2025 even calls for the elimination of the National Weather Service, making Americans effectively blind when preparing for potentially disastrous hurricanes and tornadoes. I know the people in my district in the Virgin Islands, and I know even those who were dealing with wildfires in the district of the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) need to have this weather service to be able to predict these things.

Republicans know that these ideas are not popular with real people of America. That is why my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are hiding from the facts, obfuscating the truth, distracting the public's attention with wild claims right now to vilify minorities.

That is why the former President and Senators, his running mate, are distracting the media with bigoted, racist tropes about legal immigrants in this country, so that we are not talking about this, Project 2025.

It is a playbook, and it is authored by individuals who worked very closely with Donald Trump in his last administration and want to execute this within 100 days to ensure that he has the full authority.

I am an alumni of the Department of Justice as a political appointee. The idea that the Department of Justice would have to answer to the President is obscene, and we know that the Supreme Court has set the stage for him to be able to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman so much for allowing us to illuminate and share just some of the things that are in this playbook for the first 100 days of a Trump administration.

The more we let the cronies and individuals who have run this across without giving light to it and letting Americans know, the more we are likely to lose our democracy.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for her support.

As I prepare to yield to the gentlewoman from Vermont (Ms. BALINT), I will just observe that my colleague's comments caused me to think about the fact that we are gathered here on what our Republican friends have dubbed Anti-Woke Week. Nothing is more Project 2025 than demagoguing and using wokeness as a pretext to try to roll back individual freedoms and civil rights and take away decades of progress.

□ 1930

Our Republican colleagues can't seem to figure out how to fund the government and do the basics of governing, but they sure are good at finding time to demagogue on wokeness.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Vermont (Ms. BALINT).

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HUFFMAN for convening us to discuss this very important topic.

Mr. Speaker, when I was in leadership in the Vermont State Senate, I saw the writing on the wall. I knew that Republicans were absolutely determined to overturn Roe v. Wade.

We knew it was time to act to codify reproductive rights, not just in statute but in our State's constitution. At that time, some colleagues said I was overreacting. They said I was being paranoid, that I was being hysterical. They said the Supreme Court would never overturn Roe v. Wade because it was settled law.

I could say it was not at all satisfying to be right, but, in fact, overturning Roe v. Wade was just the beginning. The GOP is preparing for a possible second Trump term with a plan to end all access to abortion and contraception, all spelled out in the playbook, Project 2025.

Trump's Project 2025 lays out plans to purposely misinterpret an outdated law known as the Comstock Act and use it to ban mailing drugs used in medication abortions and any equipment or any materials used in surgical abortions. They even want to make it illegal to mail any information, period, about abortion.

That is why House Democrats are taking action with a bill that I introduced this year with some very strong cosponsors.

The Stop Comstock Act would take outdated and unconstitutional aspects of the Comstock laws off of the books and protect a woman's access to abortion no matter what town she lives in across this Nation.

We have to use every tool at our disposal to protect access to abortion and all birth control options.

This 150-year-old law was the result of one man's moralistic crusade against everything that he determined to be obscene, including information on abortion and contraception. Republicans know that voters don't support a nationwide abortion ban, so they will misuse this law and bypass Congress to get their way.

Make no mistake, Project 2025 is not about building a future that Americans want or that they have asked for or that they need. It is about taking us back to the 1870s.

Congressional Republicans and their allies in statehouses across the Nation are out of step with Americans. Americans want the freedom to make decisions about their own bodies, and they want these freedoms guaranteed.

No matter how much the former President and House Republicans pretend that their views are moderate, their actions tell us something very different. They have shown us through legislative action that they will continue to enact extreme policies that the vast majority of the American people do not want and that put women's lives at risk.

Overturning Roe v. Wade was the next step in their plan to ban abortion in this country, and they don't appear to care how this hurts women or families.

Donald Trump has repeatedly bragged about being the guy who ended Roe v. Wade, a decision that has cost lives and left women desperate for urgent medical care.

One of the masterminds behind Project 2025 is a man named Jonathan Mitchell. My colleagues may not know this name, but they certainly know his work. Mitchell helped develop Texas' strict anti-abortion law, SB 8. He concocted the very disturbing ''enforcement mechanism'' that allows private citizens to bring lawsuits against those who violate the statute. It is a law that encourages neighbors to spy on each other and calls upon Americans to turn in healthcare providers who rightly and bravely put women's health and safety above extremist policies.

I can't even believe I am saying this in this country in this year. I can't believe that this is where we are.

His intent to misuse Comstock could not be clearer. He said, ''We don't need a Federal [abortion] ban when we have Comstock on the books.'' He said, ''There's a smorgasbord of options.''

These plans spelled out in Project 2025 are sinister, and they have very real consequences, which is why it is so important that we gather tonight to shine a light on this extreme plan.

Mr. Speaker, it is time Republicans abandon their obsession with controlling women's bodies and stop using legislative action to slip parts of Project 2025 into House bills today. The American people do not want that.

Democrats see this. We are standing up for the American people.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her remarks.

I am mindful of the fact that many are saying that the American people this year are facing a choice of going forward or backward. Nothing speaks more to that than the fact that Trump's Project 2025 would dust off the old morality codes of the 1870s and impose them against the popular will on all Americans. It just tells us everything.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from southern California (Mr. TAKANO), my colleague who has been a great champion for civil rights and many other core values.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HUFFMAN, my colleague from the north coast of California, for yielding.

Whether north or south, we Californians value things like a woman's right to choose, basic civil rights, human rights, and LGBTQ rights, so I thank him for hosting this Special Order hour to bring attention to the most antidemocratic agenda in the history of this country.

I don't want to be too hyperbolic, but it certainly is the most antidemocratic that I have known in my lifetime. I can think back to the last century when we had far less democratic institutions. We had slavery, of course, and that was way more antidemocratic, but it is very disturbing what I see in Project 2025.

Let us not mince words here. Donald Trump's Project 2025 is a manifesto for a potential Trump administration to undermine our democracy, to roll back our rights and freedoms, and to enrich large corporations at the expense of working-class Americans.

This 900-page document outlines specific extremist policies that include criminalizing abortion nationwide, ending overtime pay, repealing the Affordable Care Act, ending Medicare as we know it, and putting Social Security on the chopping block.

As the ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am deeply alarmed by the disastrous impacts that Project 2025 would have on America's veterans and the care they get from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The very first proposal in the VA section of Project 2025 would prohibit VA clinicians from performing abortions to protect the health and life of women veterans. It is the very first thing that was put into that section, and I know the person who wrote this section. As much as the President is trying to run away from ownership, the very person who wrote this was somebody who worked in a very responsible position in the VA at the time and reported directly to the Secretary under Donald Trump, Secretary Wilkie.

This section is unconscionable. We have Republicans all across the country now claiming that they are for the exceptions, but the very first part of Project 2025 on the veteran section says that they would make it illegal or reverse Secretary McDonough's rulemaking on allowing for abortions to be available at the VA to the very women who wore the uniform of our country.

Women veterans fought for our rights and freedoms. They fought for the rights and freedoms of all of us, but the very first thing that Republicans want to do is take their freedom to make decisions about their own bodies away.

Trump's Project 2025 will hurt veterans and reduce VA to ruins. I have already mentioned our women veterans. In order to execute its mission of serving America's heroes, VA needs to keep wait times low. In order to keep wait times low, they need to hire sufficient medical staff and offer employees competitive salaries.

The Honoring our PACT Act, which I was proud to author, has already seen nearly 1.2 million claims approved in just 2 years. Yet, instead of bolstering the VA with the necessary resources to ensure that all veterans get the world-class healthcare that they were promised, Trump's Project 2025 would push more veterans out to for-profit care, which is far more expensive than VA's direct care, to further a far-right agenda.

Already, over a third of the Veterans Health Administration's budget goes to referring veterans into very costly for-profit, private-sector care. As more veterans get referred out, the VHA will be forced to spend more money out of their budget.

I am not opposed to referring veterans out to care when VA is not able to provide certain specialty care inside the VA. It is a very necessary part, but it has to be in the right balance, and we are reaching a tipping point right now where for-profit care is going to seriously jeopardize VA's ability to provide direct care. That will mean reduced staffing, increased wait times, fewer upgrades to VA's aging infrastructure, and fewer new VA facilities.

Many of our VA facilities date back to World War II, and that will mean worse care for our veterans. The VA would become a skeleton or a shell of its former self if Project 2025 is enacted.

That is not all. Republicans on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, in order to get a head start on Project 2025 initiatives, are working to weaponize VA by politicizing nonpartisan jobs, to undermine congressional oversight of veterans' healthcare, and to prohibit VA from providing gender-affirming care to our trans veterans.

Under Trump's Project 2025, the VA will become nothing more than a payment processor for large corporations focused on maximizing profits rather than an institution that keeps America's promise to those who have served.

This is an unacceptable outcome for veterans. We cannot allow Project 2025 to be implemented. I will work tirelessly with my Democratic colleagues to fight back on this radical, extremist manifesto.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is exactly right about what Project 2025 calls for with respect to the VA, but it is more than just the VA.

If you read this 922-page manifesto, this theme of privatizing and monetizing runs throughout their authoritarian scheme. It applies to our public schools, our public lands, the National Weather Service, and so many other things.

The American people don't want this exploitation, this privatization, enrichment, and monetization obsession that the architects of Project 2025 have.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield for the purpose of a colloquy?

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. TAKANO. We could just call this give America over to private equity. The whole thing is designed to enrich a small group of people.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HUFFMAN for his dedication.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I now am proud to yield to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania, MARY GAY SCANLON.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, we are here to discuss Project 2025, the extremist playbook to impose a radical, rightwing agenda upon Americans. It is called Project 2025 because it is designed to be implemented by Trump and his allies if he returns to the White House next year.

The authors of Project 2025 have even begun recruiting people to apply for jobs to help implement this scheme because, as they detail in Project 2025, they plan to fire career civil servants and replace them with partisans who swear loyalty to Trump rather than to our country or our Constitution, a move, by the way, that the former President tried to implement by executive order before he left office.

□ 1945

When the authors of Project 2025 decided to publish their radical agenda, they must not have realized that their ideas are so extreme that Americans would reject them as being, frankly, un-American.

That is why the former President and many of those allies are now trying to distance themselves from Project 2025, but they can't because their fingerprints are all over Project 2025.

Nowhere is that clearer than in Project 2025's plan to ban abortion and restrict women's reproductive freedom. The truth is the extremists who plotted with Trump to overturn Roe v. Wade were never going to stop there.

Chapter 14 of Project 2025 outlines their plans. It was written by a member of the Trump administration, and you can read it yourself on pages 449 through 502.

Project 2025 would impose a nationwide ban on medication abortion by revoking FDA approval of that drug.

It would resurrect a 19th century law, the Comstock Act, to ban the mailing of abortion care materials and criminalize their use.

Project 2025 would rip away access to basic contraception. It would end emergency room reproductive healthcare for women whose health and lives are at risk.

Project 2025 would end IVF as it is currently practiced. It would require the government to monitor women's pregnancies and miscarriages.

Project 2025 is beyond extreme. It is dangerous. Democrats will continue to stand firm and united against this radical agenda and to stand up for Americans' reproductive freedom because we trust women to make decisions about their own bodies, not politicians.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman very much, and I am glad she spoke to the so-called civil service reform element of Project 2025.

They call it Schedule F. It is an innocuous-sounding thing, but again, like so many parts of Project 2025, when you understand what it actually calls for, it is far more extreme than anything we have ever seen in this country.

It calls for going through the entire Federal workforce to root out anyone who has been associated with a DEI program in our Federal Government.

Climate scientists and others are going to be purged, anyone who somewhere in their life maybe donated to a Democrat.

It is a complete scorched earth political purge that they described as involving more than 50,000 people in the Federal workforce and then to repopulate the government.

If their problem is political people in government, they are going to repopulate with even more political people from these training academies.

As the gentlewoman concludes, I just want to ask her if she thinks that this is something that the people of Pennsylvania want to see?

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I don't think so. I mean, it doesn't matter what aspect of our Federal Government you are concerned about.

If you are concerned about clean air and clean water, the idea that they are just going to take out all the scientists and have political hacks deciding how many parts per million of poison can be in our water and air, that is just frightening.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, food inspectors, air traffic controllers.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, absolutely.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, maybe a nonpolitical civil service is actually a good idea, just like Teddy Roosevelt concluded that it was a century ago.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, that is the whole purpose is to have experts making those decisions. I thank the gentleman for organizing this Special Order.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman very much.

I now yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON), a man who you might say has civil rights and social justice in his blood. I am sure he has some things to say about Trump's Project 2025.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable Congressman HUFFMAN who also shares that lineage of being a fighter for the people. I thank him for convening us, bringing us together for this Project 2025 that we must discuss.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because we cannot allow the agenda of MAGA Republicans to go unaddressed and quietly into the night.

On page 4 of Project 2025, it explicitly states that the goal is to get rid of terms like inclusion, equity, and diversity, so that no governmental policy can consider these things when determining who gets a contract, who gets hired, what management looks like, or who gets helped by a particular policy or administrative agency.

I find this to be as tragic as it is interesting because in a perfect world, we would not need diversity, equity, and inclusion, but that is not where we live.

We live in the United States of America, and we also live in a material universe where it is impossible to undo 300 years of legal exclusion with just 50 years of making this country do what is right.

For those who say America is different now, let me remind you that America didn't include Black people in the inherent opportunities that come along with being born into this great Nation because she magically wanted to.

It was those persons, the abolitionists and the civil rights workers and Black Americans, who made America do it.

That is why the civil rights movement enacted laws and policies and protections because of the whimsical nature of America.

America's commitment to our own principles cannot always be trusted. It, indeed, can be thick on ideals and thin on deeds.

Let us not forget that during the Reconstruction in the late 1860s, Black people were given access to the mechanisms of power in this country.

Then in the 1890s, America took it all back with the imposition of Jim Crow and segregation. Some people in this institution need to know America's history.

Here again, in the 1960s, African Americans made significant political and economic gains. Yet, here we are in 2024, living under the tyranny of a Supreme Court determined to roll it all back.

Affirmative action on college campuses, gone.

A women's right to determine what can happen with her body, gone.

The tragedy of our current situation is we don't know what is coming next.

Laws and policies that require the inclusion of Black people are not there to give us an advantage. They are here to make sure that we are not once again excluded because of the color of our skin by American law.

Project 2025 was created by the same people who formed the so-called intellectual brain trust around the candidacy of Donald Trump. These are his advisers, and here is what we know.

We know that Project 2025 wants to impose a national ban on abortion, prosecute political enemies, and eliminate the Department of Education.

Just think about it. What would we do without a public education policy?

Project 2025 wants to continue to ban books about slavery and the civil rights movement and prosecute teachers and librarians for assigning them.

This is insanity. Just think about the insanity that we are living in.

MAGA Republicans believe that books are dangerous for children, but automatic rifles are not.

Project 2025 openly declares that it wants to get rid of school lunches and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for families and children.

Both of these are part of the social safety net that ensures that millions of people will continue to have dignity in old age and access to clean food and water. Project 2025 wants to get rid of it.

Now, if it is okay to spend billions of dollars on bombs but making sure millions of people don't starve to death is somehow completely out of the question, something is wrong.

Please note that Project 2025 doesn't say anything, nothing, about getting rid of poverty, but they have no problem with getting rid of the programs that help people deal with the fact that they are tragically poor in a country that has excessive wealth. They want to leave poverty alone, but they want to undermine how people survive it.

Project 2025 wants to allow employers to no longer pay overtime. If your employer can demand that you work overtime, but they don't have to pay you for the extra time you put in, to put additional money into their pockets and making them rich, something is tragically wrong.

Can you imagine being required to work extra hours without extra compensation? That too is in Project 2025.

Essentially, Project 2025 says that you should be happy to have a job and that whatever your employer asks you to do, you should be happy to do it.

We don't owe you anything beyond the minimum requirement of your basic paycheck. That is un-American. This is ridiculous, but this is what Donald Trump and the people around him want to do.

Project 2025 is a complete disavowal of workers' rights. If you think they are going to stop at eliminating overtime, then you are completely delusional and drastically out of touch with reality.

This is not the language in the document, but I bet you all the money in my pocket against all the money in your pocket that healthcare will be next.

They have been trying to get rid of the Affordable Care Act, also known as

ObamaCare, for the last 12 years. Project 2025 wants to give wealthy corporations another tax break.

It is not enough that multibillion dollar corporations got the biggest tax break in American history under Donald J. Trump. They want to give corporations more.

Notice how one-sided this is. They want to give corporations a big tax break, where Project 2025 says nothing about increasing wages.

Follow the wickedness of the logic. Corporations get bigger tax breaks so they can keep more of the money workers made for them, but the workers don't get to participate in the success of the corporation by having an increase in their wages.

Project 2025 calls for an end to Social Security, our great safety net program. Goal 3 of Project 2025 says that only a nuclear family should receive governmental support. This is a part of the ill-fated logic of J.D. VANCE and Donald J. Trump.

If you are a single mother raising your children or a grandparent raising your grandchildren, Project 2025 says that the government should not make you a priority, and basically, you are not a family.

The policies and prescriptions of Project 2025 would lead to the greatest assault on Medicaid and Medicare in the history of this Nation.

This is what we are up against. This is why we are determined not to let it happen. We are determined to fight for what is right. We are determined to resist.

Once again, I thank the Honorable Congressman HUFFMAN from the great State of California for championing this cause and for calling us out here tonight. I thank him for his undying commitment to our American democracy and his fight for what is right.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for speaking to the extremism and cruelty of Trump's Project 2025 so eloquently, and he is exactly right. Healthcare is in the crosshairs.

One of the many ways in which Project 2025 would take us backward on healthcare is by mandating that the default for Medicare would be Medicare Advantage.

They like that because they can monetize it, make a lot of money on it, right, but it absolutely is expensive. It is accelerating the demise of the Medicare trust fund.

They want to repeal the prescription drug reforms that we have been able to pass, the first time we have been able to stand up to Big Pharma in decades.

We are saving Medicare billions and billions of dollars. We are saving consumers so much money already, and those savings are going to grow and grow in the years ahead.

All of that goes away under Project 2025. It is bad for the pocketbooks of the American people, bad for healthcare, and bad for the Medicare trust fund and Medicare itself. The gentleman is exactly right.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his outstanding leadership.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, House Democrats are going to continue to shine a bright light on this document. The American people don't need to take our word for it when we talk about the extremism and cruelty and other impacts that Trump's Project 2025 would have. They can read it themselves.

It is online. Look it up. The more people read it, the more they understand it, the more we know they are going to want nothing to do with it. The best way to stop this terrible agenda is to just make sure people know about it and understand it.

We are grateful for this opportunity to discuss it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward nominees for the office of President.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly an enrolled bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 9468. An act making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, September 20, 2024, at 9 a.m.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE A COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024.

To the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XV, I, Garret Graves, move to discharge the Committee on Rules from the consideration of the resolution, H. Res. 1410, entitled, a resolution providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 82) to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions, which was referred to said committee August 6, 2024, in support of which motion the undersigned Members of the House of Representatives affix their signatures, to wit:

1. Garret Graves.
2. Abigail Davis Spanberger.
3. Greg Landsman.
4. Hillary J. Scholten.
5. Jill N. Tokuda.
6. Suzanne Bonamici.
7. Gabe Amo.
8. Clay Higgins.
9. Marilyn Strickland.
10. Chrissy Houlahan.
11. Valerie P. Foushee.
12. Steve Cohen.
13. Mike Garcia.
14. Betty McCollum.
15. Salud O. Carbajal.
16. Kathy E. Manning.
17. Lizzie Fletcher.
18. Kim Schrier.
19. Lois Frankel.
20. Delia C. Ramirez.
21. Nikki Budzinski.
22. Michael Lawler.
23. Shontel M. Brown.
24. Becca Balint.
25. Brittany Pettersen.
26. Yadira Caraveo.
27. Jennifer Wexton.
28. Troy A. Carter.
29. Mike Carey.
30. Jennifer L. McClellan.
31. Emilia Strong Sykes.
32. Mark DeSaulnier.
33. Sydney Kamlager-Dove.
34. Joyce Beatty.
35. Emanuel Cleaver.
36. Lisa Blunt Rochester.
37. Marcy Kaptur.
38. Ted Lieu.
39. C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger.
40. Yvette D. Clarke.
41. Jared F. Golden.
42. Haley M. Stevens.
43. Pete Stauber.
44. Mary Gay Scanlon.
45. Stephen F. Lynch.
46. Gregory W. Meeks.
47. Mike Quigley.
48. Zoe Lofgren.
49. Sanford D. Bishop Jr.
50. Bill Foster.
51. Julia Letlow.
52. Henry C. ''Hank'' Johnson Jr.
53. Thomas R. Suozzi.
54. Paul Tonko.
55. William R. Keating.
56. Sara Jacobs.
57. Dina Titus.
58. Steven Horsford.
59. Raul Ruiz.
60. Chellie Pingree.
61. Val T. Hoyle.
62. Frank Pallone Jr.
63. Deborah K. Ross.
64. Donald S. Beyer Jr.
65. Robin L. Kelly
66. Elissa Slotkin.
67. Lori Trahan.
68. Lori Chavez-DeRemer.
69. Derek Kilmer.
70. Danny K. Davis.
71. Melanie A. Stansbury.
72. Seth Magaziner.
73. Glenn Ivey.
74. Bonnie Watson Coleman.
75. Grace Meng.
76. Jamie Raskin.
77. Michelle Steel.
78. Wiley Nickel.
79. Donald Norcross.
80. Jonathan L. Jackson.
81. Josh Gottheimer.
82. Daniel S. Goldman.
83. Lauren Underwood.
84. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick.
85. Jefferson Van Drew.
86. Maxwell Frost.
87. Eric Sorensen.
88. Timothy M. Kennedy.
89. Robert C. ''Bobby'' Scott.
90. Jake Auchincloss.
91. Kevin Mullin.
92. Sean Casten.
93. Jahana Hayes.
94. Jasmine Crockett.
95. Robert Menendez.
96. Collin Z. Allred.
97. Patrick Ryan.
98. J. Luis Correa.
99. Ami Bera.
100. Jimmy Panetta.
101. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.
102. Teresa Leger Fernandez.
103. Vicente Gonzalez.
104. Henry Cuellar.
105. Juan Vargas.
106. André Carson.
107. Brad Sherman.
108. Morgan McGarvey.
109. Alma S. Adams.
110. Tony Cárdenas.
111. Susan Wild.
112. Gerald E. Connolly.
113. Shri Thanedar.
114. Brendan F. Boyle.
115. Dean Phillips.
116. Mike Levin.
117. Doug LaMalfa.
118. Janice D. Schakowsky.
119. Mark Takano.
120. Donald G. Davis.
121. Robert Garcia.
122. Carlos A. Gimenez.
123. Susie Lee.
124. John R. Carter.
125. Ro Khanna.
120. Katie Porter.
127. David G.Valadao.
128. Barbara Lee.
129. Josh Harder.
130. Don Bacon.
131. Chris Pappas.
132. Mark Pocan.
133. Sylvia R. Garcia.
134. Greg Stanton.
135. Nanette Diaz Barragán.
136. Jennifer A. Kiggans.
137. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez.
138. Morgan Luttrell.
139. Jerry L. Carl.
140. Mike Ezell.
141. Derrick Van Orden.
142. Andrea Salinas.
143. Ruben Gallego
144. Angie Craig.
145. Al Green.
146. Debbie Dingell.
147. Mikie Sherrill.
148. Seth Moulton.
149. Adriano Espaillat.
150. John P. Sarbanes.
151. Ayanna Pressley.
152. Kelly Armstrong.
153. Nikema Williams.
154. Raja Krishnamoorthi.
155. John James.
156. Ritchie Torres.
157. Gabe Vasquez.
158. Summer L. Lee.
159. James P. McGovern.
160. Joe Neguse.
161. Joe Courtney.
162. Andy Kim.
163. Rosa L. DeLauro.
164. Jason Crow.
165. Tracey Mann.
166. Mariannette Miller-Meeks.
167. Jim Costa.
168. Darren Sota.
169. Kweisi Mfume.
170. Bradley Scott Schneider.
171. Juan Ciscomani.
172. Michelle Fischbach.
173. Veronica Escobar.
174. John H. Rutherford.
175. Debbie Wasserman Schultz.
176. Frank J. Mrvan.
177. Lucy McBath.
178. Julia Brownley.
179. John Garamendi.
180. Grace F. Napolitano.
181. Mary Sattler Peltola.
182. Rick Larsen.
183. Diana DeGette.
184. Terri A. Sewell.
185. Matt Cartwright.
186. Christopher R. Deluzio.
187. Maxine Waters.
188. Dan Newhouse.
189. David Scott.
190. Norma J. Torres.
191. Jake LaTurner.
192. Bill Posey.
193. Nancy Mace.
194. Madeleine Dean.
195. Jeff Jackson.
196. Greg Pence.

197. Frederica S. Wilson.
198. Jerrod Nadler.
199. Cathy McMorris Rodgers.
200. Anna Paulina Luna.
201. Lance Gooden.
202. Paul A. Gosar.
203. Jared Moskowitz.
204. Maria Elvira Salazar.
205. Marc A. Veasey.
206. Brandon Williams.
207. Troy Balderson.
208. Brian K. Fitzpatrick.
209. Ashley Hinson.
210. Mike Kelly.
211. James A. Himes.
212. Jimmy Gomez.
213. David P. Joyce.
214. Ken Calvert.
215. Judy Chu.
216. Zachary Nunn.
217. Christopher H. Smith.
218. Marcus J. Molinaro.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC–5384. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, USD(A&S)(A)/DPCAP, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Technical Amendments [Docket DARS-2024-0001] received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5385. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Grant Policy Office, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Education Department General Administrative Regulations and Related Regulatory Provisions [Docket ID: ED-2023-OPEPD-0110] (RIN: 1875-AA14) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC–5386. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0231; Project Identifier AD-2023-01037-T; Amendment 39-22779; AD 2024-13-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5387. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Bishop Airport, Bishop, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2422; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AWP-48] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5388. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-1286; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00017-T; Amendment 39-22788; AD 2024-14-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5389. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-1001; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-01129-T; Amendment 39-22787; AD 2024-14-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5390. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-1008; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00080-T; Amendment 39-22783; AD 2024-14-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5391. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Yabora Industria Aeronautica S.A.; Embraer S.A.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0772; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-01203-T; Amendment 39-22789; AD 2024-14-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5392. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; MHI RJ Aviation ULC (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-1009; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-01221-T; Amendment 39-22782; AD 2024-14-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5393. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; MHI RJ Aviation ULC (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-1006; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-01222-T; Amendment 39-22781; AD 2024-13-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5394. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2017; Project Identifier AD-2024-00204-T; Amendment 39-22820; AD 2024-16-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5395. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; White Sulphur Springs Airport, White Sulphur Springs, MT [Docket No.: FAA-2024-1265; Airspace Docket No.: 24-ANM-85] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5396. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Jet Route J-183, United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes Q-4 and T-254, and Very High Frequency Omnidirctional Range (VOR) Federal Airways V-76, V-161, V-565, and V-568; Establishment of RNAV Route T-499; and Revocation of VOR Federal Airway V-558 in the Vicinity of Llano, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0485; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASW-16] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5397. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Multiple United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Eastern United States [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0144; Airspace Docket No. 23-ASO-34] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5398. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — System Safety Assessments [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1544; Amdt. No.: 25-152] (RIN: 2120-AJ99) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5399. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airspace Designations; Incorporation by Reference [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2061; Amendment No.: 71-56] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5400. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31560; Amdt. No.: 4126] received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5401. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31559; Amdt. No.: 4125] received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5402. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Utopia, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0732; Airspace Docket No.: 24-ASW-5] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5403. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Akiachak Airport, Akiachak, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2024-1076; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AAL-55] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5404. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Alaskan Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range Federal Airway V-477 in the Vicinity of Ambler, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0697; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AAL-54] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5405. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Jet Route J-133 and Establishment of Area Navigation Route Q-801 in the Vicinity of Anchorage, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1957; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AAL-28] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5406. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-399 in the Vicinity of Clear, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0438; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AAL-13] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5407. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes T-328 in the Vicinity of Deer Park, Washington [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2086; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ANM-64] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–5408. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison, Publications and Regulations Section, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Revenue Procedure Modifying Rev. Proc. 2024-23 for Certain Research & Experimental Expenditure Method Changes received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 5526. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the application of the in-office ancillary services exception to the physician self-referral prohibition for drugs furnished under the Medicare program; with amendments (Rept. 118–691, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 6319. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to review and make certain revisions to the Standard Occupational Classification System, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118–692). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 2941. A bill to require the Office of Management and Budget to revise the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118–693). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 2574. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to revise the Standard Occupational Classification System to accurately count the number of emergency medical services practitioners in the United States; with an amendment (Rept. 118–694). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Ways and Means discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5526 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mr. MOLINARO):

H.R. 9673. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to develop a national strategy regarding artificial intelligence consumer literacy and conduct a national artificial intelligence consumer literacy campaign; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. SCHIFF):

H.R. 9674. A bill to make certain antidiscrimination laws applicable to the judicial branch of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Accountability, Ways and Means, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG (for himself, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. KENNEDY):

H.R. 9675. A bill to delay the application of a certain rule for members of the Armed Forces stationed in a foreign country and for individuals with service animals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BUCSHON (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 9676. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish National Plastics Recycling Standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RESCHENTHALER (for himself, Mr. ISSA, and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 9677. A bill to clarify the Department of State's exclusive regulatory authority over the au pair cultural exchange program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CISCOMANI (for himself, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BACON, Mr. BARR, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. FONG, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. GUEST, Mr. HILL, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. STEIL, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 9678. A bill to address the public safety issues and environmental destruction currently impacting Federal lands along the southern border, enhance border security through the construction of navigable roads on Federal lands along the southern border, provide U.S. Customs and Border Protection access to Federal lands to improve the safety and effectiveness of enforcement activities, allow States to place temporary barriers on Federal land to secure the southern border, reduce the massive trash accumulations and environmental degradation along the southern border, reduce the cultivation of illegal cannabis on Federal lands, mitigate wildland fires caused by illegal immigration, and prohibit migrant housing on Federal lands; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, the Budget, and 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. BONAMICI (for herself, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Ms. PORTER):

H.R. 9679. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to address certain issues relating to the extension of consumer credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BABIN (for himself and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 9680. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to expand eligibility for individual and public assistance to certain areas and to include cumulative damage from multiple natural catastrophes in the definition of major disaster, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI):

H.R. 9681. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to establish a priority for accommodation in places with policies relating to severe forms of human trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 9682. A bill to mitigate environmental degradation and wildland fires caused by illegal immigration along the southern border of the United States, 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 Ms. BALINT:

H.R. 9683. A bill to amend the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park Establishment Act to expand the boundary of the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in the State of Vermont, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself and Mr. CURTIS):

H.R. 9684. A bill to establish a grant program to facilitate peer-to-peer mental health support programs for secondary school students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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. BOST (for himself, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mrs. HARSHBARGER):

H.R. 9685. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to establish procedures for post offices that suspend operations due to an emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself and Mr. BURGESS):

H.R. 9686. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to codify the Panel of Health Advisors within the Congressional Budget Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. CASTEN (for himself and Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER):

H.R. 9687. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to revise regulations for certain individuals carrying out aviation activities who disclose a mental health diagnosis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself and Ms. CARAVEO):

H.R. 9688. A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide for continuous eligibility for certain children under the Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 9689. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a DHS Cybersecurity Internship Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. CROCKETT (for herself, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. DELUZIO):

H.R. 9690. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the limitations period during which an action may be commenced for judicial review of a final rule; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. CLYBURN, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 9691. A bill to establish the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART (for himself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. WALTZ, and Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN):

H.R. 9692. A bill to increase the maximum reward amount for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Nicolás Maduro Moros to $100,000,000, which shall be paid out by the Federal Government from all assets being withheld from Nicolás Maduro Moros, officials of the Maduro regime and their coconspirators; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. POCAN, Ms. ROSS, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. LEE of California):

H.R. 9693. A bill to promote the economic security and safety of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Ways and Means, the Judiciary, House Administration, Oversight and Accountability, and 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. FROST:

H.R. 9694. A bill to amend the Fair Housing Act to repeal the Thurmond amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 9695. A bill to support Tribal co-stewardship, restore and protect bison, grizzly bear, and wolf populations, 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. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself and Ms. HAGEMAN):

H.R. 9696. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and the Mineral Leasing Act to require reports on rejected bids, to clarify timelines for the issuance of leases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. HOUCHIN:

H.R. 9697. A bill to reallocate funds from the Internal Revenue Service to the Secret Service, for purposes of providing protection equivalent to that afforded the President to Vice Presidents, major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates, and former presidents; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUDSON (for himself and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 9698. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for school infrastructure finance and innovation tax credit bonds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia:

H.R. 9699. A bill to make continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Ms. MACE (for herself and Mr. BURCHETT):

H.R. 9700. A bill to prohibit bilateral economic assistance, including assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, to foreign governments that abridge the right to free speech that would be speech protected by the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MOLINARO (for himself, Mr. LALOTA, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York):

H.R. 9701. A bill to provide for the reallocation of certain grant funds from jurisdictions that do not allow for consideration the danger, risk, or threat an individual poses to the community when determining bail or pretrial release or that have in effect a policy providing for the sealing of certain criminal records; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself and Mr. HARDER of California):

H.R. 9702. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Wildfire Science and Technology Advisory Board; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. MOLINARO):

H.R. 9703. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on existing programs, rules, and authorities that enable or inhibit wildfire mitigation across land ownership boundaries on Federal and non-Federal land; 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. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. MOLINARO, and Mr. HARDER of California):

H.R. 9704. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Homeland Security to carry out a quadrennial fire review, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ (for herself and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia):

H.R. 9705. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Oyster Reef Restoration and Conservation Program; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 9706. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report to the Congress with respect to Federal homelessness programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 9707. A bill to establish a reporting requirement for cases of transnational repression against United States persons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SEWELL:

H.R. 9708. A bill to ensure affordable health insurance coverage for low-income individuals in States that have not expanded Medicaid; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SHERMAN:

H.R. 9709. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to issue rules that prohibit officers and directors of certain companies from trading securities in anticipation of a current report, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. STRONG (for himself, Ms. ROSS, and Mr. ADERHOLT):

H.R. 9710. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to support a program to advance the research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of small modular reactors and micro-reactors in order to accelerate the availability of United States-based technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. VALADAO:

H.R. 9711. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to direct the Congressional Budget Office to publish a schedule of the availability of certain publications by the Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. VALADAO (for himself and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 9712. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law, and for other purposes; to the

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 9713. A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to expand and reauthorize the United States-Israel Energy Cooperation program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and 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 Mr. PALMER:

H.J. Res. 205. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to ''Representation Case Procedures: Election Bars; Proof of Majority Support In Construction Industry Collective-Bargaining Relationships''; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PALMER:

H.J. Res. 206. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to ''Required Minimum Distributions''; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCCAUL:

H. Res. 1469. A resolution ensuring accountability for key officials in the Biden-Harris administration responsible for decisionmaking and execution failures throughout the withdrawal from Afghanistan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H. Res. 1470. A resolution expanding the jurisdiction of the Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, and Mrs. RAMIREZ):

H. Res. 1471. A resolution countering disinformation, propaganda, and misinformation in Latin America and the Caribbean, and calling for multi-stakeholder efforts to address the significant detrimental effects that the rise in disinformation, propaganda, and misinformation in regional information environments has on democratic governance, human rights, and United States national interests; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CORREA (for himself and Ms. SALINAS):

H. Res. 1472. A resolution recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of Latinas in the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. FROST (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK):

H. Res. 1473. A resolution to condemn racism and bigotry towards Haitian people, to celebrate the vast contributions of people of Haitian descent to the United States, to condemn the spread of misinformation, and to call on Americans to affirm our shared humanity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. HINSON (for herself and Ms. ADAMS):

H. Res. 1474. A resolution supporting the designation of September 19, 2024, as ''National Stillbirth Prevention Day'', recognizing tens of thousands of families in the United States that have endured a stillbirth, and seizing the opportunity to keep other families from experiencing the same tragedy; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 1475. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2024 as ''Peace Month'' and calling on Congress to take action to promote peace; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. TRONE):

H. Res. 1476. A resolution encouraging the Department of State and civil society to further the Abraham Accords by encouraging peace and tolerance in education; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. STEEL:

H. Res. 1477. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of the month of September 2024 as ''Boat People Awareness Month'' to honor the hundreds of thousands of boat people who fled Vietnam's oppressive Communist regime during the decades following the Vietnam war; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. TLAIB (for herself, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. CARSON, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. BUSH, and Mr. BOWMAN):

H. Res. 1478. A resolution recognizing access to water, sanitation, electricity, heating, cooling, broadband communications, and public transportation as basic human rights and public services that must be accessible, safe, justly sourced and sustainable, acceptable, sufficient, affordable, climate resilient, and reliable for every person; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:

H.R. 9673.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To enhance consumer awareness and confidence in the use of AI by directing the Department of Commerce to develop a national strategy to increase consumer knowledge, create use case guidance, and disseminate guidance and information through a national media campaign.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 9674.

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

Article I Section 1.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This is a bill to make certain anti-discrimination laws applicable to the judicial branch of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:

H.R. 9675.

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

Article I, Clause 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To delay the application of a certain rule for members of the Armed Forces stationed in a foreign country and for individuals with service animals, and for other purposes

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 9676.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Environment

By Mr. RESCHENTHALER:

H.R. 9677.

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

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To clarify the Department of State's exclusive regulatory authority over the au pair cultural exchange program, and for other purposes

By Mr. CISCOMANI:

H.R. 9678.

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

Article I of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To address the public safety issues and environmental destruction currently impacting federal lands along the southern border.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 9679.

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:

To amend the Truth in Lending Act to address certain issues relating to the extension of consuemr credit, and for other purposes

By Mr. BABIN:

H.R. 9680.

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

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

The single subject of this legislation is:

To protect and support communities impacted by major disasters.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 9681.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Human Trafficking

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 9682.

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

Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To mitigate environmental degradation and wildland fires caused by illegal immigration along the southern border of the United States, and for other purposes.

By Ms. BALINT:

H.R. 9683.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 9684.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To facilitate peer-to-peer mental health support for school students
By Mr. BOST:
H.R. 9685.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 7
The single subject of this legislation is:
The USPS Act will establish timelines and procedures for post office emergency suspensions, require community input, and mandate annual reports to Congress on postal suspensions.
By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:
H.R. 9686.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to codify the Panel of Health Advisors within the Congressional Budget Office, and for other purposes.
By Mr. CASTEN:
H.R. 9687.
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 require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to revise regulations for certain individuals carrying out aviation activities who disclose a mental health diagnosis, and for other purposes.
By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:
H.R. 9688.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution provides Congress with the authority to ''provide for the common Defense and general Welfare'' of Americans.
The single subject of this legislation is:
Continuous health coverage for children
By Ms. CLARKE of New York:
H.R. 9689.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
DHS cyber internship program
By Ms. CROCKETT:
H.R. 9690.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
The Administrative Procedure Act
By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 9691.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the powers enumerated under section 8 and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
The single subject of this legislation is:
Parks
By Mr. DIAZ-BALART:
H.R. 9692.
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:
To increase the maximum reward amount for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Nicolas Maduro Moros to $100,000,000, which shall be paid out by the Federal Government from all assets being withheld from Nicolas Maduro Moros, officials of the Maduro regime and their co-conspirators.
By Mrs. DINGELL:
H.R. 9693.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
This bill promotes the economic security and safety of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
By Mr. FROST:
H.R. 9694.
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 amend the Fair Housing Act to repeal the Thurmond amendment.
By Mr. GRIJALVA:
H.R. 9695.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To support Tribal co-stewardship, restore and protect bison, grizzly bear, and wolf populations, and for other purposes.
By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:
H.R. 9696.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power ''to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof''
The single subject of this legislation is:
This legislation amends title 44, United States Code, to modernize the Federal Register, and for other purposes.
By Mrs. HOUCHIN:
H.R. 9697.
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:
To reallocate funds from the Internal Revenue Service to the Secret Service, for purposes of providing protection equivalent to that afforded the President to Vice Presidents, major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates, and former presidents.
By Mr. HUDSON:
H.R. 9698.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
Tax
By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia:
H.R. 9699.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Sect. 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To appropriate unobligated funds for FY25 towards paying members of the Armed Forces, the Coast Guard, and certain civilian employees and contractors at the Department of Defense until the passage of a Continuing Resolution or Defense Appropriations bill for FY25.
By Ms. MACE:
H.R. 9700.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
To prohibit bilateral economic assistance to foreign governments that abridge the right to free speech that would be speech protected by the Constitution of the United States
By Mr. MOLINARO:
H.R. 9701.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section VIII
The single subject of this legislation is:
Crime
By Mr. NEGUSE:
H.R. 9702.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Establish a Wildfire Science and Technology Advisory Board.
By Mr. NEGUSE:
H.R. 9703.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Initiate a GAO study on the barriers to cross-boundary wildfire mitigation.
By Mr. NEGUSE:
H.R. 9704.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Require an intergovernmental quadrennial review and report to Congress of the wildfire environment.
By Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ:
H.R. 9705.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
To direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Oyster Reef Restoration and Conservation Program.
By Mr. SCHIFF:
H.R. 9706.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the US Constiution
The single subject of this legislation is:
Housing
By Mr. SCHIFF:
H.R. 9707.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of article I of the Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
Foreign Affairs.
By Ms. SEWELL:
H.R. 9708.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
US Constitution Article I, Section 9, Clause 7
The single subject of this legislation is:
To ensure affordable health insurance coverage for low-income individuals in States that have not expanded Medicaid.
By Mr. SHERMAN:
H.R. 9709.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
This bill requires certain publicly traded companies to create policies reasonably designed to prevent executive officers and directors from trading their securities after a significant corporate event but before disclosing that event through a public filing. Certain companies required by regulation to adopt a code of ethics are exempt from this requirement.

By Mr. STRONG:
H.R. 9710.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 of the Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to support a program to advance the research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of small modular reactors and micro-reactors in order to accelerate the availability of United States-based technologies, and for other purposes.
By Mr. VALADAO:
H.R. 9711.
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 would direct the Congressional Budget Office to publish a schedule of the availability of certain publications by the Office
By Mr. VALADAO:
H.R. 9712.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law, and for other purposes.
By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:
H.R. 9713.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.
The single subject of this legislation is:
Providing for the reauthorization of the BIRD Energy Program
By Mr. PALMER:
H.J. Res. 205.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To disapprove of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to ''Representation Case Procedures: Election Bars; Proof of Majority Support In Construction Industry Collective-Bargaining Relationships''.
By Mr. PALMER:
H.J. Res. 206.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To disapprove of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to ''Required Minimum Distributions''.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 82: Mr. PENCE and Mr. FONG.
H.R. 191: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 472: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 549: Mr. MILLS.
H.R. 703: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 913: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 936: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 1083: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 1202: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. MOONEY, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Ms. LEE of Florida, and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 1325: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 1465: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 1477: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 1491: Mrs. PELTOLA.
H.R. 1572: Mr. BEYER, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 1584: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 1605: Mr. KILEY.
H.R. 1668: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 1740: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 1763: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 2370: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 2414: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2432: Ms. BOEBERT.
H.R. 2441: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 2482: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 2534: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 2584: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 2672: Mr. KILEY.
H.R. 2689: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 2708: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 2723: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 2802: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 2851: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 2880: Mr. SMUCKER.
H.R. 2889: Mr. CASAR.
H.R. 2909: Ms. CROCKETT.
H.R. 2923: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 3036: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 3171: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 3182: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 3238: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 3249: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 3332: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 3475: Mrs. SYKES.
H.R. 3481: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 3518: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 3611: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.
H.R. 3651: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 3780: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 3882: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 4104: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 4326: Ms. TITUS and Mr. MRVAN.
H.R. 4483: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4627: Mr. MOYLAN and Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 4713: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 4721: Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 4724: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 4987: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 5012: Mr. BARR, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 5041: Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 5406: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 5577: Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 5683: Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 5778: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 6159: Mrs. MCBATH.
H.R. 6371: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 6373: Mr. DELUZIO.
H.R. 6376: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 6435: Mr. KILEY.
H.R. 6497: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 6592: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 6612: Mr. MORAN and Ms. BOEBERT.
H.R. 6672: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 6697: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 6727: Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 6780: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 6860: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 7094: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 7101: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida and Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 7137: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 7187: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 7220: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 7234: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 7274: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 7284: Ms. LETLOW.
H.R. 7288: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 7623: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
H.R. 7635: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 7735: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 7747: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 7770: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 7779: Mrs. SYKES.
H.R. 7805: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 7807: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 7891: Ms. PETTERSEN and Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 7914: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 8005: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 8018: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 8061: Ms. CHU, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. SMUCKER.
H.R. 8092: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 8095: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 8164: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 8185: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 8206: Mr. FULCHER.
H.R. 8231: Ms. MCCLELLAN.
H.R. 8271: Mr. DELUZIO.
H.R. 8303: Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 8340: Ms. ADAMS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 8371: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 8426: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 8545: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.
H.R. 8639: Mr. MCGARVEY.
H.R. 8653: Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. DAVIDSON, and Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 8702: Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. COLE, and Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 8728: Mr. KILEY.
H.R. 8734: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.R. 8777: Mr. PERRY and Mrs. LUNA.
H.R. 8811: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 8825: Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 8834: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 8859: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
H.R. 8963: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 8994: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 9038: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 9096: Mr. GOODEN of Texas and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 9106: Ms. TENNEY, Ms. PEREZ, and Mr. LANGWORTHY.
H.R. 9137: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 9211: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 9218: Mr. BEAN of Florida.
H.R. 9251: Mr. SELF.
H.R. 9253: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 9351: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 9382: Mr. NEHLS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. ISSA, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CLINE, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, and Mr. LOPEZ.
H.R. 9402: Mr. BERA.
H.R. 9441: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
H.R. 9462: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 9517: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 9535: Mr. RUIZ and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 9551: Mr. FERGUSON.
H.R. 9552: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 9561: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. GUEST, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MACE, and Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 9568: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
H.R. 9573: Ms. MENG and Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 9617: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 9622: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 9639: Mr. KILMER, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 9649: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 9656: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 9657: Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. BEAN of Florida, and Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 9662: Ms. CHU and Mr. KHANNA.
H.J. Res. 11: Mr. RULLI.
H.J. Res. 13: Ms. CHU.
H.J. Res. 136: Ms. LETLOW.
H.J. Res. 166: Mr. EZELL and Mr. ELLZEY.
H.J. Res. 193: Mr. COSTA.
H. Con. Res. 118: Mrs. BEATTY and Ms. CHU.
H. Res. 424: Mr. VAN DREW.
H. Res. 1131: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H. Res. 1272: Mr. SELF.
H. Res. 1286: Mr. PAPPAS.
H. Res. 1306: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H. Res. 1348: Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of

Georgia, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. LAMBORN.

H. Res. 1394: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H. Res. 1422: Ms. SALINAS.

H. Res. 1423: Mr. CARL, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H. Res. 1432: Ms. CHU and Mrs. FLETCHER.

H. Res. 1447: Mr. IVEY and Ms. STEFANIK.

H. Res. 1448: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. FROST, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. HIMES, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H. Res. 1449: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey and Ms. TITUS.

H. Res. 1461: Ms. CHU and Mr. LIEU.

H. Res. 1463: Mr. BURLISON.

H. Res. 1464: Mr. SOTO and Mr. RUIZ.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *118th* CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Dear Lord, let this day be marked with resilience and guided by Your righteous hand. When our lawmakers are confronted by obstacles, instill unrelenting resolution inside of them to meet the challenges of the changing world. Today, give them the wisdom to turn from every thought, word, and deed that weakens instead of strengthens.

Lord, help our Senators to hunger and thirst to be people of integrity, striving to honor You with their lives. May this be a day when they serve You with gladness because Your joy has filled their hearts.

Lord, all nations are Yours. Help us to trust You to rule our world.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 19, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Rose E. Jenkins, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday afternoon, to the surprise of virtually no one, Speaker JOHNSON's deeply flawed and highly partisan CR failed by a vote of 202 to 220. The ''no'' votes included Democrats, Republicans, fiscal hawks, conservative ideologues, and people in between. In other words, there was broad opposition to the Speaker's partisan maneuver. It is time the Speaker moves on.

Sadly, time is not a luxury that Congress has right now. Today is September 19. The government shutdown is September 30. That is 11 days away. And instead of doing the bipartisan work everyone knows is required for avoiding a shutdown, the House Republican leadership has wasted 2 weeks—2 weeks—listening to Donald Trump's ridiculous claims on the campaign trail.

Now that their efforts have failed, House Republicans don't seem to have any plan for actually keeping the government open. So the Senate will step in. Later today, I will file cloture on a legislative vehicle that will enable us to prevent a Trump shutdown in the event that Speaker JOHNSON does not work with us in a bipartisan, bicameral manner.

Both sides are going to spend the next few days trying to figure out the best path remaining for keeping the government open. By filing today, I am giving the Senate maximum flexibility for preventing a shutdown.

Democrats and Americans don't want a Trump shutdown. I dare say most Republicans, at least in this Chamber, don't want to see a Trump shutdown. And the American people certainly don't want their elected representatives in Washington creating a shutdown for the sake of Donald Trump's ridiculous claims, when it is clear he doesn't even know how the legislative process works.

Senators are ready to work this process the right way: Democrats talking to Republicans, both sides at the negotiating table, finding a way to keep the government open without partisan hoopla.

The Speaker must choose: Either keep paying blind obeisance to Donald

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

Trump and his ridiculous claims or work with both parties to spare the American people from a Republican shutdown.

And just a parenthetical note: How does anyone expect Donald Trump to be a President when he has such little understanding of the legislative process? He is daring the Congress to shut down. I remember he did that with Leader PELOSI and I in his office a while back. It didn't work out too well for him. Our Republican colleagues should not blindly follow Donald Trump. He doesn't know what he is doing. He doesn't have a plan, and, frankly, he doesn't know what he is talking about.

PROJECT 2025

Mr. President, now on Project 2025, later today, Senate Democrats will hold a press conference to expose Donald Trump's Project 2025 for what it actually is. Project 2025—Trump's Project 2025—is the most harmful, most unhinged, and most extreme conservative agenda in recent American history.

By now, many Americans have heard about Project 2025. And the more people learn about Trump's plan, the more they realize how disastrous it would be for our country.

I could speak about Project 2025 every morning for the remainder of the work period and still not have enough time to cover all of the nasty things hiding inside this agenda.

For middle-class families, Project 2025 will raise taxes by $3,000. And it caters to the ultrawealthy by giving people who earn more than $10 million a $1.5 million tax break.

For workers, Project 2025 will undermine overtime pay, resulting in less pay for longer hours for middle-class Americans who work hard and often have to work more than 40 hours a week. As many as 4.3 million Americans will have their overtime and wage protections erode.

For our national security, Project 2025 will make us less safe by gutting Agencies charged with protecting Americans at home and around the world.

And for our border security, Project 2025 rejects the bipartisan plan we released earlier this year, the strongest bipartisan border security measure in decades. It also adopts a policy of utterly cruel mass deportations with little to no due process and even risks deporting 3 million Dreamers.

How cruel; deport 3 million Dreamers? It is in Project 2025.

And finally, Project 2025 will weaken our democracy by opening the floodgates to foreign interference and big money in politics.

And if all of that isn't enough, just yesterday, Donald Trump's running mate actually proposed going back to the days when having a preexisting condition meant you pay far more for your health insurance.

That is right. Under the Trump-Vance plan, anyone with a chronic condition—or an estimated 129 million Americans—could face outrageously expensive healthcare costs.

This is all beyond sinister stuff. And while Donald Trump tries to run away from Project 2025, here is the simple truth: Donald Trump owns Project 2025 and every single one of its proposals.

Project 2025 has been led by hundreds of former Trump administration officials, chomping at the bit to get back in government and impose their horrible plans. Some of these sections were written by Trump's own Cabinet officials. And Trump himself said in his speech that the Heritage Foundation—which houses Project 2025—would ''lay the groundwork and detail plans for exactly what our moment will do.''

Let me say that again. This is Donald Trump talking about the Heritage Foundation, which has created Project 2025. It would ''lay the groundwork and detail plans for exactly what our moment will do.''

And the head of the Heritage Foundation said earlier this year that his goal was ''institutionalizing Trumpism,'' including with Project 2025.

Let me say it again: ''Institutionalizing Trumpism.''

Whom are these guys fooling? Now, of course, even Trump himself is backing off, with all the criticism, because it is so far away. These rightwing ideologues want to steer America over the cliff and hurt just about every average American. And then when it becomes public what they want to do—when the public learns more of what they want to do—they try to say: Oh, well, we really didn't mean it. But we know they did.

Watch out, America. Watch out for Project 2025. It will hurt you; it will hurt your family; and it will be implemented by Donald Trump and his rightwing coterie if he gets elected.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. President, Hispanic Heritage Month. Finally, I would like to wish my colleagues and Americans everywhere a happy Hispanic Heritage Month, which began on September 15.

Hispanic Heritage Month crystalizes perfectly why we live in an amazing country. You can't tell America's story without talking about Hispanic Americans who have left their mark in every corner of life: entertainment, the sciences, the arts, food, music, sports, military, and government.

Hispanic Heritage Month is perhaps more important today than it ever has been. Some politicians are trying furiously to demonize America's diversity, but diversity is what makes America strong. It is what makes America wondrous. And that is why I have always fought to defend Dreamers and fight for comprehensive immigration reform. It is why I have worked with the Biden-Harris administration to lower insulin costs, create good-paying jobs, make our communities safer, and help Hispanic-owned businesses pick themselves up from COVID.

I will also fight for housing reform so that Latinos, like all Americans, can become homeowners. And finally, I will fight for the Latino museum to honor the contributions of Hispanics and Latinos to our Nation and so much more. We can get it done. Si, se puede.

In the Senate, we have confirmed a historic 37 Latino judicial nominations, 22 of them women. We appointed the first Latina to serve the Federal Reserve in the Board's 109-year history, the first Hispanic judge on the 7th Circuit, and the first openly LGBTQ+ judge for District of Puerto Rico.

And speaking of Puerto Rico, there are few causes that mean more to me as a Senator than helping Puerto Ricans have greater opportunity and a better life. A few months ago, I championed legislation that would expand SNAP benefits to Puerto Ricans, who have been unjustly excluded from this program for decades. This is one reason why it is crucial we make progress on the farm bill because Puerto Ricans deserve the justice that has long been denied to them.

America's strength has always been rooted in our diversity, on our immigrant heritage, on being a home to Americans for all walks of life.

So today, I want to celebrate the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the country we call home. Without them, America as we know it would not be possible.

I yield the floor.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and proceed to the consideration of H.R. 9468, which was received from the House and is at the desk; further, that the only amendment in order to the bill be the Paul amendment No. 3289, which is at the desk; that the time until 11:30 a.m. be for debate only on the amendment and that at 11:30 a.m. the Senate vote on the amendment, with 60 affirmative votes required for adoption; further, that upon disposition of the amendment, the bill, as amended, if amended, be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, all without further intervening action or debate.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

VETERANS BENEFITS CONTINUITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 9468) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.

HEZBOLLAH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, since October 7, the Israeli military has achieved remarkable success in destroying Hamas's capacity to wage war and in targeting Hezbollah terrorists, but Israel's operations against the Iran-backed terrorists surrounding it have also succeeded in exposing some of the most malignant and persistent biases of Western media against the Jewish State of Israel.

We need to look no further than the astonishing willingness of the most prominent outlets in America to parrot the terrorists' preferred casualty figures, produced by Hamas's own health ministry, or the haste of even the nation's so-called paper of record to attribute to Israel a devastating rocket strike on a hospital that careful observation showed to be the work of the terrorists themselves.

To deny the role of careless coverage and outright bias in the groundswell of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic hate across the West is willful ignorance.

Consider just this morning's example, courtesy of taxpayer-funded National Public Radio. In its coverage of an apparent Israeli operation to target Hezbollah terrorists via their specialized communications networks, NPR described Hezbollah as a ''Lebanese militant and political group,'' but the most accurate descriptor of Hezbollah—a terrorist organization—was conspicuously absent; but NPR editors did manage to include a quote from a man on the street accusing Israel of terrorism.

Well, as intrepid journalists so often remind us, context matters, and it matters especially in the work of an organization that takes Federal Government funding and whose CEO has declared that ''reverence for the truth might be a distraction.'' So let's establish some context.

Hezbollah is arguably the world's most dangerous terrorist group. The U.S. Government and more than 60 other countries recognize this essential characteristic. Hezbollah is funded, trained, and equipped by Iran, and with Iran's help, Hezbollah has conducted terror attacks all around the world—from bombings in Argentina and Greece to backing the ghoulish Assad regime in the Syrian civil war.

Until 9/11, Hezbollah was responsible for the deadliest terror attacks against the United States, killing 321 Americans in bombings of the U.S. Embassy, marine barracks, and annex in Beirut back in 1983 and 1984. They also coordinated with the IRGC and its master terrorist, Qasem Soleimani, to kill hundreds of U.S. servicemembers in Iraq; and, of course, Hezbollah continues to threaten U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria today.

But, of course, one of Hezbollah's primary reasons for existence is the murder of Jews and the destruction of the Jewish State.

To the extent that it is a political entity, it has corrupted and strangled Lebanon's fragile democracy; and it is Hezbollah's efforts to threaten Israel with tens of thousands of rockets and missiles and its terror tunnels to facilitate the infiltration of Israel that has put Lebanon in the spotlight.

So it may be worth mentioning that, perhaps, the most carefully targeted series of simultaneous attacks against terrorist operatives in human history comes in response to this all-consuming campaign, which has turned Lebanon into the staging area for war on Israel's existence.

So how is that for context?

It is my understanding that the senior Senator from Vermont has said he will introduce joint resolutions of the disapproving of U.S. security assistance to Israel. Such a signal would only empower and embolden terrorists like Hamas and Hezbollah. Each of our colleagues deserves a chance to go on the record right away to reject this extremism.

HARRIS POLICY

Now, Mr. President, on a different matter, I spoke yesterday about how working Americans are having a tough time figuring out where Vice President HARRIS stands on leftwing climate policy. She has played both sides of issues that carry real consequences for the livelihoods and family budgets. Unfortunately, it doesn't stop at the Green New Deal. Voters consistently report that border security is among their top concerns—and with good reason.

In the last 4 years, humanitarian chaos and a security crisis at the southern border has set all the wrong records. Since the Biden-Harris administration took office, the CBP has recorded more than 9.9 million encounters with illegal aliens, and this doesn't include the nearly 2 million known ''got-aways.'' In the past fiscal year alone, the CBP has encountered 2.3 million people attempting to illegally enter our country.

The Democratic nominee for President also happens to be the current administration's point person responsible for this exact issue. You might expect the border czar to have taken command and left a clear idea of where she stands on the issue. Ah, but think again.

Back in 2020, she described President Trump's border wall as a ''complete waste of taxpayer money'' that ''won't make us any safer''; but, recently, she said that she would sign Senator LANKFORD's border bill into law if it landed on her desk. Remember, this is the bill that would have unlocked hundreds of millions of dollars to fund the construction of that wall.

In 2019, when she first ran for President, our former colleague expressed support for decriminalizing illegal border crossing. Apparently, this was a longstanding view. In her maiden speech in the Senate, she proclaimed:

> I know what a crime looks like, and I will tell you: An undocumented immigrant is not a criminal.

But, according to her campaign, she no longer believes that.

On other aspects of border policy, her campaign has declined to say whether her earlier commitments still hold true.

Vice President HARRIS has bragged that she was ''one of the first Senators, after President Trump was elected, to advocate for a decrease in funding to ICE.'' Is she still proud of that stand? The Harris campaign won't say. This is especially puzzling given her stated support for the Lankford border bill, which increases the funding for ICE. Does she not know what is in the legislation she says she now endorses?

In this body, she introduced legislation to decrease detention by at least 50 percent and end funding for new detention facilities. Would she sign a bill like that today? Her campaign is mum on the issue. And they are similarly tight-lipped on the Vice President's 2019 statement of support for taxpayer-funded gender transition treatment for persons in immigration detention facilities.

Now, this isn't to say that the American people are at a total loss for clues on where the Vice President stands. She has repeated often on the campaign trail that ''my values have not changed,'' and it is useful to note who has taken her word for it. The executive director of a progressive immigration group recently put it this way:

> We all know and trust Harris to make the right decisions when she's in office.

When it comes to campaign strategy, some of our Democratic colleagues are even saying the quiet part out loud. The senior Senator from Vermont, self-described Democratic Socialist, said:

> I don't think she's abandoning her ideals. I think she's tried to be pragmatic and doing what she thinks is right in order to win the election.

The senior Senator from Hawaii reiterated this point. He has said:

> I certainly don't think we should be demanding that she take unpopular positions in key States.

Sitting Democratic Senators are calling it like it is: Our former colleague is saying what needs to be said to appeal to independent voters, but when it comes to her progressive agenda, she is dyed in the wool. She just needs to wait until the election to let the mask come off.

So for voters who are trying to make sense of where the Vice President stands, it really comes down to this: If Washington Democrats' leftwing base

isn't afraid of her flip-flops, then it is safe to say that working Americans should be.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, it was another installment of show-vote summer in the Senate this week. Really, the Senate is starting to feel like an arm of the DNC. I say ''show vote'' because, of course, this week's vote and the other show votes we have taken this summer had nothing at all to do with legislating. These were not attempts to pass bills; these were future campaign talking points and television commercials.

Had the Democrat leader really wanted to pass legislation, I can think of a number of bills he would have brought up. But he isn't actually interested in getting anything done; he is interested—he hopes—in getting votes in November.

With rare exceptions, the Senate has spent essentially the entire summer confirming Biden nominees and conducting show votes, and that is not because there hasn't been important legislation for us to take up. In fact, it is quite the opposite. The Senate has crucial legislation it should have been considering: the National Defense Authorization Act, for one thing—one of the most important pieces of legislation we consider each year—defense appropriations, veterans appropriations, all appropriations.

The end of the fiscal year is almost upon us. We have 11 days left. Yet we haven't taken up a single appropriations bill on the Senate floor. And that is not because the Appropriations Committee hasn't been doing its work—again, quite the opposite. By the beginning of August, the Senate Appropriations Committee had passed 11 out of the 12 yearly appropriations bills, several of them unanimously. Just yesterday, Senator COLLINS, vice chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, was on the floor urging the Democrat leader to take action on the appropriations bills.

There is zero—zero—reason why we shouldn't have taken up these bills on the Senate floor. The only reason we haven't is because the Democrat leader has been more interested in scoring political points than in doing the job we were all sent here to do. I hope these hypothetical political points were worth the cost to our military that comes with continuing resolutions, which is what we are going to be forced to resort to now to keep the government running.

In a properly functioning Senate, committee work would be reflected on the Senate floor—for example, by taking up the appropriations bills that the committee has produced. But in the Schumer Senate, leadership is top down. So the actual work of the Senate and the hard work of the committees have taken a back seat to the Democrat leader's political machinations. As I said, he is currently ignoring the National Defense Authorization Act and 11 appropriations bills—all passed out of the committee, all available for floor consideration, in some cases for months.

In addition to ignoring committee work, the Democrat leader is also happy to interfere with or go around committees when it suits him. The Commerce Committee's final release of the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill was delayed for months—months—because the Democrat leader objected to an amendment that was likely to pass in committee on a bipartisan basis. Rather than letting the democratic process play out, the Democrat leader chose to call a halt to committee consideration of the bill, bringing the Commerce Committee's work to a standstill literally for months.

While he did finally allow the Senate to take up the bill, we passed the bill a total of 8 months after the previous reauthorization had expired—again, solely because the Democrat leader didn't like an amendment that was likely to pass with bipartisan support.

I was not surprised to learn last week that the leader may proceed right to an informal conference on the National Defense Authorization Act, bypassing consideration of the Senate version of the bill on the floor of the U.S. Senate—again, one of the most consequential pieces of legislation that we do on an annual basis and which should have allowed every Member to have a voice through an amendment process on the floor, but he has made it very clear that Member input is not one of his priorities.

As if the Senate weren't dysfunctional enough, if Democrats win the majority, the Democrat leader intends to destroy perhaps the most important Senate rule we have—the Senate filibuster—permanently diminishing, if not eliminating, any meaningful voice for the minority in the U.S. Senate, which is what this institution was created to represent.

My great hope is to see a properly functioning Senate again, one where, for starters, we actually take up each year's appropriations bills after they come out of the committee. I want to see a Senate where committee work is recognized and serves as the basis for the floor schedule and where committee chairmen are empowered; a Senate where Members have the opportunity to have their voices heard through a robust amendment process, from committee to final consideration here on the floor of the Senate; and a Senate where the role the Senate plays in the legislative branch is respected and protected, starting with safeguarding the filibuster rule, which helps preserve the Senate's role as the, as the Founder said, cooling saucer of democracy.

I don't have much hope that we will see this type of Senate if Democrats are reelected and the current Democrat leader continues in his role, but it is the kind of Senate that I will continue to work for and that I hope a majority of Senators aspire to. In the meantime, I guess we will continue with the Democrat leader's show votes.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, it has been my privilege to represent the people of Montana in Congress now for more than a decade. I have seen Congress wrestle and struggle with many challenges during my time here. I have heard my constituents voice concerns—and deservedly so—about many of them. But, by far, one of the worst habits that Congress has is its failure to follow its own budget process. In fact, it is not an understatement to say that the budget process has completely collapsed in both Chambers. And I hear about this back home, and rightfully so.

Wherever I go in Montana, folks tell me they are tired of the dysfunction here in Congress and especially its lack of fiscal discipline. For a body that was elected to represent the will of the people, we are doing the exact opposite. This is simply not what our constituents sent us here to do.

Too many families in our country are living paycheck to paycheck and working sometimes multiple jobs to make ends meet. And, most importantly, they are sacrificing to do so.

When they elect their representatives, they expect good, responsible governing. They expect Congress to operate more like they do when it comes to budgeting and spending and living within their means. Yet, year in and year out, Congress does anything but.

Let me read you the tale of the tape. The last time Congress enacted all 12 appropriations—that is, you could say, passing the budget. That is all the appropriations bills. The last time they met the goal of getting it done by September 30, the end of the fiscal year of the Federal Government, was 1997. That was nearly three decades ago.

And it is not like we wake up on the 1st of January every year and wonder: When are they going to schedule September 30? When is September 30 going to fall this year?

It is not like they surprise us, and we say: Oh, my word, it is September 30.

It is no surprise—27 consecutive years.

Even sadder is how Congress has ignored the Budget Act. The Budget Control Act became law in 1974. This law put into place the modern budget process. It was enacted, ironically, to give Congress more control over Federal spending and the budget process. Theoretically, this would give our constituents a stronger say in how their tax dollars are spent.

But what has Congress done with that authority? Since the Budget Control Act became law, 50 years ago, Congress has been out of control—though the Budget Control Act was passed 50 years ago. Congress rarely even passes a budget resolution anymore, which is supposed to start the budget process every spring.

This resolution is supposed to provide a roadmap for how we approach the appropriations process. Without this roadmap, Congress inevitably finds itself in a spending train wreck, and our constituents, by default, have little say in how their tax dollars are spent. That is exactly what has happened year after year after year—27 consecutive years, in fact.

In the past 50 years since the Budget Control Act was passed, Congress has only enacted all 12 appropriations on time 4 times: 1977, 1989, 1995, and then 1997. Again, back to 1997, we will now have a 27-year consecutive losing streak as we will go past September 30 without having appropriations passed. This year, Senate Democratic leadership hasn't brought a single appropriations bill to the floor, and we are just 12 days from the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Continuing resolutions that fund the government at current levels are now the norm. In fact, between 1977 and last year, Congress passed 200 continuing resolutions—200—and, thus, the threat of a government shutdown is always looming.

All this forces Congress to fund the government through what we call Omnibus appropriations. And for those watching back home, that means, instead of giving each appropriator and appropriations bill a hearing and the scrutiny it deserves, most of the spending bills are all lumped together into one or two giant bills, often thousands of pages long each.

No one has time to read the entire bill before we pass it. So it is usually chock full of wasteful spending on pet projects that we inserted, literally, in the dead of night. Since 1982, Congress has passed 36 Omnibus appropriation bills. That is just short of one per year. Since that time, Omnibus appropriations bills have served as a legislative vehicle for more than half of the Federal Government's appropriations.

In short, our broken budget process has created an incredible amount of uncertainty. In fact, the only thing that is certain in the whole mess is that this broken process has exacerbated the Federal Government's out-of-control spending.

There is no way to run a household this way or a small business—not to mention the government—and the American people know it.

So why is all this important? As I mentioned, Congress doesn't have a revenue problem. It is not a revenue problem. Look at our deficits and our debt. This is not a revenue problem. It is a spending problem, no matter how you look at it.

Our failed budget process is not only the cause for the fiscal disaster, it is also playing a very significant role. The last time the government had a budget surplus was 23 years ago, back in 2001. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says that the budget deficit for this year will be around $2 trillion. That is unprecedented. In fact, the deficit over the next decade will now total a staggering $22 trillion. That is the deficit added on top of the current debt. Even more frightening is the fact that Medicare will be broke by 2031 and Social Security, by 2034. By 2035, CBO estimates that debt held by the public will top $50 trillion and be the equivalent of 122 percent of our GDP.

These are staggering numbers. We can't ignore this crisis. To start the long process of fixing it, we need to start with serious reforms in the budget process.

The people of Montana know I am not a creature of Washington, nor, frankly, do I care to be. I am not a career politician. I did not work my way up through the ranks of State legislatures. My experience is in the private sector.

Anyone who has been in Montana knows that while Montana is the most beautiful State in our country, the strength of our great State lies with its people. They are hard-working folks. They believe in an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. They never hesitate to share a good dose of common sense—something that I find severely lacking here in Washington, DC.

Montana common sense combined with my private sector background taught me a number of principles I think we can apply to our budget process.

For starters, let's hold Members accountable, and performance needs to be scrutinized. When structural failure persists, it has to be addressed. For that reason, if Members of Congress can't pass all 12 appropriations bills on time, suspend their pay. Don't shut down the government; shut down the pay of Members of Congress. In fact, shut down their pay, shut down their travel, force them to stay here in Washington, and believe me, this will get resolved rather quickly. Because we all know, if you don't do your job, you don't deserve to be paid, especially when the American people are the folks paying us. That would put an end to government shutdowns.

Let's be honest. Shutting down the government only punishes the American people and increases costs. It is exactly the wrong thing we need to do. But put the pain on Congress, and that will start to change things around here in a hurry.

Second, Congress should address all spending, including discretionary and nondiscretionary programs. Think about it. Discretionary spending is utterly dysfunctional, and there are virtually no forcing mechanisms to require Congress to actually deal with the autopilot spending that accounts for nearly 70 percent of Federal spending. Avoiding the tough challenge of the mandatory spending means our national debt will just continue to soar to new, incomprehensible heights, and that puts our kids and our grandchildren on the hook. This will require bipartisan cooperation to save these programs for future generations.

Speaking of bipartisanship, the reforms we make must work whether we have unified government or divided government. Right now, it is about impossible to pass a bicameral budget during divided government. This just leads to the unwanted, behind-closed-doors mad dash as the expiration date of the latest continuing resolution approaches, which leads to my final and maybe my most important point.

Any reforms to our broken budget process must be bipartisan. There are always going to be disagreements around how taxpayer dollars should be spent, but we should be able to agree on a workable, durable process to make those decisions. To that end, we need to build on the good work of my late friend and former colleague, the late Senator Mike Enzi from Wyoming.

During more than two decades serving in the Senate, Mike worked tirelessly on this issue. Many of his proposals deserve a strong look if Congress is ever to find a solution. I believe two deserve particular attention. The first would reorient the budget resolution to a 2-year cycle. That would allow Congress more time to not only develop but also enforce the budget. I also believe Senator Enzi's proposal to create a new special reconciliation process that could only be used for reducing the deficit also warrants consideration.

There are many others. I know a number of my colleagues have weighed in on this issue as well. I welcome their ideas.

The question I pose today to Members on both sides of the aisle is, When are we going to get serious about addressing this calamity? How many more times are we going to kick the can down the road? How many more shutdowns? How high must our deficits and debt climb before we say enough is enough?

Mr. President, I humbly submit today that we did reach that point, actually, long ago. It is past time to bring the common sense of Montanans to bear on the Nation's budget process. Now is the time for serious budget reform.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted

to speak for up to 20 minutes and that Senator PAUL be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 5074

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I want to compliment my good friend from Montana, Senator DAINES, who was on the floor just now talking about government accountability. That is what I am going to talk about—government accountability. We need much more of it, and we need much more of it in the Veterans Administration.

So today, what I am going to be doing is I am going to ask for unanimous consent on my bill, the PRO Vets Act, that we all need to move forward, both on funding the VA—I am going to talk about this shortfall—but also on having some reforms to the VA. They are very simple.

I will be really disappointed if any of my colleagues come down here and block my unanimous consent request. That is just me asking all my Senate colleagues to pass this bill right now. But when you hear about it, you will say: Why wouldn't we pass that? Holy cow. The VA needs a little accountability—actually, a lot of accountability.

But here is what is going on. A little context of my legislation—which, by the way, right now already has 15 cosponsors. We just put this together 2 weeks ago, given the crisis at the VA, and it has 15 cosponsors.

Just 6 weeks ago, Congress was officially informed and many of us were surprised—by the way, I sit on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, so I am very focused on these issues. Our committee was informed that the VA was experiencing a $15 billion shortfall and that by the end of this week, tomorrow, they need an additional $3 billion or veterans across the country, including in my State—the great State of Alaska has more veterans per capita than any State in the country, so we love our veterans; it is a very important constituency of mine—they wouldn't get their benefits unless we act real quick.

The House acted 2 nights ago, and we are going to get this money done. We will get it. We want to make sure our veterans have their benefits. But in exchange, we are asking: Hey, what is going on over at the VA? I mean, we see this all the time—mismanagement, last-minute requests for money, illegal bonuses up to $11 million just a couple of months ago paid out to people in the VA who don't deserve it.

My bill is very simple. It is going to bring accountability to the VA—of course, that is a vital institution for our veterans and our country—with some more oversight and accountability. It is not complicated at all. It is basically two things. We are going to fund this short-term $3 billion amount of money the VA says it needs ASAP, even though they didn't inform us until 6 weeks ago.

By the way, the total amount they need in terms of how they screwed up the budget is $15 billion. That is a lot of money.

So it just says—the bill requires two things. It institutes a 3-year requirement for the Secretary of the VA to submit quarterly, in-person budget reports to Congress to encourage greater oversight and financial accountability—that is pretty simple—and the Secretary should come to us quarterly with these budget estimates and brief our committee, the VA Committee, in person—easy—and for any future financial shortfalls, which we are experiencing right now, it would result in the withholding of bonuses for senior VA and OMB personnel who worked on that budget. That is it. That is it, Mr. President.

Most people would say, ''Hey, that is pretty good reform; it is not too much,'' but, remarkably, I think one of my Senate colleagues is going to come down here and object.

So we are going to throw $3 billion at the VA, and we just have simple reforms: The Secretary comes quarterly to the committee and says: Hey, we are not going to blow through the budget again. Here are our quarterly estimates.

By the way, if you are part of the team at a senior level that screwed up the budget, you don't get a bonus.

What is wrong with that? Maybe my colleagues won't object. That is it. That is the bill, because we are going to give the VA, again, additional money that they didn't plan for.

This is not the first time this has happened. As a matter of fact, I have been on the VA Committee going on 10 years. I really like the committee. As I mentioned, veterans in Alaska, veterans in America are so important. But the VA in DC often screws up the budget. It often comes up with scandals. Heck, like I said, just a couple of months ago, $11 million went out to senior VA officials for bonuses that they didn't deserve.

In a hearing yesterday, I asked: Has anyone been held responsible for that?

No.

Anyone held responsible for this budget oversight?

No.

So, as I mentioned, there have been a lot of these kinds of scandals. Some of you might remember the VA secret waiting list at the Phoenix Veterans Affairs Health Care System.

CNN described the secret waiting list as the following:

> The secret list was part of an elaborate scheme designed by Veterans Affairs managers in Phoenix who were trying to hide that 1,400 to 1,600 sick veterans were forced to wait months to see a doctor.

Forty of them died waiting. Pretty scandalous.

The hospital in Colorado had a budget overrun in 2016, and Congress had to do what we are doing right now—jump in immediately, at the last minute. That was budgeted—it was three times the amount it was budgeted that they ran over to build that hospital. But we again acted—hundreds of millions of dollars at the last minute because of VA mismanagement.

Here is the thing: The Congress—even the Veterans' Affairs Committee—is becoming numb to these kinds of shortfalls and these kinds of dysfunctional approaches to management for our veterans.

Let me be clear. I work with the VA in Alaska all the time. The people on the ground helping our veterans—the vast, vast majority do a great job. But the problem seems to be here in DC, with this giant bureaucracy.

Last week, the inspector general—President Biden's inspector general for the VA, in front of the House, testified along the following lines about a report they just had in terms of an investigation of the VA. They said: Our staff—the inspector general's staff—''routinely finds breakdowns in processes, infrastructure, governance, leadership, and other failings that erode the foundational elements of accountability'' at the VA.

Last week, the IG of the VA said that.

> These breakdowns impede [the] VA's efforts to make certain that patients receive timely, high-quality healthcare and that veterans and other eligible beneficiaries are afforded the compensation and services they are owed.

So here is the Biden administration IG, inspector general, saying: We have big problems at the VA.

Now we are seeing it with another cost overrun.

Like I said, $15 billion budget shortfall for the VA right now. We only heard about it 6 weeks ago; and I, with several members of the VA Committee, 6 weeks ago as soon as we heard about this, sent a letter to the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee at the end of July saying: Hey, we need an immediate hearing, right now. Let's do it right now and have the Secretary testify in person to tell us what the heck is going on. What are you doing over there? OK?

The chairman didn't do that. He waited till yesterday to hold the hearing. The Secretary didn't show up to come testify, and we heard all kinds of things from the witnesses from the VA.

But what we didn't hear is anything about accountability. We did hear this, by the way, and if—I think most Americans, most Alaskans, would find this stunning. The VA has a new rule. We went through a pandemic 4 years ago. People were doing remote work. Guess what? Most of the Federal Government is still doing remote work. Most Federal employees still, like, work in their pajamas next to a computer at home.

The VA's new rule is that you are required to come into the office twice in a pay period. Excuse me, what? Some of those VA workers in DC work at home in their pajamas. Can you believe that, America? We have these big, beautiful Federal buildings here and

nobody comes into them. I mean, come on.

So maybe the Secretary was teleworking yesterday, part of his rule that you only have to come in twice a month to work. So we need accountability. We need accountability.

Now, as usual, the VA and other bureaucrats are saying, hey, this is actually a good thing that we have a $15 billion shortfall. This is a good thing because more veterans are getting benefits.

Well, listen, I voted for the bill that is helping our veterans with regard to burn pits. I voted for all that legislation, and it is good that we are getting veterans to have more benefits that they have earned, but that doesn't excuse the VA mismanagement of its budget or the idea that Congress, if it is going to appropriate more money at the last minute, which is what we are going to do—and I am supporting that—that we apply accountability.

Here is what the legislative director for the VFW supplied in written testimony to the House last week:

''Since news of the funding shortfall became public, the communications on the matter from the VA has been inappropriately positive''—

So this is the VFW saying: Hey, VA, don't spin this.

That it is positive because the VA is ''delivering more benefits than ever,'' as if the VA's miscalculation that now threatens the delivery of all compensation, pension, and education benefits is somehow a positive thing.

So the VFW is looking straight at the VA saying: Don't spin this. The $15 billion shortfall you just told us about, we have got to rush to fund it or veterans across America are going to lose their benefits? That is not positive. No matter how they spin it, it is not positive. It is called mismanagement.

So, again, all I am asking for as part of the money that we are going to appropriate on an emergency basis for the VA is to simply pass my vets act, my Pro Vets Act.

And, again, here is all it does: The Secretary of the VA has to come in quarterly to the committee, in person, out of your pajamas, and tell us what the budget is so we don't have this again.

And if you are part of the VA or OMB team that put forward a budget that the VA went over, you don't get a bonus. That is eminently reasonable. Reasonable, Mr. President. And I hope my colleagues here will support it.

So I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 5074, 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 consider made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. I share my colleague's focus on making sure we never have shortfalls that deny our veterans the care and benefits they were promised. And we are going to vote in just a bit on a VA supplemental package to make sure the VA has the resources it needs. And it even includes reporting requirements similar to what is proposed here.

As we implement laws like the PACT Act, which makes worthwhile expansions of our veterans' care, there is going to be some growing pains. That is frustrating, but it is not unheard of.

The important thing—and I think we all agree here—is meeting those needs and keeping our word to our veterans and their families, and I would say, as a daughter of a veteran, I take that responsibility very seriously.

Now, while I am not convinced all of the elements of this proposal are the most effective way to work with VA on these issues right now, I do sincerely appreciate where my colleague is coming from and I am willing to work with him on this.

So I look forward to continuing this conversation and working in a bipartisan way to make sure the VA is working for our veterans. But right now, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. While I have worked closely with my colleague from Washington on the Veterans' Affairs Committee in the Senate, I know she is committed to veterans, and I want to work with her on these matters. I will say, though, I would disagree with her on one major issue. She mentioned growing pains and the PACT Act has expanded veterans' benefits. And that is good; I voted for that bill. But this isn't about growing pains. This is about what the IG just testified to the House on last week, and it is systemic problems of accountability at the VA.

And to be honest, if you are on the committee, you know that more than anybody because we see it all the time. So I am disappointed that simple reforms, accountability, the Secretary coming in quarterly, in person, not teleworking like 99 percent of the VA currently does—and shouldn't do, by the way—telling Congress where they are in the budget so you are not going to have another overrun.

And then if you made the mistake—and there is a big budget overrun, you don't get a bonus. Very simple. I am really disappointed that we can't undertake basic, simple accountability reforms when we are, once again, at the last minute, scrambling to make sure due to the VA's mismanagement, Congress is coming in with additional money making sure our veterans get their benefits, that is not the way to run a really important Federal bureaucracy and organization like we have at the VA. And I am disappointed that my bill is not being passed right now, in addition to getting the additional funding to the VA for our veterans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. PAUL. As we have been discussing, the Veterans' Affairs is out of money. Now, this is not something that was unpredictable. I predicted this a year or two ago when we expanded benefits.

I think it is the priority and it is the responsibility of America to take care of its veterans, but we still have to think about what we are doing. We can't say: Well, every veteran should have a Corvette and $200,000 a year because we don't have the money for that.

So we try to link benefits to something we can afford and something within reason related to their service.

When the PACT Act was passed, though, there were those of us saying: Hmm, if you allow something like high blood pressure to be associated with military service, you may have a problem. I am 61 years old. Sixty percent of people over 60 have hypertension. You think you might get too many people applying for things if you allow really common conditions like hypertension to be connected to these benefits.

What we were talking about were burn pits. And burn pits you can convince me—and they have—that inhaling things from burn pits might damage your lungs, and you might have respiratory diseases or lung cancers. But saying hypertension is related to this allows Pandora's box, and now we have millions of people flooding through the doors to get benefits, and they are out of money.

This is typical of Washington. This year, we will spend $6 trillion, and we will bring in 4. No American family can do that, no State does that, no city does that, no county does that.

Washington's fiscal recklessness is putting the American dream out of reach for millions of Americans.

Historically high rates of inflation from this debt have made every American poorer. As families across the country struggle to put food on the table, Washington seems content to spend money without regard to the consequences.

But sometimes the consequences are too shameful to ignore. Congressional spending and mismanagement at the Department of Veterans' Affairs are the latest examples, with both resulting in a nearly $3 billion shortfall, threatening the benefits of millions of veterans.

Our veterans shouldn't have to pay the cost for the Federal Government's incompetence. This is why I ask the Senate to adopt my amendment today.

My amendment would just simply offset the new money they need for the Veterans' Affairs that they didn't calculate well and didn't appropriate by taking it from somewhere else in the budget. To me, it seems eminently reasonable. Rather than borrow more money and put ourselves further into

debt—we have a $35 trillion debt—why don't we find something in the budget maybe that is not an emergency, take the money from there, and pay for the veterans benefits? My amendment would ensure the veterans receive their benefits without adding to the national debt.

My amendment is simple. It pays for the veterans benefits by rescinding $2.9 billion in Department of Energy loan guarantees. The American taxpayer should not be asked to subsidize companies with vast resources, often multimillion-dollar owners, that are for this green energy that we are going to subsidize.

Well, which is more important, subsidizing millionaire owners of green energy or paying for veterans' benefits? Why not take one to pay for the other?

Unsurprisingly, these loans, these green loans that are out there, these gambles that have been taken by the Department of Energy, have come at an exorbitant cost. A 2015 GAO study revealed the extent of the Department of Energy's loan program failures. The report lists that five companies defaulted on similar Department of Energy loans, including Solyndra, Fisker, Abound Solar, Beacon Power, and Vehicle Production Group, costing the taxpayers $807 million.

So these loans are not without risks. We cut these loans, we cut our risk, and we shift the money over to veterans. I think it is a pretty easy thing. It could be done in a few minutes.

But if you will watch, if you will watch the vote, my guess is that nobody from the other side of the aisle will vote to transfer the money over to the veterans. They will just say: Borrow it, put it on my tab. Well, that is why you go to the grocery store and a steak costs $20 at the grocery store; this is why gasoline costs are up; this is why all your prices are up; this is why home prices are doubling, because they are diminishing the value of the dollar with all the borrowing.

So today they will add another $3 billion. They don't care. They think money grows on trees. Here it is, $3 billion, take it. We care about the veterans, but we don't give a damn about the debt. You can care about both. I am for shifting money. Let's don't increase the debt today. Let's take $3 billion that would go to millionaires who own these companies and shift it over to the veterans. Pretty simple. How could anybody vote against it?

But watch the vote. Everyone on the other side of the aisle is going to vote to borrow the money rather than pay for it by shifting the money. The VA shortfall was very foreseeable just as the failure of the DOE loans. The VA has been overwhelmed, receiving more than 2.4 million claims in 2023—the most ever, 39 percent higher.

I warned them, when you pass this, when you allow hypertension to be associated with disability, you are opening Pandora's box, because everybody has got hypertension.

You may recall, I stood here on the Senate floor and warned that the PACT Act would put veterans benefits at risk. Why? Because there truly are veterans that were damaged by burn pits. They inhaled the smoke, and they have chronic asthma, emphysema or cancer.

But those deserving people are having the money taken by people who have high blood pressure. Everybody's got high blood pressure. So if you put them in there, what you are doing is stealing the benefits from the truly—the people who have lung damage from breathing in these fumes.

It is always about, Oh, we care about everybody. Everybody should get money. It is free. No problem. We will just borrow it. Instead of saying: Why don't we try to conserve the resources for those who actually were injured by the burn pits? Instead, it is like: Oh, you got high blood pressure? Sign up. Come on down. We will get you some money.

The PACT Act created a presumption of service connection for hypertension. The CDC estimates 116 million Americans have hypertension: 50 percent of men, 44 percent of women. Over 60 percent of all people have hypertension. If you include hypertension as a trigger for benefits, it broadens the category of recipients so much that it has contributed to the depletion of the funds.

So instead of asking why we are short $3 billion—no one is asking why we are short. They are just, Put it on my tab. Put it on the Nation's tab. Borrow more money.

Why don't we find out what the problem is? Why are we short on money? Because they decided to include hypertension as a trigger for disability.

Because of Congress's inability to make difficult decisions, precious resources that ought to go to veterans exposed to toxic substances are at risk of going up in smoke. They are at risk of being diverted to people who weren't injured by the burn pits.

Congress must take its oversight responsibility seriously, hold the VA accountable for fiscal mismanagement and corruption. In fiscal year 2023, the VA issued 3 billion in improper payments. So we have Veterans Affairs $3 billion short of money, but we found out they gave $3 billion to the wrong people. They made a mistake of issuing checks to the wrong people for $3 billion. Why wouldn't we ask the VA: Hey, we know you are short of money, but guess what. You have got to quit sending the money to the wrong people.

Why wouldn't the people who are sending the money to the wrong people be punished, reassigned? Maybe they shouldn't work for the VA if they aren't competent enough to get the money to the people who are the right people.

Over the past 3 years, it is estimated the VA has had $10 billion in improper payments. In May 2024, the VA's inspector general reported that the Department improperly awarded over $10 million in incentives to its own senior executives. So it has been determined by the inspector general that the VA paid their own executives $10 million in bonuses that shouldn't have been given to the executives, while the executives were overseeing $3 billion that went to the wrong people.

There are resources that could have been devoted—these resources that were wasted and squandered could have been devoted to veterans, to their benefits. Instead, the VA shamefully squandered them.

It is high time that the Members of this body face the incontrovertible fact that Congress's reckless spending has awful consequences. We have seen it in the form of inflation. This is what is happening to Americans. It is what is making all of us poor. And now we see that overspending threatens the benefits that were promised to veterans.

We must use these failures as a warning. We must get serious about our spending and oversight responsibilities. I encourage my colleagues to vote for my amendment as a first step to ensuring our veterans receive the care they deserve.

AMENDMENT NO. 3289

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 3289 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. PAUL] proposes an amendment numbered 3289.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To rescind funds from the Department of Energy loan programs office)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. OFFSET.

Of the unobligated balances of the amount made available under section 50141(b) of Public Law 117–169 (136 Stat. 2043) (commonly referred to as the ''Inflation Reduction Act''), $2,882,482,000 are rescinded.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to each vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, you know, when it comes to supporting our veterans, the bottom line is, we have to live up to our word and get the benefits and care they were promised. I am pleased to say we have a long bipartisan history of coming together and putting our veterans first. That is what the bill before us is about.

But this amendment would jeopardize all of that by making partisan cuts to unrelated programs. Our veterans should not be used as partisan leverage, simple as that.

Now, I fully outright oppose this amendment on the merits. But even for colleagues who may feel differently, I would urge you to join me in voting against this amendment because we should all agree that veterans are not fair game for partisan poison pills. Our

promise to our veterans and their families is a sacred responsibility we have to live up to, not political leverage.

I urge all of my colleagues who feel the same to join me in voting no.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, this amendment is simply about paying for veterans' benefits. It doesn't stop veterans' benefits. It actually pays for them by moving money from wasteful programs over to Veterans Affairs to pay for their benefits.

It does this so we don't add to the debt. I mean, our veterans fought for our country, our national security. Our biggest threat to our national security now is our debt. I think our veterans would want us to do this in a responsible manner.

This amendment makes the veterans' benefits paid for by taking money elsewhere in the budget. It is a responsible way to go.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3289

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on adoption of amendment No. 3289.

Mr. PAUL. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 247 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Barrasso	Ernst	Murkowski
Blackburn	Fischer	Paul
Boozman	Graham	Ricketts
Braun	Grassley	Risch
Britt	Hagerty	Romney
Brown	Hawley	Rubio
Budd	Hoeven	Schmitt
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Tester
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tuberville
Crapo	McConnell	Wicker
Cruz	Moran	Young
Daines	Mullin	

NAYS—47

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Merkley
Bennet	Hassan	Murphy
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Murray
Booker	Helmy	Ossoff
Butler	Hickenlooper	Padilla
Cantwell	Hirono	Peters
Cardin	Kaine	Reed
Casey	Kelly	Rosen
Coons	King	Sanders
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Schatz
Duckworth	Luján	Schumer
Durbin	Manchin	Shaheen
Fetterman	Markey	Sinema
Smith	Warner	Welch
Stabenow	Warnock	Whitehouse
Van Hollen	Warren	

NOT VOTING—6

Carper	Rounds	Vance
Marshall	Tillis	Wyden

(Mr. KING assumed the Chair.)

(The PRESIDENT pro tempore assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 47.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3289) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today, thanks to the PACT Act, more veterans are getting access to more benefits than ever before. But we need to provide additional funding to make sure we keep our promise to all of our veterans, which is why we now have a bill to provide $2.9 billion in additional funding for the Veterans Benefits Administration to pay compensation and pension and readjustment benefits.

This is funding that goes directly to our veterans and that they have been promised. But without this bill, in less than 2 weeks' time, the VA will be unable to issue payments to as many as 7 million veterans and their survivors and 800,000 veterans seeking readjustment benefits.

Our veterans were there for us. We have to be there for them. Congress has a responsibility to ensure these veterans and their family members and survivors receive the benefits they have earned on time. It is as simple as that.

I hope every single one of my colleagues will join me in standing with our veterans and vote to get this done.

Mr. President, I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, under the previous order, the bill is considered read a third time.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

VOTE ON H.R. 9468

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 9468) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume executive session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New Jersey.

MAIDEN SPEECH

Mr. HELMY. Madam President, it is a distinct honor to stand in this esteemed Chamber as a Member of the world's greatest deliberative body, the U.S. Senate. That I am even standing here, just as the 81st New Jerseyan, the 204th American, currently the only Arab American, and the first member of the Coptic Church to hold the title of U.S. Senator, is something I had never imagined and still struggle to accept.

For many years, I proudly served as a staffer for two U.S. Senators from the great State of New Jersey: first, the late Senator Frank Lautenberg; and, as fate would have it, my friend, mentor, now colleague, and senior Senator, CORY BOOKER. As such, it was always my job to be the guy behind the guy. It was my job to make sure they were prepared, that they had the best possible counsel, and were ready to make the consequential decisions required of every U.S. Senator. So standing here now is a little odd, a little overwhelming, and very humbling.

I will, as I have for many years, continue to do my utmost to live up to the faith placed in me by Governor Phil Murphy to be thoughtful, diligent, and a forceful voice and representative of the people of New Jersey. And I have a very short window in which to do just that. In fact, it is my stated intention to resign from this post once the general election is certified by Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way, who also serves as our secretary of state, at which point Governor Murphy has said he will appoint my duly elected successor.

So there is a possibility that my tenure in this body will last all of 73 days. Should that be the case, that means I will tie for the 10th shortest ever tenure as a U.S. Senator, which also means I will forever be rooting for the good health and good fortune of those who follow so that I can make at least one top 10 list at some point in my life.

As with those who have come before me and those who will follow me, no one comes to this august and revered Chamber because they were a wallflower before they got here. So, then, no one seeks to be a wallflower, whether they are here for a day or for a decade.

The challenges facing our Nation are many, but that means so too are the opportunities, and I am going to lean into these opportunities so that, while my time here may be short, my impact may be lasting. So I intend to be focused and I intend to be busy, and I intend to make every single day count for the people of New Jersey.

One vital issue close to my heart and which I will spend much of my energy on over the next 9 weeks is that of our Nation's youth mental health crisis. As a father of two sons—Joshua, age 15, and Elijah, age 12—I know that I cannot make them immune from the strains and stressors that impact their or their friends' mental health, but I can at least try to mitigate the harmful impacts of those stressors while I hold office—and longer, while the Lord gives me life and voice.

The challenges are well known and, frankly, shocking. Over the past decade, cases of severe depression among young adults have nearly doubled. Since 2010, suicidal behavior among our high school students increased by more than 40 percent. And since 2017, the number of our youth hospitalized for anxiety has increased by half, and the proportion hospitalized for self-harm has nearly doubled.

Allow me to repeat that. In just 7 years, the number of youth hospitalized for anxiety has increased by 50 percent, and the proportion of our kids hospitalized for self-harm has increased by nearly 100 percent.

The kids are not OK. Last year alone, 40 percent of our Nation's high schoolers reported feeling so sad or hopeless that they stopped doing their usual activities. That is a truly tragic statistic. Childhood and adolescence should be a time of great hope and optimism, not hopelessness and pessimism.

In our home State of New Jersey, up to one-half of our youth are experiencing poor mental health, and we know this is even more prevalent among young women. In 2021 alone, in New Jersey, nearly 60 percent of female students reported experiencing persistent feelings of sadness and hopelessness. That is double the rate of their male peers. And nearly one in four of our female students have made suicide plans—one in four.

I am incredibly grateful to welcome two teens from New Jersey who have overcome their own struggles with mental health and are now looking toward college and a brighter future.

Emma Baez, sitting in the Gallery, is a senior from North Arlington High School. After experiencing her own challenges, she is now a junior commissioner in the Bergen County Commission on the Status of Women, an important commission serving women like her.

Valeria Gimenez, also in the Gallery, just graduated from Carteret High School. She participated in the Pathways Program, an important counseling center in New Jersey, and says it changed her life. Valeria is starting college in the spring and wants to be a physician one day.

Thank you so much for being here, Valeria and Emma. I deeply admire your courage and perseverance. It gives me great hope that we can and must do more to support teens like you.

The statistics revealing the scope of the suffering among our next generation are unconscionable and unacceptable. We need far more support for our American youth in this acute crisis, and to that end, I am cosponsoring the Supporting All Students Act. The bill will lead to peer line support to provide the critical support our youth need during these moments of crisis, and the bill would also allocate the required funding for more professionals who can support these youth.

Among the LGBTQIA+ youth, the numbers are even more dire, with nearly 40 percent having contemplated suicide and with 1 in 10 having actually attempted to take their own lives. That statistic should break our hearts. I have signed onto a bill with my colleagues, including my mentor and friend Senator BOOKER, called the Pride in Mental Health Act.

Before I go on, I would be remiss not to acknowledge the senior Senator from New Jersey, Senator CORY BOOKER, who is seated to my left here today. I am in awe of the relentless fight that he has undertaken for the voiceless and marginalized, both back home in his beloved city of Newark, throughout our entire State of New Jersey, the Nation, and beyond.

Senator BOOKER, your work ethic and compassion inspire me every day. I am beyond blessed to have you in my corner. Both CORY and I are known for quoting the same line because of the upbringing that we have had. And we like to say in our speeches that we stand on the shoulders of giants. Well, let me say now, that from the moment I met CORY in 2012 up to this very moment standing here on the Senate floor, I have stood on his.

I am excited to partner with my senior Senator and others on the Pride In Mental Health Act, which will enhance mental health support for the LGBTQIA youth, both by providing grants to provide and improve mental health and substance abuse outcomes, in addition to mandating the cultural competency and training for our caregivers that we know is so needed.

We can point to numerous stressors which are feeding the crisis. I think all parents like me know them well. Social media lands at the very top of that list. Social media has altered not only the way our young people interact but the way they see themselves and even the way their brains develop. Just last year, the Surgeon General released a historic and alarming report recognizing the detrimental impacts of social media on our youth. Like the warning linking cigarettes to cancer and mortality, the Surgeon General issued an unprecedented warning last year, confirming the serious risks to our youth from social media.

There has been an unprecedented shift in how our young people are spending their time with each other and alone. Over half of our teenagers spend at least 4 hours per day on social media. Frequent users of social media are likely to experience twice as many mental health challenges, including suicide.

The isolation forced upon our youth in the pandemic and compounded by social media has further exasperated stress in their lives and on their families. In the daily beat of news stories, practically every teen sees almost every minute on their phones: school shootings, climate change, political division and animosity, the opioid and fentanyl epidemic, anti-Arab rhetoric and anti-Semitism, and on and on. It has only aided in creating this hopelessness feedback loop.

I have also cosponsored the Youth Mental Health Data Act, which aims to establish a Federal task force focused on improving the data systems needed to help solve the problem.

It can be easy for some of us to sit back and say counseling is what our kids need. And, yes, the resources have been poured by this body and others into communities to provide more and better counseling for our at-risk youth. However, serious disparities remain.

And even in areas where access has been enhanced—particularly in those lower income and immigrant communities which have received funding to address these key issues—the utilization of these services remains unacceptably low.

To tackle this problem, we must first fully understand, for example, why at-risk youth are not availing themselves of the available services and resources.

I am committed to breaking this negative cycle. I am committed to preventing our most precious national asset—our next generation—from falling further into this downward spiral.

Yet here, amongst all this despair, is where I see opportunity, and opportunity means hope. I am hopeful because I know my colleagues on both side of the aisle, led by our majority leader CHUCK SCHUMER, see these opportunities too. From my neighbor colleague representing Pennsylvania, Senator BOB CASEY, to my friend and staffer turned Member from Alabama, KATIE BRITT, I am inspired by the conversations I have had with Members and others about protecting our children. And I am hopeful to continue to find common ground and that both parties can stand to address the universe of issues. The youth mental health crisis is not a Democratic or Republican issue. It is and must be an American priority.

We need not reinvent the wheel. As mentioned, there are numerous good pieces of legislation before the Senate. I have proudly put my name on cosponsoring a number of them. We must also look to the States, the true laboratories of our democracy, for policy solutions that have worked to chip away at this crisis.

During my time serving as chief of staff to Governor Murphy, he led the National Governors Association and committed 1 year of his term to building a national playbook for tackling just this, the youth mental health crisis. I should note that his cochair, whose staff I worked with closely, was Governor Spencer Cox of Utah. No one is ever going to confuse the politics of Governor Spencer Cox and Governor Murphy. But together, our teams proved the power of bipartisanship in taking on seemingly intractable issues.

I will be clear-eyed about one thing. Even if we are successful getting at least one measure to the President's desk and seeing it become law, it will not mean the end of our efforts to address the youth mental health crisis. As with many things in this Chamber,

there will always be more work for us to do together.

As I conclude my remarks, Madam President, it is in this spirit—the spirit of bipartisanship, of partnership, of collaboration for the greater good—upon which I wish to land. I had no intention of ever seeking office. I guess, for me, once a staffer, always a staffer. However, duty called to continue my service to the people of New Jersey.

I have had the great privilege of directly working for two U.S. Senators and a Governor, all who embody the true term ''public servant.'' These jobs afforded me the ability to work alongside many more elected officials, from local council and school board members all the way up to President of the United States.

I draw great inspiration from one of my own esteemed former New Jersey colleagues, our late Lieutenant Governor, Sheila Oliver. She was the first Black woman elected to serve as speaker of the New Jersey Assembly and the first Black woman in our State's history to be elected to statewide office. She was smart; she was funny; and, you bet, she was Jersey tough.

In her first inauguration, January of 2018, Sheila said, ''We make history not in the moment, but in what we do with it.''

During my time in this capacity, I am dedicated to making a lasting impact that will benefit our Nation's youth. When I accepted this position, I told the people of New Jersey that part of my job, aside from representing them here on the floor of the U.S. Senate and in the important work we do in our State offices, was to begin to restore their faith in our democracy and trust in this office. If I can do just that, even for a little bit in my remaining time, I will have succeeded.

I thank my colleagues who have honored me and joined me on the floor or for tuning into my maiden speech. And I want to dedicate and thank my team who are here on the floor, in the Gallery, and offices back home, for standing by my side as we continue to serve the people of New Jersey.

In regard to my short time here, I channel the late great Robert F. Kennedy:

> Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

I pray that my work here will be remembered as a tiny ray of hope. I look forward to the next few months in which I will be a Member of this august body, and I intend to use every moment to its fullest, working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

I hope and pray that I can be helpful to making a difference to what they do, to continue to support their work with this brief moment here in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I want to take a moment.

We just heard a speech that is special, not just because it is a maiden speech but because of the man who gave it. GEORGE HELMY is 1 of 2,004 Americans in the history of our country—hundreds of millions of people—who has ever been a U.S. Senator.

I will tell you, he is different. He said it in his biography. He is the first-ever person of the Coptic faith to be here. That is a phenomenal accomplishment in and of itself to the growing diversity of a body known for its lack of diversity.

But I will say what makes him truly special is that he has been a man behind the scenes that, for the Governor, Senators, and others, has made our State already such a better place. I have watched him do the work that others often take credit for, that has made him in my heart and through the millions of New Jerseyans he has touched—has already made him one of New Jersey's extraordinary public servants.

I will note that he—in his time in the Senate—has staffers, as he pointed out, and many of them have taken an unusual assignment: to leave their jobs that they had to come take a temporary assignment to serve this country. For that, they have my tribute.

If I can end by just saying one more thing that makes him special. He is throwing himself into this job as if every single day is precious. I dare say, there is not a Senator in this body who is taking each day like he is and trying to make it as meaningful as possible. In that sense, Jersey has a Senator that is incredibly hard-working.

I want to tell you something. This morning, I woke up and saw a text message from him at 6 in the morning. The last time he annoyed me like that, he was my State director because that is how hard-working he was then. And when I woke up then and I got those early, early morning text messages, they were often about something that was vital, something that was important.

This morning, that text message made me angry because here is the most junior Senator—100th in seniority—writing to me asking my advice on what to do about something that happened yesterday, in which 1 of our 100 colleagues in a hearing took on a witness who happened to be there to talk about working against hate—the chairman will know this—attacked them with questions that were so painful to listen to. I went to the tape and heard a Muslim American being asked if they support Hamas, being asked if they support Hezbollah. It was offensive.

And this Arab American, this U.S. Senator, at 6 in the morning, wanted to make sure that this was the first thing I read to talk to me about that.

GEORGE HELMY is a colleague—equal vote, equal power—but his being an Arab American gives this body something that is needed, that I have seen in the women that are here, I have seen in the Latinos, the Asian Americans—people that have come from unusual pathways to be in this body to stretch its diversity and representation. They bring a different lived experience often and a deeper empathy and connection.

We are in a moment in America where we are seeing rising hate, rising hate crimes, rising racial violence, rising religious violence. And every single one of us has an obligation to lose sleep over it, to struggle with it, to feel the pain of Americans like that witness in a Judiciary hearing, to feel the pain that they feel when they are being accused or questioned or attacked for who they are or how they pray.

It may be only 73 days GEORGE HELMY is serving in the Senate, but this body needs him. It needs his conscience. It needs his heart. It needs his empathy. It needs his love. And I dare say, he will have a short time here, but I know the difference he makes here will endure.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, GEORGE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

URANIUM WORKERS

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, this country's success in the Second World War and in the Cold War was driven by our nuclear program. It was made possible by the Manhattan Project and the follow-on projects that made our nuclear program the envy of the world and the most powerful part of our military arsenal. And do you know what that was made possible by? It was made possible by the work and the sacrifices of everyday Americans in States like New Mexico and Arizona and, yes, my home State of Missouri, where we processed uranium for the Federal Government.

These workers, these Americans who risked their lives and who risked their health in order to help their country build a program that helped us win wars—they deserve our thanks, not mockery. That is why finally, after decades, the Senate finally, in March of this year, passed my legislation with Senator LUJÁN by a huge bipartisan margin—nearly 70 votes—to compensate those good Americans who gave their health, who gave their energy, and, yes, in some cases gave their lives to sustaining our nuclear effort.

Here is what happened in all too many places. In places like St. Louis, MO, and St. Charles, MO, when the uranium processing stopped, the government didn't clean up their mess. No, the government dumped the leftover uranium into public landfills, dumped it into public streams, dumped it into our waterways and into our soil. And now it is everywhere. Now it is underneath homes. Now it is next to our

schools. Now it is in the water and in the air in places across the region. Numerous, multiple—at this point, countless—members of the State of Missouri, residents of St. Louis and St. Charles, have gotten sick, have died. We have some of the highest rates of cancer in the Nation in St. Louis, the highest rates of breast cancer. Why is that? Because there is so much nuclear radiation in the area that is still not cleaned up because the government never cleaned it up.

That is why the Senate acted in March by that big bipartisan margin to force a cleanup and to compensate those Americans who have gotten sick, those who have lost family members because of the government's inability to clean up their own mess, because of the government's nuclear program that they never properly paid for in terms of compensation to the Americans who made it possible.

Now that bill is in the House awaiting action, and even as we sit here today, it continues to be attacked by those who just think that if you want to be compensated for the damage the U.S. Government caused to you, you are somehow greedy and unthankful and ungrateful and undeserving of any help or recognition or thanks from this country.

Nothing could be further from the truth, but I read today in the Wall Street Journal yet another attack on these good Americans—an attack that appears to have the support of Members of Congress, which I find absolutely unbelievable.

I don't know how anybody, why anybody would want to attack the victims of nuclear radiation. And they are not just victims; they are heroes. They are the people who made possible our victories in the Second World War and the Cold War. But to read the Wall Street Journal's op-ed page today, you would think that if you are a uranium worker, a mine worker, that you ought to just be quiet and go off into the corner and die. That is what they say. If you are a uranium worker, then you don't deserve any compensation for the fact that while you were down in the mines making possible your government's victory in war, you were also being exposed to nuclear radiation that made you sick. To listen to this op-ed tell the story, you should just be thankful that you got to live as long as you did, and if your family has to suffer the consequences of your illness, of your cancer, if you have lost loved ones because of their exposure to nuclear radiation, well, too bad, according to the Wall Street Journal. Too bad. Just shut up and take it.

I can't believe anybody would treat nuclear radiation victims this way, but to read this story, you would think that nobody who lived in a uranium processing site, like in Missouri, who worked in a uranium mine, who had lived downwind of nuclear tests, like in New Mexico and Arizona and Utah, that nobody who has been exposed to radiation by their own government should get anything. That is the essential premise of what the Journal writes today.

What I find potentially most disturbing is their references to Senators and Members of Congress who appear to agree to that. I mean, I just invite the Members of Congress here, if you agree with that, if you don't want to compensate nuclear radiation victims from your own State, by all means, come here to this floor. Come and tell us. Tell the world. If you don't support what the Senate did, if you want to try to kill it in the House, tell us. Put your name to it. Don't hide behind the Wall Street Journal; come and put your name to it.

This is a time to stand up and be counted because, I will tell you what, the victims of this radiation, our heroes—they have waited for decades. They have borne the cost for decades. They deserve some justice. They are coming to Capitol Hill, oh yeah. They are going to be here. They will be here next week. They are coming, and they want to see some progress. They are coming, and they want to see results. And I would invite anybody who is opposed to them, who is opposed to their compensation, who is opposed to justice for them, to come and explain it to their face. Come to this floor. Come to this floor.

Now, I know there are some in my own party who would like to say that 47 percent of the American public are just freeloaders and don't deserve anything, and we ought to treat these people like them. I disagree with all of them. It is ludicrous. It is ridiculous. And I don't know why any member of a State that has nuclear radiation victims would want to try to block the effort to compensate them. I don't understand it at all. I don't get it.

And I will tell you what, we will not stop fighting, we will not stop working until every nuclear radiation victim who has given their life and health for the support of this Nation is thanked and compensated. We are almost there. This body has done it. This body has done it. I believe there is real progress in the House. I hope we can act soon. But it is time now for Members of Congress to stand up and be counted, and it is time to stand together for justice for our heroes who have made possible this country's success, who have made possible this country's victories, and who have shown us what true devotion to country looks like.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 550.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Michael Sfraga, of Alaska, to be Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 550, Michael Sfraga, of Alaska, to be Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs.

Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Raphael G. Warnock, Ben Ray Luján, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Baldwin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Angus S. King, Jr., Michael F. Bennet, Mark Kelly, Jeanne Shaheen, Tim Kaine, Chris Van Hollen, Debbie Stabenow, Brian Schatz.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

CORPORAL MICHAEL D. ANDERSON JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING—Motion to Proceed

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 457, H.R. 1555.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed on Calendar No. 457, H.R. 1555, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Sylvan Avenue in Modesto, California, as the ''Corporal Michael D. Anderson Jr. Post Office Building''.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 457, H.R.

1555, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Sylvan Avenue in Modesto, California, as the ''Corporal Michael D. Anderson Jr. Post Office Building''.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Raphael G. Warnock, Ben Ray Luján, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Baldwin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Angus S. King, Jr., Michael F. Bennet, Mark Kelly, Jeanne Shaheen, Tim Kaine, Chris Van Hollen, Debbie Stabenow.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, September 19, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I return the floor to the Senator from Maryland for his outstanding, excellent, perspicacious remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

PROJECT 2025

Mr. CARDIN. First, let me thank my leader for those kind remarks.

Mr. President, as the Senator from the State of Maryland, I am so proud to represent so many Marylanders who are Federal workers dedicated to helping their fellow citizens with the essential work that they provide. So I come to the floor today to speak about the threat Project 2025 poses to our Federal workforce and to our Nation.

This is a plan that, if enacted, would take America back to some of the darkest chapters in our history, from a nationwide abortion ban, to eliminating civil rights for millions of Americans, to gutting the checks and balances enshrined in our Constitution by the Founding Fathers and putting unlimited power in the President's hands. This kind of extremism is deeply disturbing.

As the Senator from Maryland and chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I want to focus on one particular reason I think these ideas are so dangerous, and that is the way Project 2025 targets nonpartisan public servants in the Federal Government.

In the State of Maryland alone, there are over 150,000 Federal employees serving our country and their fellow Americans. They are dedicated, and they believe in public service, and they have always played important roles: repatriating stranded Americans who were stuck overseas when COVID–19 hit; leading negotiations to get the release of wrongfully detained Americans in Russia and Venezuela; coordinating the resettlement of Afghan refugees who supported our mission for over two decades; global drug prevention efforts; hurricane response training; emergency food assistance; counterterrorism. In every region of the globe and in every State of our Nation, public servants, our civil servants, put principle over politics in order to serve their fellow citizens.

So that is why we need to be clear-eyed about what Project 2025 will mean not only to our Federal workforce, but to our national security.

Project 2025 is a blueprint for a government that is so radical and disturbing even Donald Trump himself doesn't want to take credit for it. He said, ''I have no idea who is behind it''—well, despite the fact that six of his former Cabinet Secretaries helped write it.

Let me quote from the president of the Heritage Foundation, the think tank organizing the project. This is what he said about the federal workforce:

People will lose their jobs.

Talk about an understatement.

Project 2025 envisions Federal employees who will be politically loyal to an individual and a cult of personality rather than loyal to the Constitution and the letter of the law.

Our Federal workforce are career diplomats, career servants, career people trying to serve their fellow citizens. We do not want to politicize our civil workforce.

As the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I must tell you, this is the kind of thing authoritarian governments do.

Project 2025 will weaken our country and put it in a place the United States has not seen before.

Now these ideas aren't exactly new. There is a long track record of smearing Federal employees as being part of the deep state. Back in 2020, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee produced a staff report detailing the concerning efforts the last administration had on the State Department, on its morale, and on trying to affect its professionalism.

A culture of fear and mistrust, vacant positions, nominees with extreme views and concerning records—unfortunately, that seems to be a glimpse of what could lie ahead with Project 2025.

The President and American Federation of Government Employees said:

Project 2025 will take away freedoms and rights from every American, will hurt the middle class and working families, and is a threat to our democracy.

They want to gut Federal workers' pay and benefits; they want to eliminate millions of Federal jobs; they want to make it easier to discriminate against people of color, women, and LGBTQ people. From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to Veterans' Administration to the Environmental Protection Agency, they want to make big changes. They want to dismantle support for public education. They want to eliminate the entirety of the Department of Homeland Security.

These are extreme ideas. I believe these ideas are incredibly dangerous, and we must do everything we can to support our public servants. That is why I applaud the Biden-Harris administration and the Office of Personnel Management for issuing a rule in opposition to the previous administration's Schedule F classification.

I have also cosponsored legislation with Senator KAINE to codify the same effort.

As a longtime member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—now its chair—I have been working to strengthen its workforce at the State Department, USAID, and other international affairs Agencies.

From making sure our personnel have the ability to compete globally to increasing recruitment and retention—that should be our focus. Let's make our civil service more competitive with the best, most innovative people leading our national security, diplomacy, and Federal Agencies—not dismantling them.

At the time of its implementation more than a century ago, our merit-based civil service was an anti-corruption initiative. President Teddy Roosevelt, who is known as the father of modern civil service, wrote that its ''importance lies in the fact that it is the most powerful implement with which to work for the moral regeneration of our public life. No other force so strongly tends to increase the political weight of decent citizens.''

That was the motivation behind the civil service, and it is more important today than ever.

So I agree our Federal work employees are a tremendous force of good for our community. We don't acknowledge them enough on this floor. We don't do enough to help them and to support them and give them the resources they need. We certainly don't want to make it more difficult for people to serve our country.

That is why we must say no to targeting of American public servants for doing their jobs. No to loyalty tests. No to bypassing congressional oversight. No to taking our country backwards to a time before there were civil rights and reproductive rights, and no to weakening our democratic institutions.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY ENGINEERING

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate 150 years of Purdue engineering. Purdue engineering produces more than 5 percent of our engineering students in the country. Engineering alumni from Purdue have distinguished themselves for 150 years around the world and even on the moon. The first and most recent men to walk on the moon—Neil Armstrong and Gene Cernan—were both Purdue engineering alumni.

Purdue engineers have been behind many other great leaps for mankind. Some of the greatest wonders of engineering here in the United States are byproducts of Purdue engineers, such as the Golden Gate Bridge. Purdue engineering touches every aspect of our

day-to-do life. Alumni and alumnae have been behind many innovations and technologies that are foundational to our modern life, like transistors—something as basic as that.

This resolution celebrates 150 years of Purdue engineering and the significant accomplishments Purdue engineering alumni and alumnae have had on our world.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 830, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 830) recognizing the 150th anniversary of Purdue University Engineering.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 830) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

PURPLE MARTIN CONSERVATION DAY

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I rise today on another topic, one that is dear to me. I have been involved in this pastime since I was 10 years old. Most of you may not know where I am going to go, but it is one of the most unique birds that the good Lord ever created. It is called a purple martin. It is a bird, about 8 ounces or so, that migrates back and forth from North America to the Amazon. Does it each year.

I became a landlord for them back many, many years ago. And it is the only bird, through adapting, that is now totally dependent on man-made housing—you have seen gourds out there. They are a bird that only lives in a colony; most song birds are territorial. A really unique bird.

There is actually an association called the Purple Martin Conservation Association, where avid supporters support it across the country.

Due to habitat loss over time, where their normal habitat would have been in the wild, many years ago Inuits lured them into their own communities because the purple martins only eat flying insects. Truly an amazing bird that has been under some pressure recently. And if that heritage isn't continued, since they are now dependent on man-made housing, we could lose one of the most unique birds that God ever created.

Efforts from conservationists across the country have been mostly behind making sure that this heritage remains. This is a resolution that celebrates the efforts of all of them. It designated this past August 10 as ''Purple Martin Conservation Day'' to recognize their work and to protect this natural treasure.

This resolution was endorsed by the National Audubon Society, North American Bluebird Society, the Purple Martin Conservation Association, and many other naturalists and conservation groups.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 803.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 803) recognizing the importance of purple martins to United States ecosystems, tourism, and history by designating August 10, 2024, as ''Purple Martin Conservation Day''.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BRAUN. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to; the preamble be agreed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 803) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of August 1, 2024, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. I ask that the scheduled vote occur immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

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 bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 700 Rose E. Jenkins, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

Ron Wyden, Alex Padilla, Debbie Stabenow, Catherine Cortez Masto, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, John W. Hickenlooper, Christopher Murphy, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Chris Van Hollen, Tammy Baldwin, Tina Smith.

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 Rose E. Jenkins, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted ''yea.''

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 76, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 248 Leg.]

YEAS—76

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Padilla
Barrasso	Graham	Peters
Bennet	Grassley	Reed
Blumenthal	Hassan	Ricketts
Booker	Heinrich	Risch
Britt	Helmy	Romney
Brown	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Budd	Hirono	Sanders
Butler	Hoeven	Schatz
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Capito	Johnson	Shaheen
Cardin	Kaine	Sinema
Carper	Kelly	Smith
Casey	Kennedy	Stabenow
Cassidy	King	Tester
Collins	Klobuchar	Thune
Coons	Luján	Van Hollen
Cornyn	Lummis	Warner
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Warnock
Cramer	Markey	Warren
Crapo	McConnell	Welch
Daines	Merkley	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Murkowski	Wicker
Durbin	Murphy	Young
Fetterman	Murray	
Fischer	Ossoff	

NAYS—15

Boozman	Hagerty	Paul
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Lee	Scott (SC)
Ernst	Mullin	Sullivan

NOT VOTING—9

Blackburn	Rounds	Tuberville
Marshall	Schmitt	Vance
Moran	Tillis	Wyden

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 76, the nays are 15.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Connecticut.

HEALTHCARE OWNERSHIP

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, when I was growing up, I had a pediatrician. His name was Dr. Cartlon. He was kind. He was reassuring. His advice and his comfort meant a lot to my parents, who were young parents and in need of a steady shoulder to lean on

when their kids were born. I remember Dr. Cartlon distinctly even though he retired when I was pretty young, and I remember that he was a really important part of my family's support system. He was an important part of our community and family identity.

My kids don't have a pediatrician; they have many pediatricians. That is because the big pediatric practice that we use decided that it was inefficient and not cost-effective to assign one pediatrician to every family.

Every time we book an appointment, we go see a different doctor at this practice. They are all competent. Our kids are healthy. This very efficient system—it does mean that we probably get in to see a doctor faster than when my parents were trying to find a last-minute appointment with only a very busy Dr. Cartlon. It is an efficient system, but it is hollow. I don't know any of the doctors' names. We have no relationship with one pediatrician. It is clinical. It is not personal. And while we get good care, I admit it leaves you feeling a little bit empty, a little bit alone, as if you are just a number or a name in an appointment book. Without a Dr. Cartlon that you can count on, that experience is a little less assuring.

So I got curious, and I looked up who owns this very competent, very efficient pediatric practice that we use. What I learned is that the primary investor in our children's pediatric practice is Goldman Sachs.

A Wall Street investment bank owning your children's pediatrician would have sounded silly to Americans a generation ago, but today, the role of private equity and hedge funds and big banks in healthcare ownership is one of the most important stories in healthcare, and by and large, it is bad news for patients.

Right in front of our eyes, the defining purpose of our healthcare system is being transformed. Our hospitals and our nursing homes, our hospice care, even our kids' pediatric practices now exist often for the primary purpose of making obscene amounts of money for investors. It is not about keeping us healthy; it is about return on investment. That is what I want to spend a few minutes talking to my colleagues about today.

Historically, you could count on your doctor's office and your nearest hospital to be locally owned, likely to be not-for-profit, and trust that the reason they existed was to make sure that patients got the care they needed. The people that owned the healthcare institutions you counted on lived in your community. They didn't answer to New York private equity firms or Los Angeles investment companies; they were accountable to you, to their neighbors.

That really mattered. It made you feel safe. It reassured you that you or your loved ones were in good hands—because ultimately that is the only thing that matters. When we are at our most vulnerable—whether that be because of something joyous, like a pregnancy, or something more worrying, like a difficult diagnosis—all we want to know is that the priority at that institution that we or our loved one is at is that we are being taken care of, that the primary motivation of the person taking care of us is taking care of us, but increasingly, that is no longer the case.

Let's just take for today private equity firms—companies that buy up companies, extract as much rent from them as possible, and then quickly turn them over to the next highest bidder.

Over the past decade, private equity investors have spent more than $1 trillion acquiring hospitals, nursing homes, and physician practices. You can see here in this chart that private equity acquired six times as many medical practices in 2021 compared to just a decade earlier, in 2012.

The reach today of private equity in our healthcare system is enormous. Think everything from specialists, like OB/GYNs and anesthesiologists, to generalists, like primary private care providers and emergency services and urgent care. You might not even know that the new doctor you are seeing or the place where you are getting your blood work done is owned not by anybody in your community but by a far-off private equity firm.

To understand why this is so dangerous, you just have to understand what private equity is all about and how it makes a very small number of people a ton of money. The playbook is pretty simple. Private equity firms invest in companies—largely through borrowed money—then flip them for a quick profit to enrich themselves and their investors. It is called buy, strip, flip.

Buy: The private equity firm uses a leveraged buyout normally, meaning they put up a small amount of their own money and borrow all the rest, immediately saddling their new purchase with huge amounts of debt.

Strip: They comb through the balance sheets to find as many cost-cutting opportunities as possible. They lay off workers. They stop paying vendors. They even might sell the land underneath the company that they bought, giving themselves a big one-time payout, leaving the company to pay rent on the space that they used to own.

And then flip: They find a new buyer or they get bailed out by somebody—sometimes even government—and walk away richer than before and completely insulated from any legal or moral fallout from the consequences of their actions.

Short-term profit is the priority, and in the healthcare system, that comes with real risk and downside because at the moment you are most vulnerable, you want to make sure that the priority is taking care of you.

Let me tell you a story to give you a little example about how this works. Prospect Medical Holdings is a safety-net hospital operator, which means they provide healthcare to people who are on Medicaid, people who don't have insurance. Prospect was acquired by a private equity firm in 2010 and currently owns 16 hospitals in this country in Pennsylvania, California, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

Before we get into the details, let's talk about how a private equity firm buys a hospital. They raise capital from investors, but a huge portion of the money they raise, as I mentioned before, is borrowed. So from the start, the hospital that they are buying is millions of dollars in debt, additional debt, and is immediately responsible for generating revenue to pay that debt—debt that the hospital didn't acquire, debt that is on the hospital because the ownership company borrowed the money in order to buy the hospital. Sometimes that means taking a bad financial situation and ultimately replacing it with an even worse one.

So in 2016, this company, Prospect, bought three hospitals in my State—Rockville General, Manchester Memorial, and Waterbury Hospital—for a total of $150 million. Combined, these hospitals serve about 600,000 patients. They employ about 4,000 people.

For most of the people who live in this area, these hospitals are their best and sometimes their only option. Access to emergency rooms, especially if you live in one of the more rural parts of the State, can be a matter of life and death. Many of the patients are on Medicare and Medicaid, and they might not have access to transportation that would allow them to get to a hospital farther away.

I should note that 80 percent of Prospect's revenues come from Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, meaning this company and the hospitals it owns are largely funded by us, by taxpayers.

These hospitals in Connecticut, I will admit, weren't in great financial shape when they were bought. But they were hopeful that these new owners—these new owners with lots of money at their disposal—would bring an infusion of investment—that is what was promised—and would help right the ship.

Two years after their purchase, the hospitals in Rockville, Manchester, and Waterbury hadn't seen much of any improvement or investment. In fact, they were beginning to fall into greater disrepair. As the three of them entered some pretty dire financial straits, Prospect didn't make further investments. They took out a $1.1 billion mortgage and made these hospitals the collateral. Surely, they put some of that money—they used the hospitals as collateral. They raised $1.1 billion. Surely, they put that money back into the hospitals to pay for the repairs and improve their financial situations.

You know the story. They didn't do that. In fact, half of that loan—they used the hospitals for collateral. Half of that loan went to dividends to investors and executives across the country in California, where Prospect was located. And $90 million went straight to

one person, the CEO. Let me guarantee you, $90 million would have made a huge difference at Waterbury Hospital. It would have saved lives. But Waterbury Hospital was used as collateral so that Sam Lee, the CEO, could make $90 million. Next to nothing went toward a single one of the 16 hospitals that Prospect owns across the country. Prospect owes the State of Connecticut $67 million in unpaid taxes. They owe the low-income city of Waterbury, which struggles to pay its elementary school teachers, $10.5 million. None of that money went to pay the taxes they owe Connecticut and the city of Waterbury.

Prospect's CEO made $90 million while his company refused to pay taxes. But maybe, you ask, the CEO really needed the money. Well, he didn't. It is just greed. This guy, Sam Lee, I don't know him, but he owns not one but two luxury homes in Los Angeles. They are worth more than $15 million combined. Each of them has its own pool. One even has its own private basketball court. They are 11 minutes from each other. Sam Lee pillaged three Medicaid hospitals in Connecticut so he could have two mansions 11 minutes apart.

But here is the real problem. Sam Lee isn't the exception; he is the rule.

We just finished up a set of hearings in meetings on Steward Health Care, which used the same playbook as Prospect to run their hospitals into the ground while their out-of-State CEO also cashed out. The hospitals Steward bought in Louisiana and Massachusetts were gutted.

A nurse testified before our committee this month that they put dead babies in cardboard boxes because they wouldn't pay for the kind of temporary coffin that would normally be used for a dead child. The nurses would leave during the day to go to local stores to buy basic supplies on their own dime because they didn't have them in the hospital.

The elevators in these Steward Health Care hospitals stopped working. Why? Well, in this case, it is so that CEO, Ralph de la Torre, who ignored a congressional subpoena to appear before the HELP Committee this month, could buy a $40 million, 190-foot yacht with six bedrooms that costs $4 million a year just to keep in the water—dead babies in cardboard boxes so that a CEO could burn $80,000 a week on a crew and shrimp cocktails and champagne for his private yacht. That is obscene. That is revolting. But that is our choice. That is the healthcare system that our laws currently allow to exist.

What is happening at Prospect and Steward is happening all over the country. I am not saying that every private equity firm is as rapacious as those that I am talking about today. And private equity firms will tell you these hospitals and nursing homes were inefficient before they bought them, and they will claim that the private equity ownership increased efficiency and quality.

But here is maybe the most important thing to tell you. It is just not true. Yes, as I explained with regard to my own pediatric practice, efficiency—profit-maximizing efficiency—is often not good for the well-being or the peace of mind of patients. My kid's pediatric practice is efficient, but it doesn't deliver the same kind of satisfaction and peace of mind as it does when you have a reliable pediatrician.

But, more importantly, there is actually no evidence that private equity ownership increases quality or reduces costs. As I am going to tell you, the evidence suggests exactly the opposite is true.

A recent study from Harvard Medical School asked the simple question: Are patients at hospitals acquired by private equity receiving worse care than patients at hospitals not owned by private equity? Researchers analyzed insurance data from almost 5 million Medicare hospitalizations for 10 years, and the findings were stunning, though not surprising.

After a hospital was acquired by a private equity firm, there was a 25-percent increase in complications for patients. Patients experienced 27 percent more falls, 38 percent more bloodstream infections. The rate of surgical site infections was double that of hospitals not owned by private equity. Those are stunning numbers. This is not patient care being 5 percent worse, 10 percent worse. You are talking about infection rates after surgeries having doubled, just because a private equity firm owns it, rather than the hospital being in the hands of the local community.

Why? When private equity takes over, it is mostly not about the patient. It is about the profit. How do you maximize profit really quickly? You have to do it really quickly because you have to start paying back those loans you took out to buy the hospital. You have to start getting ready to flip the asset. You have to make the rich CEOs even richer.

What do you do? You fire employees to cut costs. You force the remaining doctors and nurses to just see more patients for less time. You cut corners on supplies and equipment. You discharge patients much more quickly if that makes you more money.

OK, that is quality. But what about cost? It turns out that private equity ownership is driving up costs for premium payers and taxpayers. One study looked at what happens when a private equity firm engages in a rollup strategy, otherwise known as buying up a lot of small doctor groups in the same market. That study found that in 8 out of 10 specialities they looked at, from oncology to primary care, the price of care went up after these private equity rollups by as much as 16 percent.

So when private equity buys up a healthcare practice, quality goes down, satisfaction goes down, cost to consumers and the government goes up.

It begs a larger question: How has capitalism gone so far off the rails? How have the rules of our economy become so unmoored from the common good and any conception of morality? No one in this country would endorse the healthcare system in which nurses at a hospital are forced to go to the local CVS because the emergency room ran out of Pedialyte, just so the hospital owner could pay for the expensive upkeep of a luxury boat. Nobody in this country thinks it is OK for a hospital CEO to refuse to pay taxes so he can easily make his mortgage payments on his two luxury homes 11 minutes away from each other.

These private equity CEOs, who are hurting people in order to fund their lavish lifestyles, most of them don't think they are doing anything wrong. They think they are just playing by the rules. And to an extent, they are right, because our government, our culture, and our society have deemed it OK for people to make a fortune even when it comes at the expense of hurting other people.

Listen, there are parts of the economy where maximizing profit aligns with maximizing quality, but healthcare is not one of them. People are dying in these hospitals and nursing homes so that the executives can get rich. That is not right, and we don't have to accept it.

We can build a free-market economy that has guardrails to protect against the worst kind of immoral greed and excess. I don't begrudge anybody making money, but if you are making money off the most sacred parts of our economy, like our Medicaid hospitals, and you are making money basically by funneling taxpayer dollars to your own pocketbook, there has to be a limit.

And, today, I am just outlining the problem. But make no mistake, there are solutions. Congress and the President do not have to accept this trend of private equity ownership in our healthcare system and the abuse that it allows.

For instance, the Biden administration and the FTC, through Chair Lina Khan, are taking these risks seriously. They are filing anti-trust suits against private equity-backed healthcare monopolies.

In the Senate, the HELP Committee, as I mentioned, just finished a hearing on the abuses of that one company, Steward Health Care, and we heard outrage from both Republicans and Democrats on the committee. When that CEO refused to testify—ignored the subpoena—Republicans and Democrats voted to sanction him for that illegal action. Congress can take a stand and limit or restrict private equity or investor ownership of healthcare institutions that receive a bulk of their revenue from Federal programs like Medicare or Medicaid.

Let's be clear. This is not the only problem in the American healthcare system. We have a lot of work to do to increase quality and reduce costs. But this new phenomenon—the

financialization of healthcare and the rapidly increasing ownership of healthcare intuitions by private equity—has happened virtually overnight, with little public discussion, and it has made all of the failures that already existed in our healthcare system 100 times worse. It has been a boon to the private yacht industry, but it has been largely miserable for patients.

It might feel like this train has left the station, but it has not. It is not too late to turn it around. Congress can and should act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The President pro tempore.

ABORTION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a new resolution that I introduced which reaffirms the basic principle that when you go to the ER, they should be allowed to treat you.

When your life is in danger, doctors should be able to do their job. And when you need emergency care, including an abortion, no politician should stop you from getting it. This is so simple.

And yet, when President Biden and Vice President HARRIS tried to make that clear, Republicans worked to stop them, opposing the basic notion that, yes, ER doctors might have to provide emergency abortion care to save a woman's life.

Make no mistake, we are talking about women whose water breaks dangerously early or who are experiencing uncontrollable hemorrhage or sepsis or preeclampsia.

These are patients we are saying doctors should treat under the basic right to emergency care. These are the women Republicans don't think deserve access to emergency care.

I don't know where on the long path of anti-abortion extremism that saving lives became a bridge too far for so many Republicans, but that is where we are. It is not just an extreme position, it is a very dangerous one, and it is a deadly one.

There are so many tragic stories about how Republican abortion bans are hurting women. Those stories include women who have been unable to get an abortion after a pregnancy became bad for their health, unable to get one after the situation had become a medical emergency, unable to get one until the only option was a hysterectomy that totally ends their dream of having a child one day, and in some heartbreaking cases, women have been unable to get an abortion until it is too late. They have died. They have died because Republican bans denied and delayed the care they needed.

Just this week, we heard the stories of two Black mothers who lost their lives in Georgia due to the State's draconian abortion ban. According to a report from ProPublica, in 2022, after Georgia's 6-week abortion ban went into effect, a pregnant woman went into the ER. She was a single mom. She had a serious infection and needed a D&C. That is a routine procedure and the standard of care for her condition.

Her case was not a mystery, but even if it was clear that a D&C would save her life, it was not clear her doctors could provide that without facing legal danger under their State's abortion law. Her condition worsened. Her blood pressure dropped. Her organs started failing. And by the time she got the procedure, 19 hours after she arrived at the ER, it was too late, and tragically she died.

The State's medical review committee concluded there is a good chance she would have survived if the procedure had happened sooner. Her name was Amber Thurman.

Another Black woman in Georgia died without ever seeking medical care. She was too afraid to see a doctor given ''the current legislation on pregnancies and abortions.''

The State's medical review committee also found her death to be preventable, a heartbreaking outcome for the three children she left behind. Her name was Candi Miller.

How can that be the status quo in our country in the 21st century? How is anyone OK with this? How does anyone think that these extreme abortion bans are a good idea? How does anyone oppose clarifying women have a right to emergency care? Don't we want our hospitals to save lives?

How can anyone look at this wreckage? How can you hear the stories from doctors who are wracked with guilt for decisions Republican politicians made for them? How can you hear the stories from these women who have bled and suffered and died? How can anyone hear the chilling accounts of women who have died and just shrug it off and say, ''Well, I am sure this will blow over'' or ''It wasn't so bad''?

And yet we have Republicans, by and large, just trying to ignore this and trying to get everyone to whistle past the graveyard that they spent decades digging.

As if a woman would ever in her life forget the time her doctor said: Yes, you are in danger; yes, we know how to treat you; but, no, I can't do it—politicians won't let them.

As if a mother would ever forget losing her daughter because she was denied care; as if a husband would ever forget losing his wife; as if a kid growing up without a mother because she was denied emergency abortion care will ever, ever for a single day of their life forget this.

We have Republican-led States hearing from providers about how completely unworkable and dangerous these bans are and not really lifting a finger to meaningfully address this problem. We have States where people are trying to put it to the voters, trying to let the people have their say on these bans, and Republicans have been fighting those tooth and nail, tooth and nail, to block them—just to let people have their say.

And we have Donald Trump still, after all this has happened, saying everyone wanted Roe overturned. That is what he said. Everyone wanted Roe overturned? Whom is he listening to? He is saying it is great States can cause this chaos; it is great politicians can effectively lock patients out of an emergency care room.

Make no mistake, this is the post-Roe world Republicans spent decades fighting for. This is the policy outcome that Trump and Republicans moved Heaven and Earth to achieve, and they make that clearer and clearer every time they not only refuse to lift a finger to stop it, but Republicans even filed a brief telling the Supreme Court, essentially: No, we don't think doctors should be required to provide abortion care when a patient's life is at stake—when a patient's life is at stake.

If Republicans thought even in the slightest that this is a problem, they could start by cosponsoring our resolution saying it is a problem. This should not be a hard step. Let's see who takes me up on that offer. I am waiting to see.

When I think about the carnage that Republican abortion bans have caused, I truly cannot put my outrage into words, but I can be here, and I can share the horror stories I am hearing on the Senate floor and give voice to those patients and providers who are living this nightmare firsthand: dying women being turned away from an emergency room, being left to bleed out, left to get sicker, left to miscarry on their own. The lucky ones—the lucky ones—get airlifted to a State like mine where abortion is legal and protected.

By July of this year, one hospital in Idaho, next to my State, had already airlifted six pregnant women out of the State for emergency abortion care. The unlucky ones died.

We can't look away from this hard reality: here in America, in the 21st century, pregnant women dying not because doctors don't know how to save them but because doctors don't know if Republicans will let them.

As the Presiding Officer well knows, we have a maternal mortality crisis in this country, and these bans are making it worse. We are moving in the wrong direction. And to Republicans who have the gall to talk about exceptions for the life of the mother, while arguing against abortion care as emergency care, even when it is lifesaving, what do you think emergency care is for? What do you think emergency care is for?

And let's be clear, providing emergency stabilizing care is the bare minimum to keep a patient alive. These women may have undergone tremendous trauma and suffering up until they meet the threshold for emergency stabilizing care. It should never have to get to that point.

Women should not have to lose organ function before they can get medical care. They shouldn't have to bleed out

in a parking lot. They shouldn't have to be left to miscarry on their own.

Their husband shouldn't have to find them, when he comes home, bleeding and unconscious and call 9–1-1 in a panic. This is what is happening, and I know the Presiding Officer feels the same; we are not going to stand for this. This will not become a new accepted normal, period.

Democrats are going to continue to be here to tell these women's stories. We are going to continue pressing to fully restore reproductive freedoms for every woman in America, and we are going to continue to be putting a white-hot spotlight on the devastating, deadly fallout of Republicans' extreme anti-abortion policies of Donald Trump abortion bans and on the cruel callousness Trump has offered in response—never missing an opportunity to gloat about overturning Roe v. Wade.

Women and families are listening to him gloat. They are not going to forget, and I know we won't.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President pro tempore.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES L. PALMER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have served on the Senate Judiciary Committee for more than 20 years, including the most recent 3-and-a-half years as chair. I have come to know many of the dedicated professionals across our Nation who have devoted their careers to the law, the Constitution, and equal justice. Next month, one of those dedicated professionals, Jim Palmer, of Quincy, IL, will be celebrating his 50th year as a litigator.

A Quincy native, Jim is Illinois educated through and through—having earned his undergraduate degree from Quincy University and his law degree from the University of Illinois College of Law. After graduating from law school, he served as a law clerk for the Fourth District Appellate Court in Springfield. And following that, Jim worked as an associate and then made his way to partner at a law firm, spending the rest of his career with his name on the door of that practice. His experience has spanned a wide range of legal issues, from estate planning to insurance defense to complex litigation. For much of his career, he has also concentrated on issues involving questions interpreting Federal statutes and the U.S. Constitution.

Throughout his life, Jim's commitment to the law also inspired him to give back to his community, Illinois, and the country. For nearly three decades, Jim served as a member of the Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission of the Illinois Supreme Court. And in Adams County, IL, he tried criminal cases—serving as a part-time public defender representing indigent defendants and later as a part-time assistant State's attorney. In all of these endeavors, Jim used his knowledge of the law to help advance that ever-important goal of equal justice.

But if you don't take my word about how excellent of an attorney Jim is, his awards and recognition speak for themselves. He is a graduate of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, a recipient of the Liberty Bell Award from the Illinois State Bar Association, and a member of the Leading Lawyer Network, where he has been recognized as an outstanding defense counsel and general civil litigator in the State.

But more than just practicing law, Jim has taken it upon himself to teach the law. Since 1979, Jim has taught classes including criminal law, criminal procedure, and constitutional law at Quincy University, helping to mold the next generation of lawyers, judges, and legal scholars. He also lectures on a regular basis for the Pursuit of Learning in Society—POLIS—a program sponsored by Quincy University that allows retired adults to continue the lifelong journey of learning.

Jim, congratulations on 50 years of legal practice. Illinois' legal profession is stronger with you in it. I am lucky to call you a friend. To your wife Ann; your children Mark, Jennifer, and Christopher; and your grandchildren Luke, Eli, Dylan, and William Michael, you should be incredibly proud of Jim. I hope you all take time to be outside, travel, and maybe even pet some Newfoundland dogs in celebration of this momentous milestone.

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I submit to the Senate a letter from the Congressional Budget Office, dated today, that tallies the effect of enacted legislation on the fiscal year 2025 budget. There hasn't been any.

The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 included provisions that acted as a budget for fiscal years 2024 and 2025. On May 14, 2024, I filed the budgetary levels used for the fiscal year 2025 budget; since then, no legislation has cleared Congress that changes revenue or mandatory spending by more than $500,000 over 10 years. The effects round to zero.

I ask unanimous consent that CBO's letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
U.S. CONGRESS,
Washington, DC, September 19, 2024.

Hon. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter reports on the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2025 budget and is current through September 16, 2024. It is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

Since May 14, 2024, when the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget printed allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels in the *Congressional Record* (pursuant to section 122 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, Public Law 118–5), the Congress has cleared no new legislation with significant effects on budget authority, outlays, or revenues in 2025.

This is the first current level letter for 2025.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT SUNSHINE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, along with the distinguished ranking member of the Budget Committee, Senator GRASSLEY, we congratulate Robert Sunshine on his retirement after 48 years of service to the Congressional Budget Office, Congress, and our country.

We would like to take a few minutes to honor this truly exceptional public servant and the legacy he leaves behind. Throughout his distinguished career, Bob has served as a mentor to countless members of the CBO staff—and to many a CBO Director—and he has remained steadfast in his commitment to CBO's mandate to be objective, impartial, and nonpartisan.

Bob joined CBO in 1976, when the Agency was in its infancy, and his first job was as principal analyst covering transportation issues. In 1995, Bob became the Budget Analysis Division's Deputy Assistant Director, and in 1999, he was named CBO's Assistant Director of Budget Analysis. He oversaw much of the Agency's work, including the preparation of cost estimates for legislation being considered by Congress and the preparation of the multiyear budget and economic projections that are the foundation of the congressional budget process.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Bob served as Acting Director of CBO from November 25, 2008, to January 22, 2009, before becoming senior adviser to the Director and unofficial quality control officer for CBO's written products.

Douglas Holtz-Eakin, CBO's Director from 2003 to 2005, described Bob as ''the living heart of CBO.'' Peter Orszag, CBO's Director from 2007 to 2008 said, ''It is no exaggeration to say that CBO is what it is today—rigorous, independent, and widely respected—in no small part because of Bob Sunshine. For nearly half a century, he has worked in service of facts, good analysis, and sound policymaking.''

Bob is highly regarded on both sides of the aisle for his deep knowledge of the budget process and commitment to

CBO's role in that process. But as his colleagues have said, it is his personal ethic—his optimism and thoughtful consideration for his friends and colleagues—that truly defines him.

We thank Bob for his decades of service and wish him the best in the years to come.

CONGRATULATING IDAHO OLYMPIANS AND PARALYMPIANS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, along with my colleagues Senator JIM RISCH and Representatives MIKE SIMPSON and RUSS FULCHER, I congratulate Idaho athletes who competed in the Olympic and Paralympic Games Paris 2024. This includes Annie Carey, Chari Hawkins, Marisa Howard, Matteo Jorgenson, Alyssa Mendoza, and Kate Shoemaker, who we commend for their extraordinary perseverance that resulted in them competing on this world stage.

Catherine ''Annie'' Carey, of Boise, ID, competed in track and field events in the Paralympic Games Paris 2024, where she earned sixth-place finishes in both the 200-meter dash and long jump. Her career highlights leading to her debut participation in the Olympics include her earning bronze medals in the 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, and long jump at the ParaPan American Games Santiago 2023. She also competed in the ParaPan American Games Lima 2019.

First-time Olympian Chari Hawkins, of Rexburg, ID, competed in track and field for the U.S. team and earned 21st place in the women's heptathlon. Chari earned eighth in the heptathlon at the 2023 World Championships, an event in which she also competed in 2019. She also competed in the indoor pentathlon at the 2022 World Championships, and some of her career highlights include 2022 U.S. National Pentathlon Champion at the USA Track & Field (USATF) Indoor Championships; USATF Athlete of the Week in 2022 after winning the pentathlon; and the bronze medal at the 2019 USATF Outdoor Championships.

Marisa Howard, a Boise State University graduate who joined the Boise State track and field and cross-country staff as an assistant coach, competed for the first time in track and field in the Olympic Games Paris 2024. In the Paris Olympics, she placed 24th in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. Prior to competing in the Olympics, Marisa Howard placed fourth in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the 2023 Pan American Games, and she was a silver medalist in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the 2019 Pan American Games.

Matteo Jorgenson, a first-time Olympian and graduate of Boise High School, represented the U.S. in cycling in the Paris Olympics, where he earned ninth place in the road race. Matteo's Olympics participation follows his distinction in a number of international cycling competitions. This includes his first-place finishes in Paris-Nice and Dwars door Vlaanderen in 2024. He also placed second overall in the Criterium du Dauphine and eighth overall in the Tour de France also in 2024, following a first-place overall finish in the Tour of Oman and second place overall finish in the Tour de Romandie, both in 2023.

Alyssa Mendoza, of Caldwell, ID, placed ninth in featherweight boxing at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. Her debut Olympics competition followed her earning a number of medals at U.S. and international competitions that include earning medals at three international competitions last year: bronze at the 2023 Gee Bee International Tournament; silver at the 2023 Czech Republic Grand Prix; and bronze at the 2023 Strandja International Tournament. She also earned gold medals at the 2022 USA Boxing Elite National Championships, 2022 USA Boxing Summer Festival, and the 2022 National Golden Gloves. USA Boxing notes Alyssa Mendoza is the first qualified Olympic boxer from Idaho.

Kate Shoemaker, of Eagle, ID, is a two-time Paralympian and two-time Paralympic medalist. She earned a bronze in the individual freestyle at the Paralympic Games Paris 2024, where she also earned fifth in the individual championship test. Kate helped her U.S. equestrian team earn a bronze medal at the Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 where she also earned a fourth-place finish in the individual freestyle and a seventh-place finish in the individual championship test.

Idaho Olympians and Paralympians show us all what is possible as they turn their hard work into achievements by facing challenges with perseverance. Thank you, Olympians and Paralympians, for representing our great State and country so well in this extraordinary arena. We thank you for your outstanding examples as we commend you for your remarkable hard work and commitment.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PAT JOHNSON

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise to honor the achievements of Pat Johnson of Pocahontas, AR.

As a lifelong resident of Randolph County, Pat has made it her mission to preserve local Black history.

There is no better example than her vision and leadership in creating the Eddie Mae Herron Center, a space that allows residents to connect with the past and learn about the contributions of African-Americans to our Nation's fabric.

Located in a former Black church and segregated one-room schoolhouse, the center is named after Eddie Mae Herron, Pat's teacher when she was a student at the school. That is a testament to the impact of a single educator on the lives of so many young Arkansans, helping inspire lifelong learning and appreciation for African-American culture.

What stands out to me is Pat's determination and dedication in her pursuit to expose more and more in her community to its history—because embracing the past gives future generations a better understanding about the experiences and influences of their ancestors. Through artifacts, exhibits and pictures, Pat Johnson is uplifting the stories of the men and women whose legacies still shape life there today, as well as impact our country.

For more than two decades, she has devoted her life to educating her family, friends, and neighbors about the path of nearly 200 years of African-American history and culture in northeast Arkansas, and she isn't letting her foot off the gas. I appreciate her tireless work to curate these stories, traditions, and heritage that might otherwise be lost to history.

She is most deserving of the Bess Lomax Hawes National Heritage Fellowship for her years of active engagement and leadership.

I am confident she will continue to play a critical role in preserving the past to educate the future.

I proudly celebrate her contributions to her community, the State of Arkansas, and our country as we congratulate her on this tremendous honor.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:51 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1513. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a task force to be known as the ''6G Task Force'', and for other purposes.

H.R. 5179. An act to require the maintenance of the country of origin markings for imported goods produced in the West Bank or Gaza, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5339. An act to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to specify requirements concerning the consideration of pecuniary and nonpecuniary factors, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7213. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance and reauthorize activities and programs relating to autism spectrum disorder, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7909. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed sex offenses or domestic violence are inadmissible and deportable.

H.R. 9076. An act to reauthorize child welfare programs under part B of title IV of the Social Security Act and strengthen the State and tribal child support enforcement program under part D of such title, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1146. An act to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to identify obstacles to identifying and responding to reports of children missing from foster care and other vulnerable foster

youth, to provide technical assistance relating to the removal of such obstacles, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1513. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a task force to be known as the ''6G Task Force'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 5179. An act to require the maintenance of the country of origin markings for imported goods produced in the West Bank or Gaza, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5339. An act to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to specify requirements concerning the consideration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary factors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 7909. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed sex offenses or domestic violence are inadmissible and deportable; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 9076. An act to reauthorize child welfare programs under part B of title IV of the Social Security Act and strengthen the State and tribal child support enforcement program under part D of such title, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4693. An act to provide that the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 does not apply to certain reports required to be submitted by the Tennessee Valley Authority, and for other purposes.; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 4716. A bill to amend section 7504 of title 31, United States Code, to improve the single audit requirements (Rept. No. 118–226).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Byron B. Conway, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Jonathan E. Hawley, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

April M. Perry, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Gail A. Weilheimer, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Joseph R. Adams, of West Virginia, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of West Virginia for the term of four years.

David L. Lemmon II, of West Virginia, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of West Virginia for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 5103. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a strategic plan for the Human Foods Program of the Food and Drug Administration and the food functions of the Office of Inspections and Investigations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 5104. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to reduce Federal spending on crop insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 5105. A bill to require a report by the Secretary of Homeland Security regarding the failed assassination attempt on the life of Donald J. Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 5106. A bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to exempt certain owners of livestock from inspection requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 5107. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a carbon fee to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 5108. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide relief for borrowers of Federal Direct PLUS loans made on behalf of students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 5109. A bill to amend section 3520A of title 44, United States Code, to extend the Chief Data Officer Council's sunset and add new authorities for improving Federal agency data governance, including to enable reliable and secure adoption of emerging technologies and artificial intelligence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 5110. A bill to clarify the country of origin of certain articles imported into the United States for purposes of certain trade enforcement actions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 5111. A bill to amend the Fair Housing Act to repeal the Thurmond amendment; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 5112. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide payment for crisis stabilization services under the prospective payment system for hospital outpatient department services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 5113. A bill to delay the application of a certain rule for members of the Armed Forces and diplomats stationed in a foreign country and for individuals with service animals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 5114. A bill to amend the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park Establishment Act to expand the boundary of the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in the State of Vermont, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 5115. A bill to support Tribal co-stewardship, restore and protect bison, grizzly bear, and wolf populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 5116. A bill to support Russia's democratic forces in exile and to codify sanctions imposed under certain Executive orders relating to the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 5117. A bill to call for the immediate extradition or return to the United States of convicted felon Joanne Chesimard, William ''Guillermo'' Morales, and all other fugitives who are receiving safe haven in Cuba to escape prosecution or confinement for criminal offenses committed in the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 5118. A bill to prohibit certain activities involving kangaroos and kangaroo products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 5119. A bill to codify in statute certain sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. OSSOFF:

S. 5120. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the establishment of grocery stores in certain underserved areas; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HAGERTY:

S. 5121. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 and the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act with respect to the definition of the term ''accredited investor'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 5122. A bill to establish the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 5123. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to modify the eligibility requirements for the Generalized System of Preferences to

strengthen worker protections and to ensure that beneficiary developing countries afford equal rights and protection under the law, regardless of gender, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RISCH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. BUDD, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 5124. A bill to require the United States Secret Service to provide protection to major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates and their spouses at the same level of protection provided to the President, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. KING, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 5125. A bill to provide for certain improvements to the housing and workforce programs of Federal land management agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 5126. A bill to increase the maximum reward amount for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Nicolas Maduro Moros to $100,000,000, which shall be paid out by the Federal Government from all assets being withheld from Nicolas Maduro Moros, officials of the Maduro regime and their coconspirators; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

S. 5127. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to issue rules that prohibit officers and directors of certain companies from trading securities in anticipation of a current report, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 5128. A bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to develop and implement a strategy to interdict illicit substances and other contraband in the mail at Federal correctional facilities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 5129. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to address certain issues relating to the extension of consumer credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 5130. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 5131. A bill to advance a competitive strategy against the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 5132. A bill to promote the economic security and safety of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 5133. A bill to establish a tracker for Senate-confirmed executive branch positions; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S.J. Res. 110. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Park Service relating to ''Alaska; Hunting and Trapping in National Preserves''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 830. A resolution recognizing the 150th anniversary of Purdue University Engineering; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 831. A resolution supporting the inclusion of the women of Sudan in United States efforts to end the conflict in Sudan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KING, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 832. A resolution supporting the designation of September 19, 2024, as ''National Stillbirth Prevention Day'', recognizing tens of thousands of families in the United States that have endured a stillbirth, and seizing the opportunity to keep other families from experiencing the same tragedy; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KELLY, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 833. A resolution countering disinformation, propaganda, and misinformation in Latin America and the Caribbean, and calling for multi-stakeholder efforts to address the significant detrimental effects that the rise in disinformation, propaganda, and misinformation in regional information environments has on democratic governance, human rights, and United States national interests; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. Res. 834. A resolution reaffirming the Republic of the Philippines' claim over Second Thomas Shoal and supporting the Filipino people in their efforts to combat aggression by the People's Republic of China in the South China Sea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 835. A resolution recognizing the importance of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (the ''Quad'') and welcoming the upcoming Quad Leaders Summit; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 91

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor 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. 633

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the United States.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 711, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

S. 789

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 789, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the United States Foreign Service and its contribution to United States diplomacy.

S. 1007

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1007, a bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Peoples, and for other purposes.

S. 1201

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1201, a bill to reform the labor laws of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1349

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1349, a bill to establish a postsecondary student data system.

S. 1673

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1673, a bill to amend title XVIII to protect patient access to ground ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 2085

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2085, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 2311

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2311, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles, California.

S. 2647

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2647, a bill to improve research and data collection on stillbirths, and for other purposes.

S. 3102

At the request of Mr. HICKENLOOPER, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3102, a bill to establish the American Worker Retirement Plan, improve the financial security of working Americans by facilitating the accumulation of wealth, and for other purposes.

S. 3502

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor 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. 3598

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3598, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a comprehensive standard for timing between referrals and appointments for care from the Department of Veterans Affairs and to submit a report with respect to that standard, and for other purposes.

S. 3751

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3751, a bill to expand and modify the grant program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide innovative transportation options to veterans in highly rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. 4141

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4141, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the FIFA World Cup 2026, and for other purposes.

S. 4243

At the request of Ms. BUTLER, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4243, a bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Shirley Chisholm.

S. 4267

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4267, a bill to prohibit Big Cypress National Preserve from being designated as wilderness or as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

S. 4280

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4280, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for the intellectually disabled, and inpatient rehabilitation facilities to permit essential caregivers access during any period in which regular visitation is restricted.

S. 4687

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4687, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to wildland firefighters in recognition of their strength, resiliency, sacrifice, and service to protect the forests, grasslands, and communities of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 4772

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4772, a bill to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program.

S. 5032

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5032, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to restrict the sale and procurement of certain weapons and ammunition by the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 5039

At the request of Mr. HICKENLOOPER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5039, a bill to establish a mineral and mining innovation program within the Department of Energy to advance domestic mineral resources, economic growth, and national security, and for other purposes.

S. 5087

At the request of Mr. FETTERMAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5087, a bill to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to promote the establishment of tenant organizations and provide additional amounts for tenant organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 5102

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5102, a bill to require annual reports on counter illicit cross-border tunnel operations, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 103

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 103, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to ''Safeguarding and Securing the Open Internet; Restoring Internet Freedom'' .

S.J. RES. 108

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 108, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to reaffirm the principle that no person is above the law.

S. RES. 687

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 687, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 (XXVI) and the harmful conflation of China's ''One China Principle'' and the United States ''One China Policy''.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN:

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. 5107. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a carbon fee to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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. 5107

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 ''America's Clean Future Fund Act''.

SEC. 2. CLIMATE CHANGE FINANCE CORPORATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the executive branch an independent agency, to be known as the ''Climate Change Finance Corporation'' (referred to in this section as the ''C2FC''), which shall finance clean energy and climate change resiliency activities in accordance with this section.

(2) MISSION.—The mission of the C2FC is to combat climate change by reducing the dependency of the United States on fossil fuels, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and building resilience to the harmful impacts of climate change.

(3) ACTIVITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The C2FC shall reduce the reliance of the United States on fossil fuels and mitigate the impacts of climate change by financing—

(i) the deployment of low- and zero-emissions energy technologies and fuels;

(ii) the construction of climate-resilient infrastructure;

(iii) research, development, and commercialization of new climate-smart technologies and tools to facilitate industrial decarbonization;

(iv) clean energy and climate projects identified as too high-risk for private capital investment; and

(v) projects that encourage the infusion of private capital and the creation of new workforce opportunities in clean transportation, energy, and climate resiliency.

(B) PRIORITY.—In carrying out activities under subparagraph (A), the C2FC shall give priority to projects that benefit—

(i) communities disproportionately facing the harmful impacts of climate change;

(ii) communities that have been historically overburdened by industrial pollution from carbon-intensive industries; and

(iii) communities that have historically relied on carbon-intensive industries for economic support.

(C) EMISSIONS REDUCTION GOALS.—In carrying out activities under subparagraph (A), the goals of the C2FC shall be to achieve—

(i) by 2030, a net reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent, based on 2018 levels; and

(ii) by 2050, a net reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 100 percent, based on 2018 levels.

(4) EXERCISE OF POWERS.—Except as otherwise provided expressly by law, all Federal laws dealing with public or Federal contracts, property, works, officers, employees, budgets, or funds, including the provisions of chapters 5 and 7 of title 5, United States Code, shall apply to the exercise of the powers of the C2FC.

(b) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The management of the C2FC shall be vested in a Board of Directors (referred to in this section as the ''Board'') consisting of 7 members, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Board shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, from among the individuals appointed to the Board under paragraph (1).

(B) TERM.—An individual—

(i) shall serve as Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of the Board for a 3-year term; and

(ii) may be renominated for the position until the term of that individual on the Board under paragraph (3)(C) expires.

(3) BOARD MEMBERS.—

(A) CITIZENSHIP REQUIRED.—Each member of the Board shall be an individual who is a citizen of the United States.

(B) REPRESENTATION.—The members of the Board shall represent agricultural, educational, research, industrial, nongovernmental, labor, environmental justice, and commercial interests throughout the United States.

(C) TERM.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, each member of the Board—

(I) shall be appointed for a term of 6 years; and

(II) may be reappointed for 1 additional term.

(ii) INITIAL STAGGERED TERMS.—Of the members first appointed to the Board—

(I) 2 shall each be appointed for a term of 2 years;

(II) 3 shall each be appointed for a term of 4 years; and

(III) 2 shall each be appointed for a term of 6 years.

(4) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Board are appointed under paragraph (1), the Board shall hold an initial meeting.

(c) WORKING GROUPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall create, oversee, and incorporate feedback from the following working groups (each referred to in this section as a ''working group''):

(A) An environmental justice working group.

(B) A worker and community transition assistance working group.

(C) A research and innovation working group.

(2) WORKING GROUP MEMBERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each working group shall—

(i) be chaired by a Board member; and

(ii) comprise not less than 10 and not more than 20 individuals, who shall be experts, members of directly impacted communities relating to the subject matter of the working group, and other relevant stakeholders.

(B) DIVERSITY.—Individuals on a working group shall, to the maximum extent practicable, represent—

(i) a diverse array of interests related to the subject matter of the working group; and

(ii) diverse geographical, racial, religious, gender, educational, age, disability, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

(3) MEETINGS.—Each working group shall meet not less than 2 times per year.

(4) COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each working group shall create and engage in meaningful community and stakeholder involvement opportunities, including through regular public community engagement activities, for purposes of—

(i) maintaining up-to-date situational awareness about the needs of relevant communities and stakeholders;

(ii) using the feedback obtained through those opportunities to inform the advice of the working group to the Board; and

(iii) providing a mechanism for direct and substantial community feedback relating to the investment plan and the funding decisions of the C2FC.

(B) PUBLIC AWARENESS.—Each working group shall inform the public about C2FC investment by engaging in public awareness campaigns, which shall target relevant communities through comprehensive and accessible outreach methods suited for the relevant community.

(C) BROAD PARTICIPATION.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), each working group shall, to the maximum extent practicable, maximize participation from a broad group of stakeholders, including by holding multiple meetings with significant advance notice, providing access to remote participation in those meetings, and holding meetings in multiple languages and at different times and locations.

(5) TASKS.—Each working group shall, as it relates to the subject matter of the working group—

(A) advise and provide general input to the Board regarding loans and grants provided by the C2FC; and

(B) consult with, and based on the activities described in paragraph (4), provide recommendations to, the Board in the development of and updates to the investment plan of the C2FC.

(d) INVESTMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board, in consultation with each working group described in subsection (c)(1), shall develop an investment plan (referred to in this subsection as the ''investment plan'') for the C2FC in accordance with this subsection.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the investment plan are—

(A) to ensure that investments made by the C2FC—

(i) are equitable and reach the prioritized communities described in subsection (e)(2);

(ii) are effective at progressing towards the goals described in subsection (a)(3)(C);

(iii) support the advancement of research in clean technologies and resilience; and

(iv) are transparent to the prioritized communities described in subsection (e)(2); and

(B) to provide methods and standards by which the Board and the working groups described in subsection (c)(1) shall choose projects in which to invest.

(3) DISTRIBUTION OF GRANT FUNDS.—The initial investment plan shall require that, of the total amount of grant funds provided under subsection (e)(3)(A) each year, not less than 40 percent shall be used to invest in and benefit communities described in subsection (e)(2)(A).

(4) INVESTMENT PLAN UPDATES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Board, in consultation with each working group described in subsection (c)(1), shall update the investment plan not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 4 years thereafter, including by taking into account—

(i) the current needs of the prioritized communities described in subsection (e)(2);

(ii) the effectiveness of the previous investment plan in addressing the needs of those communities;

(iii) the current state of relevant research and technology;

(iv) the resiliency needs of local communities;

(v) the goals described in subsection (a)(3)(C); and

(vi) the 2 most recent program reviews conducted under subsection (f).

(B) EFFECTIVENESS.—An investment plan shall remain in effect until the date on which the Board approves an updated investment plan.

(C) PUBLIC INPUT.—In updating the investment plan, the Board and the working groups described in subsection (c)(1) shall—

(i) engage stakeholders and the public in a public comment and feedback process; and

(ii) ensure that the prioritized communities described in subsection (e)(2) have access to participate in that process.

(5) PUBLIC UPDATES.—The Board shall make publicly available on a quarterly basis information relating to the expenditure of funds under the investment plan.

(e) INVESTMENT TOOLS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) COMMUNITY OF COLOR.—The term ''community of color'' means a geographically distinct area in which the population of any of the following categories of individuals is higher than the average population of that category for the State in which the community is located:

(i) Black.

(ii) African American.

(iii) Asian.

(iv) Pacific Islander.

(v) Other non-White race.
(vi) Hispanic.
(vii) Latino.
(viii) Linguistically isolated.

(B) ELIGIBLE BORROWER.—The term ''eligible borrower'' means any person, including a business owner or project developer, that seeks a loan to carry out approved practices or projects described in subparagraph (A)(i) of paragraph (3) from an eligible lender that may receive a loan guarantee under that paragraph for that loan, according to criteria determined by the C2FC.

(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means—
(i) a State;
(ii) an Indian Tribe;
(iii) a unit of local government; and
(iv) a research and development institution (including a National Laboratory).

(D) ELIGIBLE LENDER.—The term ''eligible lender'' means—
(i) a Federal- or State-chartered bank;
(ii) a Federal- or State-chartered credit union;
(iii) an agricultural credit corporation;
(iv) a United States Green Bank Institution;
(v) a community development financial institution (as defined in section 103 of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4702));
(vi) a minority depository institution (as defined in section 308(b) of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1463 note; Public Law 101–73)); and
(vii) any other lender that the Board determines has a demonstrated ability to underwrite and service loans for the intended approved practice for which the loan will be used.

(E) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY.—The term ''environmental justice community'' means a community with significant representation of communities of color, low-income communities, or Tribal and indigenous communities that experiences, or is at risk of experiencing, higher or more adverse human health or environmental effects.

(F) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian Tribe'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(G) LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY.—The term ''low-income community'' means any census block group in which 30 percent or more of the population are individuals with an annual household income equal to, or less than, the greater of—
(i) an amount equal to 80 percent of the median income of the area in which the household is located, as reported by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and
(ii) 200 percent of the Federal poverty line.

(H) STATE.—The term ''State'' means—
(i) a State;
(ii) the District of Columbia;
(iii) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and
(iv) any other territory or possession of the United States.

(2) COMMUNITY PRIORITIZATION.—In providing financial investment and other assistance under paragraph (3), the C2FC shall give priority to, as determined by the C2FC—
(A) environmental justice communities, communities of color, indigenous communities, rural communities, and low-income communities that—
(i) experience a disproportionate burden of the negative human health and environmental impacts of pollution or other environmental hazards, such as natural disasters; or
(ii) may not have access to public information and opportunities for meaningful public participation relating to human health and environmental planning, regulations, and enforcement;
(B) deindustrialized communities or communities with significant local economic reliance on carbon-intensive industries;
(C) low-income communities at risk of impacts of natural disasters or sea level rise exacerbated by climate change;
(D) public or nonprofit entities that serve dislocated workers, veterans, or individuals with a barrier to employment; and
(E) communities that have minimal or no investment in the approved practices and projects described in paragraph (3)(A)(i).

(3) GRANTS, LOAN GUARANTEES, AND OTHER INVESTMENT TOOLS.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—The C2FC—
(i) shall provide grants to eligible entities and loan guarantees to eligible lenders issuing loans to eligible borrowers for approved practices and projects relating to climate change mitigation and resilience measures, including—
(I) energy efficiency upgrades to infrastructure;
(II) electric, hydrogen, and clean transportation programs and deployment, including programs—
(aa) to purchase personal vehicles, commercial vehicles, and public transportation fleets and school bus fleets;
(bb) to deploy electric vehicle charging and hydrogen fueling infrastructure; and
(cc) to develop and deploy sustainable aviation fuels;
(III) clean energy and clean vehicle manufacturing research, demonstrations, and deployment, with a particular focus on projects relating to the commercialization of new technologies;
(IV) battery storage research, demonstrations, and deployment;
(V) development or purchase of equipment for practices described in section 6;
(VI) development and deployment of clean energy and clean technologies, with a focus on—
(aa) carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration, bioenergy with carbon capture and sequestration, and direct air capture;
(bb) energy storage and grid modernization;
(cc) geothermal energy;
(dd) commercial and residential solar;
(ee) wind energy; and
(ff) any other clean technology use or development, as determined by the Board;
(VII) measures that anticipate and prepare for climate change impacts, and reduce risks and enhance resilience to sea level rise, extreme weather events, heat island impacts, and other climate change impacts, as determined by the Board, including by—
(aa) building resilient energy, water, and transportation infrastructure;
(bb) providing weatherization assistance for low-income households; and
(cc) increasing the physical and economic resilience of the agriculture sector; and
(VIII) natural infrastructure research, demonstrations, and deployment; and
(ii) may implement other investment tools and products approved by the Board, pursuant to subparagraph (C), to achieve the mission of the C2FC described in subsection (a)(2).

(B) LOAN GUARANTEES.—
(i) IN GENERAL.—In providing loan guarantees under subparagraph (A), the C2FC shall cooperate with eligible lenders through agreements to participate on a deferred (guaranteed) basis.
(ii) LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION IN GUARANTEED LOANS.—In providing a loan guarantee under subparagraph (A), the C2FC shall guarantee 75 percent of the balance of the financing outstanding at the time of disbursement of the loan.
(iii) INTEREST RATES.—Notwithstanding the provisions of the constitution of any State or the laws of any State limiting the rate or amount of interest that may be charged, taken, received, or reserved, the maximum legal rate of interest on any financing made on a deferred basis under this subsection shall not exceed a rate prescribed by the C2FC.
(iv) GUARANTEE FEES.—
(I) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each loan guaranteed under this subsection (other than a loan that is repayable in 1 year or less), the C2FC shall collect a guarantee fee, which shall be payable by the eligible lender, and may be charged to the eligible borrower in accordance with subclause (II).
(II) BORROWER CHARGES.—A guarantee fee described in subclause (I) charged to an eligible borrower shall not—
(aa) exceed 2 percent of the deferred participation share of a total loan amount that is equal to or less than $150,000;
(bb) exceed 3 percent of the deferred participation share of a total loan amount that is greater than $150,000 but less than $700,000; or
(cc) exceed 3.5 percent of the deferred participation share of a total loan amount that is equal to or greater than $700,000.

(C) OTHER INVESTMENT TOOLS AND PRODUCTS.—
(i) IN GENERAL.—The Board may, based on market needs, develop and implement any other investment tool or product necessary to achieve the mission of the C2FC described in subsection (a)(2) and the deployment of projects described in subparagraph (A)(i), including offering—
(I) warehousing and aggregation credit facilities;
(II) zero interest loans;
(III) credit enhancements; and
(IV) construction finance.
(ii) STATE AND LOCAL GREEN BANKS.—The Board shall provide—
(I) funds to United States Green Bank Institutions as necessary to finance projects that are best served by those entities; and
(II) technical assistance as necessary to States and localities seeking to establish green banks.

(D) PROHIBITED INVESTMENTS.—The Board shall not issue loans, grants, or otherwise invest in any activities that directly or indirectly contradict the mission of the C2FC described in subsection (a)(2).

(4) WAGE RATE REQUIREMENTS.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—All laborers and mechanics employed by eligible entities and eligible borrowers on projects funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by the activities of the C2FC under this section shall be paid at wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a similar character in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Davis-Bacon Act'').
(B) AUTHORITY.—With respect to the labor standards specified in subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Labor shall have the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1267; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title 40, United States Code.

(5) BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—All iron, steel, and manufactured goods used for projects under this section shall be produced in the United States.
(B) WAIVER.—The Board may waive the requirement in subparagraph (A) if the Board finds that—

(i) enforcing the requirement would be inconsistent with the public interest;

(ii) the iron, steel, and manufactured goods produced in the United States are not produced in a sufficient and reasonably available amount or are not of a satisfactory quality; or

(iii) enforcing the requirement will increase the overall cost of the project by more than 25 percent.

(f) PROGRAM REVIEW AND REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Board shall—

(1) conduct a review of the activities of the C2FC and identify projects and funding opportunities that were a part of the current investment plan; and

(2) submit to Congress and make publicly available a report that—

(A) describes the projects and funding opportunities that have been most successful in progressing towards the mission described in subsection (a)(2) during the time period covered by the report;

(B) includes recommendations on the clean energy and resiliency projects that should be prioritized in forthcoming years to achieve that mission;

(C) quantifies the total amount and percentage of funding given to prioritized communities described in subsection (e)(2); and

(D) identifies barriers for disadvantaged groups to receive C2FC funding and provides recommendations to address those barriers.

(g) INITIAL CAPITALIZATION.—There is appropriated to carry out this section (including for administrative costs of the C2FC), out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $7,500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 and 2026, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 3. CARBON FEE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 38 of subtitle D of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

"Subchapter E—Carbon Fee

"SEC. 4691. DEFINITIONS.

''For purposes of this subchapter—

''(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

''(2) CARBON DIOXIDE EQUIVALENT OR CO_2-E.—The term 'carbon dioxide equivalent' or 'CO_2-e' means the number of metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions with the same global warming potential over a 100-year period as one metric ton of another greenhouse gas.

''(3) CARBON-INTENSIVE PRODUCT.—The term 'carbon-intensive product' means—

''(A) iron, steel, steel mill products (including pipe and tube), aluminum, cement, glass (including flat, container, and specialty glass and fiberglass), pulp, paper, chemicals, or industrial ceramics, and

''(B) any manufactured product which the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Energy, determines is energy-intensive and trade-exposed (with the exception of any covered fuel).

''(4) COVERED ENTITY.—The term 'covered entity' means—

''(A) in the case of crude oil—

''(i) any operator of a United States refinery (as described in subsection (d)(1) of section 4611), and

''(ii) any person entering such product into the United States for consumption, use, or warehousing (as described in subsection (d)(2) of such section),

''(B) in the case of coal—

''(i) any producer subject to the tax under section 4121, and

''(ii) any importer of coal into the United States,

''(C) in the case of natural gas—

''(i) any entity which produces natural gas (as defined in section 613A(e)(2)) from a well located in the United States, and

''(ii) any importer of natural gas into the United States,

''(D) in the case of any noncovered fuel emissions, the entity which is the source of such emissions, provided that the total amount of carbon dioxide or methane emitted by such entity for the preceding year (as determined using the methodology required under section 4692(e)(4)) was not less than 25,000 metric tons, and

''(E) any entity or class of entities which, as determined by the Secretary, is transporting, selling, or otherwise using a covered fuel in a manner which emits a greenhouse gas into the atmosphere and which has not been covered by the carbon fee, the fee on noncovered fuel emissions, or the carbon border fee adjustment.

''(5) COVERED FUEL.—The term 'covered fuel' means crude oil, natural gas, coal, or any other product derived from crude oil, natural gas, or coal which shall be used so as to emit greenhouse gases to the atmosphere.

''(6) GREENHOUSE GAS.—The term 'greenhouse gas'—

''(A) has the meaning given such term in section 901 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17321), as in effect on the date of the enactment of the America's Clean Future Fund Act, and

''(B) includes any other gases identified by rule of the Administrator.

''(7) GREENHOUSE GAS CONTENT.—The term 'greenhouse gas content' means the amount of greenhouse gases, expressed in metric tons of CO_2-e, which would be emitted to the atmosphere by the use of a covered fuel.

''(8) NONCOVERED FUEL EMISSION.—The term 'noncovered fuel emission' means any carbon dioxide or methane emitted as a result of the production, processing, transport, or use of any product or material within the energy or industrial sectors—

''(A) including any fugitive or process emissions associated with the production, processing, or transport of a covered fuel, and

''(B) excluding any emissions from the combustion or use of a covered fuel.

''(9) QUALIFIED CARBON OXIDE.—The term 'qualified carbon oxide' has the meaning given the term in section 45Q(c).

''(10) UNITED STATES.—The term 'United States' shall be treated as including each possession of the United States (including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands).

"SEC. 4692. CARBON FEE.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) APPLICABLE PERIOD.—The term 'applicable period' means, with respect to any determination made by the Secretary under subsection (e)(3) for any calendar year, the period—

''(A) beginning on January 1, 2026, and

''(B) ending on December 31 of the preceding calendar year.

''(2) CUMULATIVE EMISSIONS.—The term 'cumulative emissions' means an amount equal to the sum of any greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the use of covered fuels and any noncovered fuel emissions for all years during the applicable period.

''(3) CUMULATIVE EMISSIONS TARGET.—The term 'cumulative emissions target' means an amount equal to the sum of the emissions targets for all years during the applicable period.

''(4) EMISSIONS TARGET.—The term 'emissions target' means the target for greenhouse gas emissions during a calendar year as determined under subsection (e)(1).

''(b) CARBON FEE.—During any calendar year that begins after December 31, 2025, there is imposed a carbon fee on any covered entity's use, sale, or transfer of any covered fuel.

''(c) AMOUNT OF THE CARBON FEE.—The carbon fee imposed by this section is an amount equal to—

''(1) the greenhouse gas content of the covered fuel, multiplied by

''(2) the carbon fee rate, as determined under subsection (d).

''(d) CARBON FEE RATE.—The carbon fee rate shall be determined in accordance with the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The carbon fee rate, with respect to any use, sale, or transfer during a calendar year, shall be—

''(A) in the case of calendar year 2026, $65, and

''(B) except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), in the case of any calendar year after 2026, the amount equal to the sum of—

''(i) the amount under subparagraph (A), plus

''(ii)(I) in the case of calendar year 2027, $10, and

''(II) in the case of any calendar year after 2027, the amount in effect under this clause for the preceding calendar year, plus $10.

''(2) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any calendar year after 2026, the amount determined under paragraph (1)(B) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

''(i) that dollar amount, multiplied by

''(ii) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for that calendar year, determined by substituting '2025' for '2016' in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

''(B) ROUNDING.—If any increase determined under subparagraph (A) is not a multiple of $1, such increase shall be rounded up to the next whole dollar amount.

''(3) ADJUSTMENT OF CARBON FEE RATE.—

''(A) INCREASE IN RATE FOLLOWING MISSED CUMULATIVE EMISSIONS TARGET.—In the case of any calendar year following a determination by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (e)(3) that the cumulative emissions for the preceding calendar year exceeded the cumulative emissions target for such year, paragraph (1)(B)(ii)(II) shall be applied—

''(i) in the case of calendar years 2029 through 2033, by substituting '$15' for '$10',

''(ii) in the case of calendar years 2034 through 2043, by substituting '$20' for '$10', and

''(iii) in the case of any calendar year beginning after 2043, by substituting '$25' for '$10'.

''(B) CESSATION OF RATE INCREASE FOLLOWING ACHIEVEMENT OF CUMULATIVE EMISSIONS TARGET.—In the case of any year following a determination by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (e)(3) that—

''(i) the average annual emissions of greenhouse gases from covered entities over the preceding 3-year period are not more than 10 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions during the year 2018, and

''(ii) the cumulative emissions did not exceed the cumulative emissions target,

paragraph (1)(B)(ii)(II) shall be applied by substituting '$0' for '$10'.

''(C) METHODOLOGY.—With respect to any year, the annual greenhouse gas emissions and cumulative emissions described in subparagraph (A) or (B) shall be determined using the methodology required under subsection (e)(4).

''(e) EMISSIONS TARGETS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) REFERENCE YEAR.—For purposes of subsection (d), the emissions target for any year shall be the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that is equal to—

''(i) for calendar years 2026 and 2027, the applicable percentage of the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions from the use of any covered fuel during calendar year 2018, and

''(ii) for calendar year 2028 and each calendar year thereafter, the applicable percentage of the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions from the use of any covered fuel and noncovered fuel emissions during calendar year 2018.

''(B) METHODOLOGY.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), with respect to determining the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions from the use of any covered fuel and noncovered fuel emissions during calendar year 2018, the Administrator shall use such methods as are determined appropriate, provided that such methods are, to the greatest extent practicable, comparable to the methods established under paragraph (4).

''(2) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—

''(A) 2026 THROUGH 2035.—In the case of calendar years 2026 through 2035, the applicable percentage shall be determined as follows:

2026	67 percent
2027	63 percent
2028	60 percent
2029	57 percent
2030	55 percent
2031	52 percent
2032	49 percent
2033	46 percent
2034	43 percent
2035	40 percent

''(B) 2036 THROUGH 2050.—In the case of calendar years 2036 through 2050, the applicable percentage shall be equal to—

''(i) the applicable percentage for the preceding year, minus

''(ii) 2 percentage points.

''(C) AFTER 2050.—In the case of any calendar year beginning after 2050, the applicable percentage shall be equal to 10 percent.

''(3) EMISSIONS REPORTING AND DETERMINATIONS.—

''(A) REPORTING.—Not later than September 30, 2027, and annually thereafter, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary, shall make available to the public a report on—

''(i) the cumulative emissions with respect to the preceding calendar year, and

''(ii) any other relevant information, as determined appropriate by the Administrator.

''(B) DETERMINATIONS.—Not later than September 30, 2028, and annually thereafter, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary and as part of the report described in subparagraph (A), shall determine whether cumulative emissions with respect to the preceding calendar year exceeded the cumulative emissions target with respect to such year.

''(4) EMISSIONS ACCOUNTING METHODOLOGY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2026, the Administrator shall prescribe rules for greenhouse gas accounting for covered entities for purposes of this subchapter, which shall—

''(i) to the greatest extent practicable, employ existing data collection methodologies and greenhouse gas accounting practices, including such methodologies and practices developed by the National Laboratories (as defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)),

''(ii) ensure that the method of accounting—

''(I) applies to—

''(aa) all greenhouse gas emissions from covered fuels and all noncovered fuel emissions, and

''(bb) all covered entities,

''(II) excludes—

''(aa) any greenhouse gas emissions which are not described item (aa) of subclause (I), and

''(bb) any entities which are not described in item (bb) of such subclause, and

''(III) appropriately accounts for—

''(aa) qualified carbon oxide which is captured and disposed or used in a manner described in section 4694, and

''(bb) nonemitting uses of covered fuels, as described in subsection (f),

''(iii) subject to such penalties as are determined appropriate by the Administrator, require any covered entity to report, not later than April 1 of each calendar year—

''(I) the total greenhouse gas content of any covered fuels used, sold, or transferred by such covered entity during the preceding calendar year, and

''(II) the total noncovered fuel emissions of the covered entity during the preceding calendar year, and

''(iv) require any information reported pursuant to clause (iii) to be verified by a third-party entity that, subject to such process as is determined appropriate by the Administrator, has been certified by the Administrator with respect to the qualifications, independence, and reliability of such entity.

''(B) GREENHOUSE GAS REPORTING PROGRAM.—For purposes of establishing the rules described in subparagraph (A), the Administrator may elect to modify the activities of the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program to satisfy the requirements described in clauses (i) through (iv) of such subparagraph.

''(5) REVISIONS.—With respect to any determination made by the Administrator as to the amount of greenhouse gas emissions for any calendar year (including calendar year 2018), any subsequent revision by the Administrator with respect to such amount shall apply for purposes of the fee imposed under subsection (b) for any calendar years beginning after such revision.

''(f) EXEMPTION AND REFUND.—The Secretary shall prescribe such rules as are necessary to ensure the carbon fee imposed by this section is not imposed with respect to any nonemitting use, or any sale or transfer for a nonemitting use, including rules providing for the refund of any carbon fee paid under this section with respect to any such use, sale, or transfer.

''(g) ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall prescribe such regulations, and other guidance, to assess and collect the carbon fee imposed by this section, including—

''(1) the identification of covered entities that are liable for payment of a fee under this section or section 4693,

''(2) as may be necessary or convenient, rules for distinguishing between different types of covered entities,

''(3) as may be necessary or convenient, rules for distinguishing between the greenhouse gas emissions of a covered entity and the greenhouse gas emissions that are attributed to the covered entity but not directly emitted by the covered entity,

''(4) requirements for the quarterly payment of such fees, and

''(5) rules to ensure that the carbon fee under this section, the fee on noncovered fuel emissions under section 4693, or the carbon border fee adjustment is not imposed on an emission from covered fuel or noncovered fuel emission more than once.

''SEC. 4693. FEE ON NONCOVERED FUEL EMISSIONS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—During any calendar year that begins after December 31, 2027, there is imposed a fee on a covered entity for any noncovered fuel emissions which occur during the calendar year.

''(b) AMOUNT.—The fee to be paid under subsection (a) by the covered entity which is the source of the emissions described in that subsection shall be an amount equal to—

''(1) the total amount, in metric tons of CO_2-e, of emitted greenhouse gases, multiplied by

''(2) an amount equal to the carbon fee rate in effect under section 4692(d) for the calendar year of such emission.

''(c) ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall prescribe such regulations, and other guidance, to assess and collect the carbon fee imposed by this section, including regulations describing the requirements for the quarterly payment of such fees.

''SEC. 4694. REFUNDS FOR CARBON CAPTURE, SEQUESTRATION, AND UTILIZATION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) CAPTURE, SEQUESTRATION, AND USE.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator and the Secretary of Energy, shall prescribe regulations for providing payments to any person which captures qualified carbon oxide which is—

''(A) disposed of by such person in secure geological storage, as described in section 45Q(f)(2), or

''(B) used in a manner which has been approved by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (c).

''(2) ELECTION.—If the person described in paragraph (1) makes an election under this paragraph in such time and manner as the Secretary may prescribe by regulations, the credit under this section—

''(A) shall be allowable to the person that owns the facility described in subsection (b)(1), and

''(B) shall not be allowable to the person described in paragraph (1).

''(b) PAYMENTS FOR CARBON CAPTURE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any facility for which carbon capture equipment has been placed in service, the Secretary shall make payments in the same manner as if such payment was a refund of an overpayment of the fee imposed by section 4692 or 4693.

''(2) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—The payment determined under this subsection shall be an amount equal to—

''(A) the metric tons of qualified carbon oxide captured and disposed of, used, or utilized in a manner consistent with subsection (a), multiplied by

''(B)(i) the carbon fee rate during the year in which the carbon fee was imposed by section 4692 on the covered fuel to which such carbon oxide relates, or

''(ii) in the case of a direct air capture facility (as defined in section 45Q(e)(1)), the carbon fee rate during the year in which the qualified carbon oxide was captured and disposed of, used, or utilized.

''(c) APPROVED USES OF QUALIFIED CARBON OXIDE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary, in consultation with Administrator and the Secretary of Energy, shall, through regulation or other public guidance, determine which uses of qualified carbon oxide are eligible for payments under this section, which may include—

''(A) utilization in a manner described in clause (i) or (ii) of section 45Q(f)(5)(A), or

''(B) any other use which ensures minimal leakage or escape of such carbon oxide.

''(2) EXCLUSION FOR ENHANCED OIL OR NATURAL GAS RECOVERY.—The sale or use of

qualified carbon oxide as a tertiary injectant in a qualified enhanced oil or natural gas recovery project (as defined in section 45Q(e)(4)) shall not be eligible for payments under this section.

''(d) EXCEPTION.—In the case of any facility which is owned by an entity that is determined to be—

''(1) in violation of any applicable air or water quality regulations, or

''(2) with respect to any environmental justice community (as defined in section 2(d)(1)(D) of the America's Clean Future Fund Act), creating health or environmental harm to such community,

such facility shall not be eligible for any payment under this section during the period of such violation.

''SEC. 4695. BORDER ADJUSTMENTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The fees imposed by, and refunds allowed under, this section shall be referred to as 'the carbon border fee adjustment'.

''(b) EXPORTS.—

''(1) CARBON-INTENSIVE PRODUCTS.—In the case of any carbon-intensive product which is exported from the United States, the Secretary shall pay to the person exporting such product a refund equal to the amount of the cost of such product attributable to any fees imposed under this subchapter related to the manufacturing of such product (as determined under regulations established by the Secretary).

''(2) COVERED FUELS.—In the case of any covered fuel which is exported from the United States, the Secretary shall pay to the person exporting such fuel a refund equal to the amount of the cost of such fuel attributable to any fees imposed under this subchapter related to the use, sale, or transfer of such fuel.

''(c) IMPORTS.—

''(1) CARBON-INTENSIVE PRODUCTS.—

''(A) IMPOSITION OF EQUIVALENCY FEE.—In the case of any carbon-intensive product imported into the United States, there is imposed an equivalency fee on the person importing such product in an amount equal to the cost of such product that would be attributable to any fees imposed under this subchapter related to the manufacturing of such product if any inputs or processes used in manufacturing such product were subject to such fees (as determined under regulations established by the Secretary).

''(B) REDUCTION IN FEE.—The amount of the equivalency fee under subparagraph (A) shall be reduced by the amount, if any, of any fees imposed on the carbon-intensive product by the foreign nation or governmental units from which such product was imported.

''(2) COVERED FUELS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any covered fuel imported into the United States, there is imposed an equivalency fee on the person importing such fuel in an amount equal to the amount of any fees that would be imposed under this subchapter related to the use, sale, or transfer of such fuel.

''(B) REDUCTION IN FEE.—The amount of the fee under subparagraph (A) shall be reduced by the amount, if any, of any fees imposed on the covered fuel by the foreign nation or governmental units from which the fuel was imported.

''(d) TREATMENT OF ALTERNATIVE POLICIES AS FEES.—Under regulations established by the Secretary, foreign policies that have substantially the same effect in reducing emissions of greenhouse gases as fees shall be treated as fees for purposes of subsections (b) and (c).

''(e) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall consult with the Administrator, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Energy in establishing rules and regulations implementing the purposes of this section.

''(2) TREATIES.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, may adjust the applicable amounts of the refunds and equivalency fees under this section in a manner that is consistent with any obligations of the United States under an international agreement.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to periods beginning after December 31, 2025.

SEC. 4. AMERICA'S CLEAN FUTURE FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter A of chapter 98 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 9512. AMERICA'S CLEAN FUTURE FUND.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNDING.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known as the 'America's Clean Future Fund' (referred to in this section as the 'Trust Fund'), consisting of such amounts as are appropriated to the Trust Fund under subsection (b).

''(b) TRANSFERS TO AMERICA'S CLEAN FUTURE FUND.—There is appropriated to the Trust Fund, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, amounts equal to the fees received into the Treasury under sections 4692, 4693, and 4695, less—

''(1) any amounts refunded or paid under sections 4692(d), 4694, and 4695(b), and

''(2) for each of the first 18 fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2026, an amount equal to the quotient of—

''(A) $100,000,000,000, and

''(B) 18.

''(c) EXPENDITURES.—For each fiscal year, amounts in the Trust Fund shall be apportioned as follows:

''(1) CARBON FEE REBATE AND AGRICULTURAL DECARBONIZATION TRANSITION PAYMENTS.—

''(A) CARBON FEE REBATE.—For the purposes described in section 5 of the America's Clean Future Fund Act and any expenses necessary to administer such section—

''(i) for each of the first 10 fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2026, an amount equal to—

''(I) 75 percent of those amounts, minus

''(II) the amount determined under subparagraph (B) for such fiscal year, and

''(ii) for any fiscal year beginning after the period described in clause (i), the applicable percentage of such amounts.

''(B) AGRICULTURAL DECARBONIZATION TRANSITION PAYMENTS.—For the purposes described in section 6 of the America's Clean Future Fund Act, for each of the first 10 fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2026, an amount equal to 7 percent of the amount determined annually under subparagraph (A)(i)(I).

''(C) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii), the applicable percentage shall be equal to—

''(i) for the first fiscal year beginning after the period described in subparagraph (A)(i), 76 percent,

''(ii) for each of the first 3 fiscal years subsequent to the period described in clause (i), the applicable percentage for the preceding fiscal year increased by 1 percentage point, and

''(iii) for any fiscal year subsequent to the period described in clause (ii), 80 percent.

''(2) CLIMATE CHANGE FINANCE CORPORATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes described in section 2 of the America's Clean Future Fund Act (including any expenses necessary to administer such section), the applicable percentage of such amounts.

''(B) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the applicable percentage shall be equal to—

''(i) for each of the first 10 fiscal years beginning after the period described in subsection (e) of such section, 15 percent,

''(ii) for each of the first 4 fiscal years subsequent to the period described in clause (i), the applicable percentage for the preceding fiscal year increased by 1 percentage point, and

''(iii) for any fiscal year subsequent to the period described in clause (ii), 20 percent.

''(3) TRANSITION ASSISTANCE FOR IMPACTED COMMUNITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes described in section 7 of the America's Clean Future Fund Act (including any expenses necessary to administer such section), the applicable percentage of such amounts.

''(B) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the applicable percentage shall be equal to—

''(i) for each of the first 10 fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2026, 10 percent,

''(ii) for each of the first 4 fiscal years subsequent to the period described in clause (i), the applicable percentage for the preceding fiscal year reduced by 2 percentage points, and

''(iii) for any fiscal year subsequent to the period described in clause (ii), 0 percent.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter A of chapter 98 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''Sec. 9512. America's Clean Future Fund.''.

SEC. 5. AMERICA'S CLEAN FUTURE FUND STIMULUS.

(a) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term ''eligible individual'' means, with respect to any quarter, any natural living person—

(A) who has a valid Social Security number or taxpayer identification number,

(B) who has attained 18 years of age, and

(C) whose principal place of abode is in the United States for more than one-half of the most recent taxable year for which a return has been filed.

(2) VERIFICATION.—The Secretary of the Treasury, or the Secretary's delegate (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') may verify the eligibility of an individual to receive a carbon fee rebate payment under subsection (b).

(b) REBATES.—Subject to subsections (c)(2) and (k), from amounts in the America's Clean Future Fund established by section 9512(c)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that are available in any year, the Secretary shall, for each calendar quarter beginning after September 30, 2026, make carbon fee rebate payments to each eligible individual, to be known as ''America's Clean Future Fund Stimulus payments'' (referred to in this section as ''carbon fee rebate payments'').

(c) PRO-RATA SHARE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each quarter during any fiscal year beginning after September 30, 2026, the carbon fee rebate payment is 1 pro-rata share for each eligible individual of an amount equal to 25 percent of amounts apportioned under section 9512(c)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for such fiscal year.

(2) INITIAL ANNUAL REBATE PAYMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated under subsection (j), the Secretary shall, for each of fiscal years 2025 and 2026, make carbon fee rebate payments to each eligible individual during the third quarter of each such fiscal year.

(B) PRO-RATA SHARE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the carbon fee rebate payment is 1 pro-rata share for each eligible individual of the amount appropriated under subsection (j) for the fiscal year.

(3) ESTIMATE.—For each fiscal year described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall,

not later than the first day of such fiscal year, publicly announce an estimate of the amount of the carbon fee rebate payment for each quarter during such fiscal year.

(d) PHASEOUT.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) MODIFIED ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—The term ''modified adjusted gross income'' means adjusted gross income increased by any amount excluded from gross income under section 911, 931, or 933 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(B) HOUSEHOLD MEMBER.—The term ''household member of the taxpayer'' means the taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse, and any dependent of the taxpayer.

(C) THRESHOLD AMOUNT.—The term ''threshold amount'' means—

(i) $150,000 in the case of a taxpayer filing a joint return, and

(ii) $75,000 in the case of a taxpayer not filing a joint return.

(2) PHASEOUT OF PAYMENTS.—In the case of any taxpayer whose modified adjusted gross income for the most recent taxable year for which a return has been filed exceeds the threshold amount, the amount of the carbon fee rebate payment otherwise payable to any household member of the taxpayer under this section shall be reduced (but not below zero) by a dollar amount equal to 5 percent of such payment (as determined before application of this paragraph) for each $1,000 (or fraction thereof) by which the modified adjusted gross income of the taxpayer exceeds the threshold amount.

(e) FEE TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS.—Amounts paid under this section shall not be includible in gross income for purposes of Federal income taxes.

(f) FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND FEDERAL ASSISTED PROGRAMS.—The carbon fee rebate payment received by any eligible individual shall not be taken into account as income and shall not be taken into account as resources for purposes of determining the eligibility of such individual or any other individual for benefits or assistance, or the amount or extent of benefits or assistance, under any Federal program or under any State or local program financed in whole or in part with Federal funds.

(g) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION.—Section 6103(l) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(23) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION RELATING TO CARBON FEE REBATE PAYMENTS.—

''(A) DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY.—Return information with respect to any taxpayer shall, without written request, be open to inspection by or disclosure to officers and employees of the Department of the Treasury whose official duties require such inspection or disclosure for purposes of administering section 5 of the America's Clean Future Fund Act.

''(B) RESTRICTION ON DISCLOSURE.—Information disclosed under this paragraph shall be disclosed only for purposes of, and to the extent necessary in, carrying out such section.''.

(h) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations, and other guidance, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this section, including—

(1) establishment of rules for eligible individuals who have not filed a recent tax return, and

(2) in coordination with the Commissioner of Social Security, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and any relevant State agencies, establish methods to identify eligible individuals and provide carbon fee rebate payments to such individuals through appropriate means of distribution, including through the use of electronic benefit transfer cards.

(i) PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.—The Secretary shall conduct a public awareness campaign, in coordination with the Commissioner of Social Security, the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, and Indian Tribes (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)), to provide information to the public regarding the availability of carbon fee rebate payments under this section.

(j) INITIAL APPROPRIATION.—For purposes of subsection (c)(2), there is appropriated, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to remain available until expended—

(1) for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, $37,500,000,000, and

(2) for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, $37,500,000,000.

(k) TERMINATION.—This section shall not apply to any calendar quarter beginning after—

(1) a determination by the Secretary under section 4692(d)(3)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

(2) any period of 8 consecutive calendar quarters for which the amount of carbon fee rebate payment (without application of subsection (d)) during each such quarter is less than $20.

SEC. 6. AGRICULTURAL DECARBONIZATION TRANSITION PAYMENTS.

(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to provide transition assistance to eligible producers in the agricultural sector to prepare for and facilitate entry into greenhouse gas credit markets; and

(2) to provide for the collection and reporting of data under subsection (d).

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE LAND.—The term ''eligible land'' means land in the United States, including territories of the United States and Indian land (as defined in section 2601 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501)), that has a cropping or livestock history during each of the 3 years preceding the date on which a payment is provided under the program with respect to the land, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) ELIGIBLE PRODUCER.—The term ''eligible producer'' means an individual or legal entity that—

(A) is an owner, operator, or tenant of eligible land; and

(B) has the ability to enter into an agreement with the Secretary to carry out qualifying actions described in subsection (c)(2) under the program.

(3) GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION.—The term ''greenhouse gas emissions reduction'' means the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as a result of the adoption of qualifying actions described in subsection (c)(2), as compared to an historical baseline.

(4) PROGRAM.—The term ''program'' means the program established under subsection (c)(1).

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(6) TRADITIONALLY UNDERSERVED.—The term ''traditionally underserved'', with respect to an eligible producer, means that the eligible producer—

(A) has been socially or economically disadvantaged by previous discriminatory laws or policies based on race, ethnicity, or disability;

(B) is new to agriculture, as determined by the Secretary;

(C)(i) has served in the United States Armed Forces; and

(ii)(I) has not operated an agriculture operation;

(II) is new to agriculture, as determined by the Secretary; or

(III) first obtained veteran status during the previous 5-year period;

(D) is an owner, operator, or tenant of a limited resource agriculture operation; or

(E) has a household income not greater than the national poverty level.

(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program to provide payments to eligible producers that will assist with reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the adoption of qualifying actions described in paragraph (2).

(2) QUALIFYING ACTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall determine actions that qualify for payments under the program.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—To be a qualifying action under subparagraph (A), an action shall be—

(i) a climate-smart practice, including—

(I) a practice determined by a land-grant college or university (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)); or

(II) climate-smart energy generation, fueling, or efficiency; and

(ii) measurable, reportable, and verifiable for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as determined by the Secretary.

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining the rate and duration of a payment under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider—

(A) the degree of additionality of the greenhouse gas emissions reduction;

(B) whether the recipient of the payment was an early adopter of 1 or more practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

(C) the likelihood that the applicable qualifying action described in paragraph (2) would have been carried out absent the provision of the payment;

(D) the degree of transitionality or permanence of the greenhouse gas emissions reduction;

(E) whether the applicable qualifying action described in paragraph (2) provides multiple environmental and health co-benefits in addition to reduced greenhouse gas emissions;

(F) the degree to which the recipient of the payment is a traditionally underserved eligible producer;

(G) the integration with and enhancement of payments and policies of similar Federal, State, or local programs; and

(H) any payments received, or to be received, by the applicable eligible producer from a similar Federal, State, or local program for applicable qualifying actions described in paragraph (2).

(4) INELIGIBILITY.—A person that is determined to be in violation of any applicable water or air quality regulation, including under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) (including regulations), shall not be eligible for any payment under paragraph (1) during the period of the violation.

(5) EFFECTIVENESS.—The authority to provide payments under this subsection shall be effective for each of the first 10 fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2025.

(d) COLLECTION OF DATA AND REPORTING.—

(1) MEASUREMENT SYSTEM.—The Secretary shall use an outcomes-based measurement system that uses the best available science and technology for cost-effective recordkeeping, modeling, and measurement of farm-level greenhouse gas emissions on eligible land enrolled in the program.

(2) INVENTORY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of providing payments under the program, the Secretary shall conduct a nationwide soil health and agricultural greenhouse gas emissions inventory that uses the best available science and data to establish baselines and expected average performance for soil carbon

drawdown and storage and greenhouse gas emissions reduction by primary production type and production region.

(B) DATABASE.—The Secretary shall—

(i) establish an accessible and interoperable database for the inventory established under subparagraph (A) using the measurement system established under paragraph (1); and

(ii) improve and update the database as new data is collected, but not less frequently than once every 2 years.

(3) CRITERIA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish criteria for payments under the program to inform policy and markets established to promote greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The criteria established under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) have a documented likelihood of providing long-term net greenhouse gas emissions reductions, according to the best available science;

(ii) be based in part on environmental impact modeling of the changes of shifting from baseline practices to new or improved practices; and

(iii) prevent, to the maximum extent practicable, the degradation of other natural resource or environmental conditions.

(4) MEASUREMENT, REPORTING, MONITORING, AND VERIFICATION SERVICES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary—

(i) shall provide services described in subparagraph (B) to eligible producers participating in the program; and

(ii) may approve and provide oversight of 1 or more third-party agents to provide services described in subparagraph (B) to eligible producers participating in the program.

(B) SERVICES DESCRIBED.—Services referred to in subparagraph (A) are determining the greenhouse gas emissions reduction by—

(i) measurement;

(ii) reporting;

(iii) monitoring; and

(iv) verification.

(C) USE OF PROTOCOLS.—Services referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be provided using—

(i) the measurement system described in paragraph (1); and

(ii) the criteria described in paragraph (3).

(D) PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish—

(I) safeguards to protect the privacy of information that is submitted through or retained by a third-party agent approved under subparagraph (A), including employees and contractors of the third-party agent; and

(II) such other rules and standards of data security as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to carry out this subsection.

(ii) PENALTIES.—The Secretary shall establish penalties for any violations of privacy or confidentiality under clause (i).

(E) DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—

(i) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.—Information collected for purposes of services provided under subparagraph (A) may be disclosed to the public—

(I) if the information is transformed into a statistical or aggregate form such that the information does not include any identifiable or personal information of individual producers; or

(II) in a form that may include identifiable or personal information of a producer only if that producer consents to the disclosure of the information.

(ii) RESEARCH, AUDIT, AND PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT.—Information collected for the purposes of services provided under subparagraph (A) may be disclosed for the purposes of providing technical assistance, including audit, research, or improvement of a program under this section, either in aggregate or in a form that includes identifiable or personal information of a producer, if the Secretary obtains adequate assurances that—

(I) the recipient shall ensure privacy safeguards of identifiable or personal information of a producer; and

(II) the release of any data to the public will only occur only if the data has been transformed into a statistical or aggregate form.

(e) REGULATIONS.—Not later than July 1, 2025, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section, including—

(1) the amount of a payment under subsection (c), which shall be based on—

(A) the quantity of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions reduced; and

(B) the considerations described in subsection (c)(3);

(2) a methodology that any third-party agents approved under subsection (d)(4)(A)(ii) shall use to provide the services under that subsection, including—

(A) an accreditation process; and

(B) a conflict of interest policy; and

(3) provisions for the ownership and transportability of data, including historical data, generated by an eligible producer for the purpose of determining eligibility for payments under the program.

SEC. 7. TRANSITION ASSISTANCE FOR IMPACTED COMMUNITIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian Tribe'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(2) INDIVIDUAL WITH A BARRIER TO EMPLOYMENT.—The term ''individual with a barrier to employment'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

(3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(4) LOCAL BOARD.—The term ''local board'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

(5) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL.—The term ''recognized postsecondary credential'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

(6) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development.

(7) STATE.—The term ''State'' means—

(A) a State;

(B) the District of Columbia;

(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

(D) any other territory or possession of the United States.

(8) STATE BOARD.—The term ''State board'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

(9) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—The term ''supportive services'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

(b) GRANTS.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Labor, shall provide grants to eligible entities to assist in the transition to a low- or zero-greenhouse gas emitting economy.

(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to receive a grant under this section is a labor organization, an institution of higher education, a unit of State or local government, an Indian Tribe, an economic development organization, a nonprofit organization, community-based organization, or intermediary, or a State board or local board that serves or is located in a community that—

(1) as determined by the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Labor, has been or will be impacted by economic changes in carbon-intensive industries, including in an energy community (as defined in section 45(b)(11) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986);

(2) as determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has been or is at risk of being impacted by extreme weather events, sea level rise, and natural disasters related to climate change; or

(3) as determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, has been impacted by harmful residuals from a fossil fuel or carbon-intensive industry.

(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant for—

(1) economic and workforce development activities, such as—

(A) job creation;

(B) providing reemployment and worker transition assistance, including registered apprenticeships, subsidized employment, job training, transitional jobs, and supportive services, with priority given to—

(i) workers impacted by changes in carbon-intensive industries;

(ii) individuals with a barrier to employment; and

(iii) programs that lead to a recognized postsecondary credential;

(C) local and regional investment, including commercial and industrial economic diversification;

(D) export promotion; and

(E) establishment of a monthly subsidy payment for workers who retire early due to economic changes in carbon-intensive industries;

(2) climate change resiliency, such as—

(A) building electrical, communications, utility, transportation, and other infrastructure in flood-prone areas above flood zone levels;

(B) building flood and stormproofing measures in flood-prone areas and erosion-prone areas;

(C) increasing the resilience of a surface transportation infrastructure asset to withstand extreme weather events and climate change impacts;

(D) improving stormwater infrastructure;

(E) increasing the resilience of agriculture to extreme weather;

(F) ecological restoration;

(G) increasing the resilience of forests to wildfires;

(H) increasing coastal resilience; and

(I) implementing heat island cooling strategies;

(3) environmental remediation and restoration projects of fossil fuel industry facilities that are abandoned or retired, or closed due to bankruptcy, and residuals from carbon-intensive industries, such as—

(A) coal ash and petroleum coke cleanup;

(B) mine reclamation;

(C) reclamation and plugging of abandoned oil and natural gas wells on private and public land; and

(D) remediation of impaired waterways and drinking water resources; or

(4) other activities as the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Labor, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, determines to be appropriate.

(e) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) LABOR STANDARDS; NONDISCRIMINATION.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the funds

in a manner consistent with sections 181 and 188 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3241, 3248).

(2) WAGE RATE REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—All laborers and mechanics employed by eligible entities to carry out projects and activities funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by a grant under this section shall be paid at wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a similar character in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Davis-Bacon Act'').

(B) AUTHORITY.—With respect to the labor standards specified in subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Labor shall have the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1267; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title 40, United States Code.

(3) BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—All iron, steel, and manufactured goods used for projects and activities carried out with a grant under this section shall be produced in the United States.

(B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirement in subparagraph (A) if the Secretary finds that—

(i) enforcing the requirement would be inconsistent with the public interest;

(ii) the iron, steel, and manufactured goods produced in the United States are not produced in a sufficient and reasonably available amount or are not of a satisfactory quality; or

(iii) enforcing the requirement will increase the overall cost of the project or activity by more than 25 percent.

(f) COORDINATION.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section is encouraged to collaborate or partner with other eligible entities and impacted communities in planning and carrying out activities with that grant.

(g) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the Secretary establishes the grant program under this section, the Secretary and the Secretary of Labor shall submit to Congress a report on the effectiveness of the grant program, including—

(1) the number of individuals that have received reemployment or worker transition assistance under this section;

(2) a description of any job creation activities carried out with a grant under this section and the number of jobs created from those activities;

(3) the percentage of individuals that have received reemployment or worker transition assistance under this section who are, during the second and fourth quarters after exiting the program—

(A) in education or training activities; or

(B) employed;

(4) the average wages of individuals that have received reemployment or worker transition assistance under this section during the second and fourth quarters after exit from the program;

(5) a description of any regional investment activities carried out with a grant under this section;

(6) a description of any export promotion activities carried out with a grant under this section, including—

(A) a description of the products promoted; and

(B) an analysis of any increase in exports as a result of the promotion;

(7) a description of any resilience activities carried out with a grant under this section;

(8) a description of any cleanup activities from fossil fuel industry facilities or carbon-intensive industries carried out with a grant under this section; and

(9) the distribution of funding among geographic and socioeconomic groups, including urban and rural communities, low-income communities, communities of color, and Indian Tribes.

(h) FUNDING.—

(1) INITIAL FUNDING.—There is appropriated to the Secretary, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $5,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 and 2026 to carry out this section, to remain available until expended.

(2) AMERICA'S CLEAN FUTURE FUND.—The Secretary shall carry out this section using amounts made available from the America's Clean Future Fund under section 9512 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by section 4).

SEC. 8. STUDY ON CARBON PRICING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2028, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (referred to in this section as the ''Administrator'') shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences under which the National Academy of Sciences shall carry out a study not less frequently than once every 5 years to evaluate the effectiveness of the fees established under sections 4692 and 4693 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 in achieving the following goals:

(1) A net reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent, based on 2018 levels, by 2030.

(2) A net reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 100 percent, based on 2018 levels, by 2050.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In executing the agreement under subsection (a), the Administrator shall ensure that, in carrying out a study under that subsection, the National Academy of Sciences—

(1) includes an evaluation of—

(A) total annual greenhouse gas emissions by the United States, including greenhouse gas emissions not subject to the fees described in that subsection;

(B) the historic trends in the total greenhouse gas emissions evaluated under subparagraph (A); and

(C) the impacts of the fees established under sections 4692 and 4693 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 on changes in the levels of fossil fuel-related localized air pollutants in environmental justice communities (as defined in section 2(e)(1));

(2) analyzes the extent to which greenhouse gas emissions have been or would be reduced as a result of current and potential future policies, including—

(A) a projection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions that would result if the regulations of the Administrator were to be adjusted to impose stricter limits on greenhouse gas emissions than the goals described in that subsection, with a particular focus on greenhouse gas emissions not subject to the fees described in that subsection;

(B) the status of greenhouse gas emissions reductions that result from the fees established under sections 4692 and 4693 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(C) a projection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions that would result if the fees established under those sections were annually increased—

(i) at the current price path; and

(ii) above the current price path;

(D) an analysis of greenhouse gas emissions reductions that result from the policies of States, units of local government, Tribal communities, and the private sector; and

(E) the status and projections of decarbonization in other major economies; and

(3) submits a report to the Administrator, Congress, and the Board of Directors of the Climate Change Finance Corporation describing the results of the study.

SEC. 9. ESTABLISHMENT OF TARGETS FOR CARBON SEQUESTRATION BY LAND AND WATER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, in consultation with the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior, the Chief of Engineers, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall—

(1) establish a target for carbon sequestration that can reasonably be achieved through enhancing the ability of public and private land and water to function as natural carbon sinks;

(2) develop strategies for meeting that target; and

(3) develop strategies to expand protections for ecosystems that sequester carbon and provide resiliency benefits, such as—

(A) flood protection;

(B) soil and beach retention;

(C) erosion reduction;

(D) biodiversity;

(E) water purification; and

(F) nutrient cycling.

(b) REPORT.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality shall submit to Congress a report describing—

(1) the target and strategies described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (a); and

(2) any additional statutory authorities or authorized funding levels needed to successfully implement those strategies.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 5122. A bill to establish the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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. 5122

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 ''Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park Act''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to establish a unit of the National Park System—

(A) to commemorate the life and legacy of Julius Rosenwald, who—

(i) was the son of German-Jewish immigrants;

(ii) helped make Sears, Roebuck and Co. the leading retailer in the United States for many years;

(iii) used his enormous fortune to become a visionary philanthropist; and

(iv) partnered with Booker T. Washington and approximately 5,000 African-American communities in the segregated South to build schools for children who had few or no educational opportunities;

(B) to recognize the impact of the Rosenwald Schools, which—

(i) were constructed between 1912 and 1932 in 15 States; and

(ii) educated more than 600,000 African-American children, including a number of

graduates who became leaders in the civil rights movement, such as—

(I) Representative John Lewis;

(II) Maya Angelou;

(III) Medgar Evers;

(IV) Nina Simone; and

(V) Carlotta Walls LaNier;

(C) to honor other important parts of the legacy of Julius Rosenwald, including—

(i) the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which—

(I) between 1928 and 1948, awarded fellowships to nearly 900 talented men and women—

(aa) ⅔ of whom were African Americans; and

(bb) including—

(AA) Marian Anderson;

(BB) Langston Hughes;

(CC) Ralph Bunche;

(DD) James Baldwin;

(EE) Dr. Charles Drew;

(FF) Ralph Ellison; and

(GG) Woody Guthrie; and

(II) supported early legal cases of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that led to the Supreme Court opinion in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, 347 U.S. 483 (1954);

(ii) founding the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago;

(iii) service as a member of the board of Jane Addams' Hull House for 20 years;

(iv) being a founding donor of the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry; and

(v) otherwise embodying social justice;

(2) to preserve a small number of representative sites of the Rosenwald Schools, including the San Domingo School in Sharptown, Maryland, and to establish a headquarters and visitor center for the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park within or near the former Sears Merchandising Complex in North Lawndale in the city of Chicago, Illinois, to enlighten visitors on—

(A) the overall life and legacy of Julius Rosenwald; and

(B) the ways in which the Rosenwald Schools—

(i) affected African-American education in the South; and

(ii) helped to make the United States a more democratic society; and

(3) to establish a network in the National Park Service to connect the remaining Rosenwald Schools to disseminate more fully the story of the Rosenwald Schools throughout the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) MAP.—The term ''Map'' means the map prepared under section 4(b)(2)(A).

(2) NETWORK.—The term ''Network'' means the Rosenwald Schools National Network established under section 5(a)(1).

(3) PARK.—The term ''Park'' means the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park established by section 4(a)(1).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 4. JULIUS ROSENWALD AND ROSENWALD SCHOOLS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), there is established as a unit of the National Park System the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park.

(2) DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.—

(A) DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT.—The Park shall not be established until the date on which the Secretary determines that a sufficient quantity of land or interests in land within the boundary of the Park has been acquired to constitute a manageable unit.

(B) FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE.—The Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register notice of a determination under subparagraph (A).

(b) BOUNDARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Park shall consist of the following:

(A) The 40-acre site selected for the Sears merchandising complex constructed in 1905–1906, which includes the original Sears Administration Building, the catalog building, the power plant, and the Nichols Tower, which now comprise the Sears Roebuck and Company Complex National Historic Landmark, and the Sears Sunken Garden directly across the street from the Sears Administration Building.

(B) The San Domingo Rosenwald School in Sharptown, Maryland, as generally depicted on the Map.

(C) Any Rosenwald School or other area designated by Congress to be included in the Park after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) MAP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare a map of the boundary of the Park.

(B) AVAILABILITY.—The Map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer land within the boundary of the Park in accordance with—

(A) this section; and

(B) the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including—

(i) sections 100101(a), 100751(a), 100752, 100753, and 102101 of title 54, United States Code; and

(ii) chapters 1003 and 3201 of title 54, United States Code.

(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To further the purposes of this section and notwithstanding chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the State of Illinois, the city of Chicago, the State of Maryland, other appropriate State and local government officials, and public and nonpublic entities, subject to subparagraph (B)—

(i) to support collaborative interpretive and educational programs at non-Federal historic properties within the boundary of the Park; and

(ii) to identify, interpret, and provide assistance for the preservation of non-Federal land within the boundary of the Park and at sites related to the Park but located outside the boundaries of the Park, including providing for—

(I) the placement of directional and interpretive signage;

(II) exhibits; and

(III) technology-based and other interpretive devices.

(B) PUBLIC ACCESS.—A cooperative agreement entered into under this paragraph shall provide for reasonable public access to any property subject to the cooperative agreement.

(3) USE OF FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may use appropriated funds to carry out a project to mark, interpret, improve, restore, or provide technical assistance with respect to the preservation and interpretation of any property that is subject to a cooperative agreement under paragraph (2).

(B) INCONSISTENT PURPOSES.—Any payment made by the Secretary under this section shall be subject to an agreement that the conversion, use, or disposal of a project carried out under subparagraph (A) for purposes that are inconsistent with the purposes of this section, as determined by the Secretary, shall result in a right of the United States to reimbursement in an amount that is the greater of—

(i) the amount provided by the Secretary to the project; and

(ii) an amount equal to the increase in the value of the project that is attributable to the funds, as determined by the Secretary as of the date of the conversion, use, or disposal.

(4) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary may, within the National Historic Landmark District in Chicago, Illinois—

(i) acquire a facade or other easement interest on the Nichols Tower; and

(ii) enter into a lease or other agreement for purposes of providing for administration of the Park and appropriate visitor services.

(B) OUTSIDE OF PARK BOUNDARY.—If the Secretary is unable to identify appropriate space for administration and visitor services in accordance with subparagraph (A)(ii), the Secretary may acquire the appropriate land or interests in land, or enter into other appropriate agreements, in the vicinity of, but outside the boundary of the Park, for administration and visitor services.

(C) LIMITATION.—The San Domingo School in Sharptown, Maryland, may only be acquired by the Secretary under this section by—

(i) donation;

(ii) purchase with donated funds; or

(iii) exchange.

(5) INTERPRETATION.—To further the dissemination of information about the life and legacy of Julius Rosenwald, with an emphasis on the partnership of Julius Rosenwald with Booker T. Washington and the approximately 5,000 communities in the South that led to the establishment and success of the Rosenwald Schools, the Secretary shall include interpretation of the story of Julius Rosenwald at—

(A) the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in the State of Illinois, within the boundary of which is located the home of Julius Rosenwald; and

(B) the Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site in the State of Alabama, which was founded by Booker T. Washington for the education of African Americans and at which architects designed the early Rosenwald Schools.

(6) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 3 fiscal years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall complete a general management plan for the Park in accordance with—

(A) section 100502 of title 54, United States Code; and

(B) any other applicable laws.

SEC. 5. ROSENWALD SCHOOLS NATIONAL NETWORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(1) establish, within the National Park Service, a program to be known as the ''Rosenwald Schools National Network'';

(2) as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, solicit proposals from sites, facilities, and programs interested in being a part of the Network; and

(3) administer the Network.

(b) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—In carrying out the Network, the Secretary shall—

(1) review studies and reports to complement and not duplicate studies of the historical importance of the Rosenwald Schools;

(2) produce and disseminate appropriate educational and promotional materials relating to the life and work of Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools that are part of the Network, such as handbooks, maps, interpretive guides, or electronic information;

(3) enter into appropriate cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding to provide assistance, as appropriate;

(4)(A) create and adopt an official, uniform symbol or device for the Network; and

(B) issue regulations for the use of the symbol or device adopted under this paragraph;

(5) conduct research relating to the Rosenwald Schools;

(6) make recommendations for any additional Rosenwald School sites that should be considered for inclusion within the Park due to the significance, integrity, and need for management by the National Park Service of the sites; and

(7) have the authority to provide grants to Network elements described in subsection (c).

(c) ELEMENTS.—The Network shall encompass the following elements:

(1) All units and programs of the National Park Service that are determined by the Secretary to relate to the story of Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools.

(2) Other Federal, State, local, and privately owned properties that the Secretary determines—

(A) relate to Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools; and

(B) are included in, or determined by the Secretary to be eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places.

(3) Other governmental and nongovernmental sites, facilities, and programs of an educational, research, or interpretive nature that are directly related to Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools.

(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—To achieve the purposes of this section and to ensure effective coordination of the Federal and non-Federal elements of the Network and units and programs of the National Park Service, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding with, and provide technical assistance to, the heads of other Federal agencies, States, units of local government, regional governmental bodies, and private entities.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 830—RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY ENGINEERING

Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 830

Whereas, in 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Act of July 2, 1862 (commonly known as the ''First Morrill Act'') (12 Stat. 503, chapter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), which granted land to States that agreed to use the land to teach ''agriculture and the mechanic arts'';

Whereas the Indiana General Assembly—

(1) in 1865, voted to participate in the Act of July 2, 1862 (commonly known as the ''First Morrill Act'') (12 Stat. 503, chapter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), and planned to build an institution; and

(2) in 1869, chose Lafayette, Indiana, in Tippecanoe County, for the new institution, Purdue University;

Whereas, in 1874, the first engineering student at Purdue University began taking engineering classes with an engineering instructor;

Whereas, in 1882, 1888, and 1904, Elwood Mead received degrees from Purdue University, and, in the 1930s, Elwood Mead directed the development of the Hoover Dam;

Whereas, in 1891, the 85,000-pound test locomotive Schenectady, the original ''Boilermaker Special,'' arrived at Purdue University to be used in the first locomotive testing lab of its kind;

Whereas Reginald Fessenden—

(1) from 1892 to 1893, while at Purdue University, initiated experiments for wireless transmission of the human voice-radio; and

(2) in 1900, succeeded in sending the first wireless transmission of the human voice-radio;

Whereas, in 1921, Donovan Berlin graduated from Purdue University and later designed important World War II planes, the P–40 and P–36, the only numerous battle-ready fighters available in the United States at the outbreak of the war;

Whereas, in 1921, Games Slayter graduated from Purdue University and later developed coarse fibers that facilitated the commercial production of the first fiberglass product;

Whereas, in 1927, Roscoe George graduated from Purdue University and later, with colleague Howard Helm, became the inventor of all-electronic television receivers;

Whereas, in 1929, Charles Ellis, a professor of civil engineering at Purdue University from 1934 to 1946, drew the blueprint design for the Golden Gate Bridge and oversaw test borings for, and the surveying and setting of, the towers of the Golden Gate Bridge;

Whereas, in 1933, Edward Purcell graduated from Purdue University and, in 1952, with Felix Bloch, won the Nobel Prize in Physics for finding a way to detect the extremely weak magnetism of the atomic nucleus;

Whereas, from 1935 to 1937, Amelia Earhart was a visiting professor in the aeronautical engineering department of Purdue University;

Whereas, in 1907 and 1948, John Atalla earned degrees from Purdue University and later co-developed the metal-oxide-semiconductor field-effect transistor, the most widely used type of integrated circuit in the world and the most manufactured human artifact in history;

Whereas Iven C. Kincheloe, Jr.—

(1) graduated from Purdue University in 1949;

(2) in 1956, became the Air Force test pilot that flew the Bell X-2 to 126,000 feet, becoming the first person to reach space; and

(3) was selected to fly the X-15 to become first citizen of the United States in space, but was killed in another test flight on July 26, 1958;

Whereas, in 1947, 1948, 1950, and 1981, Robert C. Forney earned degrees from Purdue University and later led the development of many new polymeric resins, most notably Dacron polyester fiber;

Whereas Virgil ''Gus'' Grissom—

(1) graduated from Purdue University in 1950;

(2) in 1959, was in the first group of astronauts in the United States;

(3) in 1961, was the second citizen of the United States in space, piloting Mercury-Redstone 4;

(4) was the command pilot for Gemini 3, the first 2-person space flight of the United States; and

(5) would eventually die while serving the United States on January 27, 1967, in the Apollo 1 flash fire at Kennedy Space Center;

Whereas, in 1955, Neil Armstrong graduated from Purdue University and later became the first person on the Moon;

Whereas, in 1956, Gene Cernan graduated from Purdue University and became the last person to set foot on the Moon as of 2024;

Whereas, in 1960, Paul McEnroe graduated from Purdue University and developed the globally ubiquitous barcode;

Whereas, in 1969, Purdue University founded the Women in Engineering Program, a first-of-its-kind program in the United States and model for other universities that aimed to recruit women into the engineering field, and to help retain women while at the Purdue University campus;

Whereas, in 1974, Les Geddes began a distinguished teaching and research career at Purdue University that spawned life-saving innovations including—

(1) burn treatments;

(2) miniature defibrillators;

(3) ligament repair; and

(4) tiny blood pressure monitors for premature infants;

Whereas, in 1974, the Purdue University Black Society of Engineers invited every Black engineering society to a conference at Purdue University and, from that meeting, the National Society of Black Engineers was created and became the largest student-managed organization in the United States, with more than 20,000 members and more than 790 chapters on college and university campuses;

Whereas, Purdue University is known as the ''Cradle of Astronauts'', as 27 graduates of Purdue University have been selected for space travel and nearly ⅛ of United States spaceflights have included a graduate of Purdue University;

Whereas, Purdue University is home to various academic programs that rank in the top 10 in the United States, including programs for—

(1) agricultural and biological engineering;

(2) industrial engineering;

(3) aeronautics and astronautics;

(4) civil engineering;

(5) mechanical engineering;

(6) electrical and computer engineering; and

(7) environmental and ecological engineering;

Whereas, as of 2024, Purdue University produces more than 5 percent of engineering students in the United States, and continues to expand; and

Whereas Purdue University has produced several Nobel Prize laureates, astronauts, and numerous ideas that have advanced humankind: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes—

(A) the 150th Anniversary of Purdue University Engineering;

(B) the consequential impact that Purdue University Engineering, and other programs at Purdue University, have had on the United States and the world, due to the engineering research, study, and feats of their graduates;

(C) that Purdue University Engineering—

(i) continues to provide nationally recognized programs for its students; and

(ii) is a treasured resource for individuals in the great State of Indiana, the United States, and the world; and

(2) encourages individuals in the United States to celebrate Purdue University Engineering and its graduates on their accomplishments and contributions to the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 831—SUPPORTING THE INCLUSION OF THE WOMEN OF SUDAN IN UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO END THE CONFLICT IN SUDAN

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 831

Whereas the women of Sudan have long led the fight for democracy in Sudan, including by establishing the Sudanese Women's Union after Sudan won its independence;

Whereas, following the end of the regime of Omar al-Bashir in April 2019, many Sudanese women mobilized and advocated for a civilian transitional government and secured progress such as the criminalization of female genital mutilation, the repeal of strict public order laws that governed the presence and attire of women in public spaces, and the codification of women's rights in the transitional constitution;

Whereas, despite making progress toward the meaningful inclusion of women in the political process, women in Sudan were largely left out of peace efforts and talks to transition to a civilian government;

Whereas many Sudanese women led and participated in protests to hold their government accountable during the transitional period and against the overthrow of Sudan's civilian transitional government by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, chair of the transitional Sovereign Council and head of the Sudanese Armed Forces, and other members of the Transitional Military Council, including Rapid Support Forces commander Lieutenant General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemedti);

Whereas, in response to the protests, military officials conducted a crackdown on peaceful protestors that included extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, torture, and the use of sexual- and gender-based violence to silence and oppress women;

Whereas, despite calls for accountability by the women of Sudan and the international community, numerous perpetrators of human rights abuses in Sudan have never been brought to justice, including those who perpetrated violence under the Omar al-Bashir regime, during the protests to end the regime, and as part of the military junta that took power from the transitional government;

Whereas the systemic oppression of protestors has facilitated democratic backsliding and perpetuated a culture of impunity in Sudan;

Whereas, on April 15, 2023, war broke out in Sudan between the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces, resulting in thousands of civilian casualties and a crisis for the future of democratic governance in Sudan;

Whereas Sudan is facing the world's largest internal displacement crisis with more than 11,000,000 people internally displaced;

Whereas Sudan is facing the world's worst education crisis as more than 19,000,000 children, more than half of whom are girls, are out of school due to violence or displacement;

Whereas Sudan is facing the world's worst hunger crisis as more than 25,000,000 people, the majority of whom are women and children, are facing acute food insecurity due to the war;

Whereas, as of March 2024 in Sudan, more than 1,000,000 women who are pregnant or breastfeeding were facing acute malnutrition and more than 3,000,000 children were facing acute malnutrition, and the nutrition situation has since deteriorated sharply;

Whereas the Famine Review Committee has determined that famine is taking place in Zamzam camp in North Darfur, which is home to more than 500,000 displaced people, and the Famine Early Warning Network warns that nearby areas, as well as other parts of the Darfur and Kordofan regions and the capital, Khartoum, also face a risk of famine;

Whereas, globally, women are more likely to suffer during famines and go hungry in the face of food insecurity;

Whereas the United Nations estimates that more than 6,700,000 people in Sudan face risks of gender-based violence;

Whereas, in October 2023, the Human Rights Council established an independent fact-finding mission for Sudan that found that instances of sexual exploitation, sexual slavery, and sexual abuse are occurring in Sudan, particularly in areas controlled by the Rapid Support Forces, in addition to torture, rape, and other forms of sexual violence;

Whereas instances of sexual violence in Sudan are primarily perpetrated by the Rapid Support Forces as a tool to commit genocide;

Whereas, since the war began, rates of domestic violence in Sudan have increased;

Whereas hundreds of cases of rape have been reported during the war, resulting in one of the highest rates of rape during conflict ever reported;

Whereas rape and other forms of gender-based violence are underreported, especially during armed conflict;

Whereas Article 27 of the Geneva Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, done at Geneva August 12, 1949 (commonly referred to as the ''Fourth Geneva Convention''), recognizes rape as a war crime in conflict settings;

Whereas sexual violence is used in many conflict settings as a tool to humiliate, control, oppress, and defeat women and the communities to which they belong;

Whereas approximately 80 percent of hospitals and medical centers are not operating in Sudan, resulting in unmet sexual and reproductive health needs in addition to a lack of essential medicine and other health services;

Whereas more than half of internally displaced persons in Sudan are women and girls, and 88 percent of registered refugees fleeing the war are women and children;

Whereas ethnic minorities in Sudan are at increased risk of gender-based violence;

Whereas women and girls fleeing the war have experienced gender-based violence in refugee camps and host communities;

Whereas countries neighboring Sudan and elsewhere have hosted Sudanese refugees and worked to provide them with life-saving resources;

Whereas, on February 26, 2024, the United States appointed a Special Envoy for Sudan to coordinate United States efforts to end the conflict in Sudan, secure unhindered humanitarian access, and support the Sudanese people as they seek to fulfill their aspirations for freedom, peace, and justice;

Whereas there has been a more than 60 percent increase in the number of women and girls requiring gender-based violence recovery services since the start of the war;

Whereas humanitarian assistance, including gender-responsive assistance, has been consistently blocked by warring factions from regions of Sudan impacted by the conflict;

Whereas the Peace for Sudan Platform, which includes more than 49 women-led peace, humanitarian, and civil society organizations, has advocated for an end to the conflict and the protection of women and girls;

Whereas hundreds of women peace activists from Sudan have called for an end to the conflict and for justice for victims of the conflict, including for survivors of gender-based violence, including through forums such as the United Nations Security Council, the Jeddah talks, and other internationally brokered ceasefire talks;

Whereas, in August 2024, the United States hosted peace talks in Switzerland and underscored the importance of the participation of women in conflict resolution, but the talks concluded without direct contact between the warring factions or a path forward to end the war;

Whereas, during the talks in Switzerland, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, the United Nations, the African Union, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates, calling themselves the ''Aligned for Advancing Lifesaving and Peace in Sudan Group'', were able to secure commitments from the warring parties to expand humanitarian routes, but restrictions remain and ongoing hostilities continue to hinder access, including to famine-affected people in North Darfur;

Whereas the United States and its partners and allies should continue to advocate for an urgent end to the war that restores Sudan's path to democracy, holds perpetrators of the conflict to account, and prioritizes the leadership of Sudanese women;

Whereas it is the policy of the United States to promote the inclusion of women in peace negotiations and to integrate gender considerations into the formation of United States foreign policy; and

Whereas the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–68) requires training on the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention and resolution, and when women participate in conflict resolution and peace negotiations, peace plans are 35 percent more likely to endure: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that the women of Sudan are instrumental in ensuring a democratic and peaceful Sudan and must be included in negotiating and forming the future of their country;

(2) commends the women of Sudan for their commitment to a civilian-led, democratic government and their efforts to end the war in Sudan;

(3) reaffirms support for the inclusion and participation of Sudanese women in all security-related discussions and peace negotiations to ensure a gender-inclusive resolution to the war in Sudan;

(4) notes with concern the ongoing lack of education available for girls in Sudan and the long-term impact lack of education could have on the future of Sudan;

(5) supports the empowerment of women's organizations advocating for peace in Sudan and efforts by the United States Special Envoy for Sudan, foreign governments, and multilateral institutions to document human rights abuses, including gender-based violence;

(6) urges additional resources for civil society organizations in Sudan working to document human rights abuses, including gender-based violence;

(7) urges additional humanitarian assistance, including for comprehensive gender-based violence prevention and response;

(8) condemns the use of gender-based violence and rape as weapons of war;

(9) calls on all countries to support the prosecution of actors involved in human rights abuses and violations, including gender-based violence, and to support an end to the culture of impunity in Sudan;

(10) urges all parties involved in the conflict to allow for increased levels of humanitarian assistance to reach communities across Sudan through all possible modalities, particularly in Darfur, and for all countries to support increased levels of humanitarian assistance to Sudan, including through local Sudanese nongovernmental organizations; and

(11) urges the implementation of an immediate ceasefire in Sudan by all parties and a

commitment to include women from Sudan's civil society in internationally brokered peace talks.

SENATE RESOLUTION 832—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2024, AS ''NATIONAL STILLBIRTH PREVENTION DAY'', RECOGNIZING TENS OF THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES IN THE UNITED STATES THAT HAVE ENDURED A STILLBIRTH, AND SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY TO KEEP OTHER FAMILIES FROM EXPERIENCING THE SAME TRAGEDY

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KING, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 832

Whereas approximately 21,000 pregnancies in the United States end in stillbirth each year, and the lack of access to maternal health care services has exacerbated the crisis;

Whereas racial disparities persist in birth outcomes, with Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Hispanic families at the greatest risk of losing a baby to stillbirth;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the annual number of stillbirths far exceeds the number of deaths among children under 15 years of age due to sudden infant death syndrome, car accidents, drowning, guns, fire, poison, and flu combined;

Whereas stillbirths are devastating and have a profound and lifelong impact on the families who endure them;

Whereas losing a baby to stillbirth is linked to an increased risk of maternal morbidity and mortality;

Whereas, with increased awareness and better data collection, the United States will be able to better understand why stillbirths in the United States are happening at an alarming rate and identify what can be done to combat this crisis;

Whereas proven stillbirth prevention efforts have the power to save thousands of babies every year, and innovations in stillbirth prevention could save thousands of additional families nationwide every year from the heartache of losing a baby;

Whereas recognizing ''National Stillbirth Prevention Day'' is an opportunity to increase awareness, support evidence-based prevention efforts, promote research, encourage improved data collection and greater understanding, and provide support to those who have experienced a stillbirth; and

Whereas ''National Stillbirth Prevention Day''—

(1) celebrates the passage of the Maternal and Child Health Stillbirth Prevention Act (Public Law 118–69; 138 Stat. 1485), which opens up more Federal resources for stillbirth prevention activities and research; and

(2) calls on the President and all other Federal officials to use their authority to take action to help reduce stillbirths and to ensure every expectant family is educated on how to reduce the risk of losing a baby to stillbirth: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of ''National Stillbirth Prevention Day'';

(2) understands the importance of advancing evidence-based prevention efforts; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe ''National Stillbirth Prevention Day'' with appropriate awareness programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 833—COUNTERING DISINFORMATION, PROPAGANDA, AND MISINFORMATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, AND CALLING FOR MULTI-STAKEHOLDER EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE SIGNIFICANT DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS THAT THE RISE IN DISINFORMATION, PROPAGANDA, AND MISINFORMATION IN REGIONAL INFORMATION ENVIRONMENTS HAS ON DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND UNITED STATES NATIONAL INTERESTS

Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KELLY, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 833

Whereas the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of the press are core pillars of democratic governance throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, as recognized in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, done at Lima September 11, 2001;

Whereas the vulnerability of existing information environments in Latin America and the Caribbean and the growing spread of inaccurate or false news through disinformation and misinformation activities pose serious threats to democratic governance and human rights in the Americas, which are likely to be further exacerbated by the rise of disinformation generated and enhanced by artificial intelligence;

Whereas disinformation and misinformation activities in Latin American and the Caribbean have—

(1) promoted harmful, false narratives spread by the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, according to research by Global Americans and the Equis Institute, including with respect to the COVID–19 pandemic and the unjustified invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation;

(2) posed risks to the integrity of electoral processes throughout the region, including in Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico, according to a report entitled ''Disinformation in Democracies: Strengthening Digital Resilience in Latin America'' issued in March 2019 by the Atlantic Council;

(3) contributed to protests in Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, and Ecuador, oftentimes amplified by operations linked to the Russian Federation, according to reporting by the New York Times;

(4) contributed to the exploitation of migrants by human smuggling networks that drive irregular migration, according to multiple investigations by the Tech Transparency Project; and

(5) contributed to a rise in xenophobic violence against migrants and refugees, according to multiple sources, including the Digital Forensic Research Lab;

Whereas information environments are closely interconnected between the United States and Latin America and the Caribbean, such that disinformation and misinformation flows between Latino populations in the United States and populations in Latin America and the Caribbean, according to a report entitled ''Latinos and a Growing Crisis of Trust'' issued in June 2022 by the Equis Institute;

Whereas, according to the report entitled ''Measuring the Impact of Misinformation, Disinformation, and Propaganda in Latin America'' issued in October 2021 by Global Americans (referred to in this preamble as the ''Global Americans Report''), intra- and extra-regional actors operate independently and in tandem to create and spread disinformation in Latin America and the Caribbean on both traditional and digital media platforms, including YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, TikTok, WhatsApp, and Telegram, where such activities are amplified through coordinated inauthentic behavior, such as the use of bots, trolls, and cyber troops;

Whereas political actors throughout Latin America and the Caribbean have manipulated domestic information environments by targeting citizens through disinformation activities, including in—

(1) Brazil, where former President Jair Bolsonaro had a direct role in spreading electoral disinformation, according to the Superior Electoral Court of Brazil and the Federal Police of Brazil;

(2) El Salvador, where President Nayib Bukele uses coordinated inauthentic networks to attack political opponents and bolster the perception of support for his policies, according to reporting by Reuters;

(3) Guatemala, where malicious actors with links to the then ruling party of former President Alejandro Giammattei carried out information operations to artificially amplify narratives eroding trust in the country's 2023 electoral process and targeting now President Bernardo Arevalo and his political party Semilla, according to research by the Digital Forensic Research Lab;

(4) Honduras, where actors linked to former President Juan Orlando Hernandez developed coordinated inauthentic networks to spread falsehoods about, and undermine support for, opposition party candidates, according to reporting by Time;

(5) Mexico, where President Andrés Manuel López Obrador spreads false and misleading narratives against the media and other independent institutions, according to research by the Digital Forensic Research Lab; and

(6) Venezuela, where actors linked to the regime of Nicolás Maduro have engaged in a sustained and synchronized campaign of disinformation to undermine the country's 2023–2024 electoral process, invalidate the results of such elections, and attack Maria Corina Machado and other opposition leaders, according to multiple sources, including the Digital Forensic Research Lab;

Whereas, in addition to spreading and amplifying disinformation against their own populations, authoritarian regimes in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela have also engaged in such activities against other countries in the region for purposes of undermining democratic values and spreading narratives contrary to the interests of the United States and its allies, including through coordinated efforts with extra-regional actors, such as publishing and amplifying false narratives by Russian state-controlled media outlets;

Whereas, according to the Global Americans Report, the Governments of the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, and the Islamic Republic of Iran have engaged in disinformation and propaganda operations aimed at undermining the influence and interests of the United States in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly through the use of state-affiliated media networks targeting Spanish-speaking audiences, such as CGTN TV and Xinhua News, RT and Sputnik, and HispanTV;

Whereas, according to a public statement by the Department of State on November 7,

2023, the Russian Federation is ''currently financing an on-going, well-funded disinformation campaign across Latin America'', including in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay;

Whereas, according to the Digital Forensic Research Lab and EUvsDisinfo, the Russian Federation considers social media outreach to Spanish-speaking and Portuguese-speaking audiences an important component of its state-sponsored media strategy, and the Spanish-language social media accounts of Kremlin-controlled media RT and Sputnik have more followers and engagement than their English- and Russian-language counterparts and comparable programming from the United States Agency for Global Media;

Whereas information environments in Latin America and the Caribbean are further distorted by the rise in the practice of disinformation for hire, by which political actors outsource information operations to regional and extra-regional public relations firms that impersonate local news outlets, civic organizations, and other entities through fake social media accounts and engage in other deceptive practices to create and amplify disinformation for profit;

Whereas the threats and effects of disinformation and misinformation in Latin America and the Caribbean are exacerbated by—

(1) the widespread use of social media and closed messaging platforms, where disinformation and misinformation is spread faster and farther, as primary communication and news sources, as indicated by the Reuters Institute Digital News Report 2022;

(2) high barriers of access to other forms of independent media and low media and digital literacy rates that lead to the unintentional spread of disinformation and misinformation;

(3) growing levels of distrust in public institutions, as indicated by recent AmericasBarometer surveys by the Latin American Public Opinion Project; and

(4) low levels of transnational coordination among relevant stakeholders within the region;

Whereas, on March 3, 2017, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Organization of American States (OAS) Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information issued a declaration entitled ''Joint Declaration on Freedom of Expression and Fake News, Disinformation and Propaganda'', which cautioned against the criminalization and regulation of disinformation and misinformation activities and called instead for joint efforts by relevant stakeholders;

Whereas some current efforts by governments in Latin American and the Caribbean to counter disinformation raise serious freedom of expression concerns that run counter to the recommendations made in the ''Joint Declaration on Freedom of Expression and Fake News, Disinformation and Propaganda'';

Whereas government and political actors in some Latin American and Caribbean countries have undertaken notable efforts to address the threat of disinformation in ways consistent with the protection of freedoms of expression and the press, including—

(1) political parties in Uruguay, which signed an ethics pact in April 2019 pledging to not generate or promote disinformation against political adversaries; and

(2) the national electoral institution of Panama, which engaged in joint workshops with the electoral institutions of Argentina in June 2019 and Costa Rica in September 2021 to share best practices on monitoring and countering information operations on social media;

Whereas, despite discernible progress in taking down accounts used by prominent, often foreign-backed, disinformation networks to engage in coordinated inauthentic activity and partnering with regional stakeholders, efforts by social media companies, including Facebook and Twitter, to address disinformation and misinformation in Latin America and the Caribbean continue to be hampered by—

(1) insufficient resources and attention devoted to countering such activities in low- and middle-income countries, as documented by multiple sources, including the Facebook Papers;

(2) significant gaps in the detection and enforcement of Spanish-language disinformation and misinformation relative to such English-language activities;

(3) enduring barriers to transparency and access for social media datasets and algorithms that are critical to independent disinformation and misinformation research; and

(4) limited cooperation among social media companies on plans and best practices to mitigate disinformation networks operating across platforms;

Whereas independent media, civil society, and academic groups have launched several initiatives to address disinformation and misinformation on social media and closed messaging platforms in Latin America and the Caribbean through fact-checking, media and digital literacy, and information sharing services, including Chequeado, Comprova, Verificado, and Cazadores de Fake News; and

Whereas the United States has pursued efforts to support the strengthening of information environments, promote independent media, and counter disinformation activities in Latin America and the Caribbean, including through initiatives led by the Global Engagement Center, the United States Agency for International Development, the United States Agency for Global Media, and United States embassies in the region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the serious threats the distortion of information environments through the creation and amplification of disinformation and misinformation on traditional and digital media platforms poses to democratic governance and human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(2) denounces independent and coordinated efforts by malicious actors to create and amplify disinformation in the Western Hemisphere, including foreign information operations led by the Governments of the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Cuba, and Nicaragua and the Maduro regime in Venezuela;

(3) urges social media companies to take additional steps to address how social media platforms are used to facilitate malicious activities, including disinformation, in Latin America and the Caribbean, including by—

(A) devoting significantly more resources to monitoring how such platforms are being exploited to spread false news, incite violence, and interfere with democratic electoral processes in the region;

(B) strengthening detection and removal enforcement capabilities against sources of Spanish-language and other non-English disinformation content;

(C) improving transparency over regional content moderation efforts to counter disinformation, the training and auditing of social media algorithms for Spanish-language and other non-English content, and datasets critical for disinformation and misinformation research;

(D) expanding and strengthening partnerships with local actors, including initiatives with third-party fact checkers and independent, democratic electoral institutions;

(E) investing in media and digital literacy education in the region; and

(F) strengthening coordination with one another on plans and best practices to help limit the spread of disinformation content online;

(4) calls on governments in Latin America and the Caribbean to counter disinformation activities and strengthen information environments by—

(A) bolstering regional mechanisms to coordinate responses and share best practices on countering disinformation;

(B) advancing efforts by political parties and other actors to publicly commit to refrain from generating or amplifying disinformation content through coordinated inauthentic behavior or outsourcing such activities to public relations firms; and

(C) safeguarding and strengthening free and independent media, promoting fact-checking, increasing use of digital forensics, and boosting media literacy efforts by civil society, journalists, and academia; and

(5) calls on the President and the heads of all relevant Federal agencies and departments to strengthen the role of the United States in countering the creation and amplification of disinformation in Latin America and the Caribbean and bolstering regional information environments, including by—

(A) increasing support for the activities described in paragraph (4);

(B) ensuring strong support for and coordination of concurrent efforts between all relevant bureaus and offices of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development;

(C) ensuring strong support for relevant efforts within the United States Agency for Global Media;

(D) convening regional fora, with participation from all relevant stakeholders, to discuss and develop methods to promote a strong, independent media and counter the spread and amplification of disinformation, including through a high-level summit and a Global Engagement Center Tech Challenge;

(E) pursuing measures—such as public identification, targeted sanctions, and information sharing and coordination with social media companies in identifying accounts spreading disinformation—to deter and hold accountable government officials in Latin America and the Caribbean who undermine democratic governance by targeting independent media or engaging in activities to create and amplify disinformation; and

(F) strengthening the capacity of the United States Government to mitigate the impact and influence of local state-affiliated media outlets of malicious extra-regional actors by offering objective, reliable, and accurate information, including through—

(i) increased investment in public diplomacy programming by the United States in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly programming aimed at engaging with local audiences through social media and messaging platforms; and

(ii) increased resources and programming from the United States Agency for Global Media tailored to audiences in Latin America and the Caribbean.

SENATE RESOLUTION 834—REAFFIRMING THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES' CLAIM OVER SECOND THOMAS SHOAL AND SUPPORTING THE FILIPINO PEOPLE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO COMBAT AGGRESSION BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 834

Whereas Second Thomas Shoal (also known as ''Ayungin Shoal'') is located within the Spratly Islands inside the Philippines' exclusive economic zone;

Whereas in 1951, the United States and the Republic of the Philippines signed the United States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty, making the two countries treaty allies;

Whereas in 1999, the Philippine Navy intentionally grounded the BRP Sierra Madre on Second Thomas Shoal to establish a maritime outpost in the Spratly Islands;

Whereas since grounding the BRP Sierra Madre, the Philippines has continuously hosted a contingent of Philippine Marines on the ship;

Whereas the People's Republic of China falsely claims ''indisputable sovereignty'' over Second Thomas Shoal and other areas surrounding the shoal;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has repeatedly engaged in increasingly hostile and aggressive behavior towards Filipino fishermen and Coast Guard vessels around Second Thomas Shoal, including by deploying tear gas, firing water cannons, deliberately ramming other vessels, and blocking Philippine vessels' maritime routes;

Whereas in December 2023, a vessel operated by the Coast Guard of the People's Republic of China surrounded a Filipino supply ship and assaulted it with water cannons as it operated in an area around Second Thomas Shoal;

Whereas on May 19, 2024, the Coast Guard of the People's Republic of China harassed and attempted to stop a Philippine vessel that was evacuating sick personnel from the BRP Sierra Madre;

Whereas on June 17, 2024, the Coast Guard of the People's Republic of China brutally assaulted a Philippine Coast Guard vessel en route to resupply the BRP Sierra Madre, which injured at least eight Filipino sailors and caused one Filipino sailor to lose a thumb;

Whereas on July 22, 2024, it was reported that the People's Republic of China and the Republic of the Philippines reached an agreement designed to reduce hostilities around Second Thomas Shoal;

Whereas on August 19, 2024, the People's Republic of China ignored the July 22, 2024, agreement and intentionally rammed two Philippine Coast Guard vessels on a resupply mission near Second Thomas Shoal;

Whereas on August 26, 2024, the People's Republic of China deployed 40 ships to block two Philippine vessels, which were attempting to resupply the BRP Teresa Magbanua, the flagship of the Philippine Coast Guard;

Whereas on August 31, 2024, vessels operated by the People's Republic of China repeatedly rammed and surrounded the BRP Teresa Magbanua in an area east of Second Thomas Shoal, which caused damages to its hull;

Whereas Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin has reiterated the United States policy that ''an armed attack on Philippine Armed Forces' public vessels or aircraft in the Pacific, including the South China Sea, would invoke U.S. defense commitments under our mutual defense treaty'';

Whereas the Department of State has reaffirmed that the United States ''stands with its ally, the Philippines, and condemns the dangerous and escalatory actions by the People's Republic of China (PRC) against lawful Philippine maritime operations ...''; and

Whereas, the Department of State has also stated, ''The United States reaffirms that Article IV of the 1951 United States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty extends to armed attacks on Philippine armed forces, public vessels, or aircraft – including those of its Coast Guard – anywhere in the South China Sea'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that—

(A) Second Thomas Shoal lies within the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of the Philippines; and

(B) the People's Republic of China's effort to harass and endanger Philippine vessels in the area are violations of Philippine sovereign rights;

(2) supports efforts to increase military assistance to the Republic of the Philippines to assist in its effort to combat blatant aggression by the People's Republic of China in the South China Sea, including near Second Thomas Shoal;

(3) reaffirms the commitments made by the United States to the Republic of the Philippines in the 1951 United States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty; and

(4) encourages increased cooperation and training with the Republic of the Philippines, including with the Philippine Coast Guard, and strong investments in United States shipbuilding and other United States military capabilities to ensure that our obligations to the Philippines will be carried out.

SENATE RESOLUTION 835—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE QUADRILATERAL SECURITY DIALOGUE (THE ''QUAD'') AND WELCOMING THE UPCOMING QUAD LEADERS SUMMIT

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 835

Whereas Australia, India, Japan, and the United States are 4 leading maritime democracies representing nearly 2,000,000,000 people and over ⅓ of global gross domestic product;

Whereas this grouping of countries, known as the ''Quad'', was launched 20 years ago in response to the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami;

Whereas, since its inception, the Quad partners have demonstrated their commitment to the success of the Indo-Pacific region by supporting regional institutions and promoting cooperation, mutual respect for sovereignty, and a rules-based international order;

Whereas Quad Foreign Ministers have met 8 times since 2019;

Whereas Quad Leaders have met 5 times, including twice virtually, since 2021, including most recently in Sydney in 2023;

Whereas Quad country representatives convene on a regular basis at all levels to exchange ideas and drive cooperation toward our shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific region;

Whereas the United States has directed over $100,000,000 in foreign assistance to Quad-related programs, designed to build an Indo-Pacific region that is prosperous, secure, connected, and resilient;

Whereas the Quad, through the Quad Vaccine Partnership, provided 400,000,000 COVID–19 vaccines and expanded vaccine production capacity in the Indo-Pacific region during the COVID–19 pandemic and has strengthened the Indo-Pacific's ability to detect and respond to outbreaks of diseases with pandemic potential through the Health Security Partnership;

Whereas, in 2022, the Quad established the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness to provide near-real-time, cost-effective, cutting-edge maritime domain awareness, enabling over 2 dozen countries to monitor their waters, counter illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, respond to climate change and natural disasters, and enforce their laws within their own territorial waters;

Whereas the Quad continues to deliver quality, resilient infrastructure around the Indo-Pacific region to increase connectivity, build regional capacity, and meet critical needs;

Whereas the Quad welcomed the 2023 launch of the Quad Investors Network, a nongovernmental network fostering private sector investment into critical and emerging technologies in Quad countries and across the Indo-Pacific region;

Whereas the Quad has demonstrated leadership in promoting the development and governance of critical and emerging technologies, ensuring the protection of democratic values and human rights in the digital age;

Whereas, in 2023, Quad Leaders launched the Quad Partnership for Cable Connectivity and Resilience and have invested in trusted undersea cables to enhance digital connectivity and secure, sustainable, and resilient telecommunications infrastructure among the Pacific Islands;

Whereas, in 2023, the Quad launched an Open RAN deployment in Palau to bring secure, trusted information and communications technology infrastructure, the first project of its kind in the Pacific;

Whereas the Quad has fostered people-to-people exchanges between citizens of the United States, Japan, India, and Australia through exchange programs for infrastructure experts and STEM students, including the Quad Fellowship program; and

Whereas, in September 2024, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, and Prime Minister Kishida Fumio of Japan will visit the United States for the fourth Quad Leaders Summit at the invitation of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes the Quad Leaders to the United States;

(2) recognizes the Quad's significant contributions to global health security, climate resilience, maritime security, technological cooperation, and economic development;

(3) welcomes and encourages sustained cooperation among Quad countries;

(4) stands ready to support efforts to strengthen the Quad and advance its objective of delivering tangible benefits for the Indo-Pacific region;

(5) affirms the Quad as a centerpiece of United States foreign policy within the Indo-Pacific region;

(6) views the Quad as an important mechanism for upholding the rules-based international order and a source of United States strength;

(7) recognizes the importance of expanding people-to-people programs between the 4 Quad member countries, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the Pacific Islands;

(8) supports the annual provision of foreign assistance funding to facilitate Quad-related programs; and

(9) commits its support for the enduring partnership among the Quad nations and their commitment to promoting peace, security, and prosperity.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3289. Mr. PAUL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 9468, making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

SA 3290. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WICKER) 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 3291. Mrs. MURRAY (for Mr. CARDIN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 288, to prevent, treat, and cure tuberculosis globally.

SA 3292. Mrs. MURRAY (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 4698, to authorize the Joint Task Forces of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3289. Mr. PAUL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 9468, making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. OFFSET.

Of the unobligated balances of the amount made available under section 50141(b) of Public Law 117–169 (136 Stat. 2043) (commonly referred to as the ''Inflation Reduction Act''), $2,882,482,000 are rescinded.

SA 3290. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WICKER) 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—ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

TITLE LI—PROCUREMENT

Subtitle E—Defense-wide, Joint, and Multiservice Matters

SEC. 5141. PROCUREMENT OF F–35 DEVELOPMENTAL TESTING AIRCRAFT.

Section 225(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31; 137 Stat. 195) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''two'' each place it appears and inserting ''three''; and

(B) by striking ''2030'' and inserting ''2034''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) DEVELOPMENTAL TESTING MODIFICATIONS.—Any developmental testing modifications to aircraft designated under paragraph (1) may be procured using funds made available to the F–35 aircraft program for research, development, test, and evaluation or procurement of aircraft.''.

TITLE LII—RESEARCH, TEST, DEVELOPMENT, AND EVALUATION

Subtitle C—Plans, Reports, and Other Matters

SEC. 5231. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE-ENABLED WEAPON SYSTEMS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a center of excellence to support the development and maturation of artificial intelligence-enabled weapon systems by organizations within the Department of Defense that—

(A) were in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) have appropriate core competencies relating to the functions specified in subsection (b).

(2) DESIGNATION.—The center of excellence established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be known as the ''Artificial Intelligence-Enabled Weapon Systems Center of Excellence'' (in this section referred to as the ''Center'').

(b) FUNCTIONS.—The Center shall—

(1) capture, analyze, assess, and share lessons learned across the Department of Defense regarding the latest advancements in artificial intelligence-enabled weapon systems, countermeasures, tactics, techniques and procedures, and training methodologies;

(2) facilitate collaboration among the Department of Defense and foreign partners, including Ukraine, to identify and promulgate best practices, standards, and benchmarks;

(3) facilitate collaboration among the Department, industry, and academia in the United States, including industry with expertise in autonomous weapon systems and other nontraditional weapon systems that utilize artificial intelligence as determined by the Secretary;

(4) serve as a focal point for digital talent training and upskilling for the Department, and as the Secretary considers appropriate, provide enterprise-level tools and solutions based on these best practices, standards, and benchmarks; and

(5) carry out such other responsibilities as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) submit to the congressional defense committees a report that includes a plan for the establishment of the Center; and

(2) provide the congressional defense committees a briefing on the plan submitted under paragraph (1).

(d) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE-ENABLED WEAPON SYSTEM DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''artificial intelligence-enabled weapon system'' includes autonomous weapon systems, as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 5232. REPORT ON STATUS OF REUSABLE HYPERSONIC TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report on the status of reusable hypersonic technology development activities, including the High Mach Turbine Engine.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A proposed organizational structure for management of a reusable hypersonic aircraft development program.

(2) An assessment of requirements and timeframe to formalize a program office.

(3) A cost estimate and timeline for testing key enabling technologies and programs.

SEC. 5233. PROHIBITION ON RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT OF CELL CULTURE AND OTHER NOVEL METHODS USED FOR THE PRODUCTION OF CULTIVATED MEAT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act may be used for the research or development of cell culture or any other novel method used for the production of cultivated meat for human consumption.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report assessing the state of research in artificially-produced, cell cultured cultivated meat.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) Articulation of the requirements, if any, from the military services or combat support agencies for cultivated meat for human consumption in the near-term (1-3 years) and mid-term (4-5 years).

(B) Analysis of the state of maturity of the research in the cultivated meat market, including the ability of current research to satisfy any of the requirements articulated under subparagraph (A), including an assessment of the research of key allies and adversaries in cultivated meat production.

(C) Any other matters the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

SEC. 5234. ADVANCED COMPUTING INFRASTRUCTURE TO ENABLE ADVANCED ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish an advanced computing infrastructure program within the Department of Defense.

(b) DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING INFRASTRUCTURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall expand upon the current infrastructure of the Department for development and deployment of military applications of high-performance computing and artificial intelligence that are located on-premises at Department installations or accessible via commercial classified cloud providers.

(2) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE APPLICATIONS.—(A) The Secretary shall ensure that some of the infrastructure capacity developed pursuant to paragraph (1) is dedicated to providing access to modern artificial intelligence accelerators, configured consistently with industry best practices, for training, fine-tuning, modifying, and deploying large artificial intelligence systems.

(B) In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall ensure, to the extent practical, that new artificial intelligence system development is not performed using infrastructure capacity described in such subparagraph that is duplicative of readily available commercial or open source solutions.

(c) HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING ROADMAP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop a high-performance computing roadmap that describes the computing infrastructure needed to research, test, develop, and evaluate advanced artificial intelligence applications projected over the period covered by the future-years defense program.

(2) ASSESSMENT.—The roadmap developed pursuant to paragraph (1) shall assess anticipated artificial intelligence applications, including the computing needs associated with their development, and the evaluation, milestones, and resourcing needs to maintain and

expand the computing infrastructure necessary for those computing needs.

(d) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Using the infrastructure from the program established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall develop artificial intelligence systems that have general-purpose military applications for language, image, audio, video, and other data modalities.

(2) TRAINING OF SYSTEMS.—The Secretary shall ensure that systems developed pursuant to paragraph (1) are trained using datasets curated by the Department using general, openly or commercially available sources of such data, or data owned by the Department, depending on the appropriate use case. Such systems may use openly or commercially available artificial intelligence systems, including those available via classified cloud providers, as a base for additional development such as fine-tuning.

(e) COORDINATION AND DUPLICATION.—In establishing the program required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Energy to ensure no duplication of activities carried out under this section with the activities of research entities of the Department of Energy, including the following:

(1) The National Laboratories.

(2) The Advanced Scientific Computing Research program.

(3) The Advanced Simulation and Computing program.

TITLE LIII—OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Subtitle C—Treatment of Perfluoroalkyl Substances and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

SEC. 5321. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE FOR ASSESSING PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES IN WATER SOURCES AND PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCE REMEDIATION SOLUTIONS.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to dedicate resources to advancing, and expanding access to, perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance detection and remediation science, research, and technologies through the establishment of Centers of Excellence for Assessing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Water Sources and Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Remediation Solutions.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

(A) select from among the applications submitted under paragraph (2)(A) an eligible research university, an eligible rural university, and a National Laboratory applying jointly for the establishment of centers, to be known as the ''Centers of Excellence for Assessing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Water Sources and Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Remediation Solutions'', which shall be a tri-institutional collaboration between the eligible research university, eligible rural university, and National Laboratory co-applicants (in this section referred to as the ''Centers''); and

(B) guide the eligible research university, eligible rural university, and National Laboratory in the establishment of the Centers.

(2) APPLICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible research university, eligible rural university, and National Laboratory desiring to establish the Centers shall jointly submit to the Administrator an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Administrator may require.

(B) CRITERIA.—In evaluating applications submitted under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall only consider applications that—

(i) include evidence of an existing partnership between not fewer than two of the co-applicants that is dedicated to supporting and expanding shared scientific goals with a clear pathway to collaborating on furthering science and research relating to perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances;

(ii) demonstrate a history of collaboration between not fewer than two of the co-applicants on the advancement of shared research capabilities, including instrumentation and research infrastructure relating to perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances;

(iii) indicate that the co-applicants have the capacity to expand education and research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to prepare a generation of experts in sciences relating to perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances;

(iv) demonstrate that the National Laboratory co-applicant is equipped to scale up newly discovered materials and methods for perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance detection and perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance removal processes for low-risk, cost-effective, and validated commercialization; and

(v) identify one or more staff members of each co-applicant who—

(I) have expertise in sciences relevant to perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance detection and remediation; and

(II) have been jointly selected, and will be jointly appointed, by the co-applicants to lead and carry out the purposes of the Centers.

(3) TIMING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Centers shall be established not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) DELAY.—If the Administrator determines that a delay in the establishment of the Centers is necessary, the Administrator—

(i) not later than the date specified in subparagraph (A), shall submit a notification to the appropriate committees of Congress explaining the necessity of the delay; and

(ii) shall ensure that the Centers are established not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) COORDINATION.—The Administrator shall carry out paragraph (1) in coordination with other relevant officials of the Federal Government as the Administrator determines appropriate.

(c) DUTIES AND CAPABILITIES OF THE CENTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Centers shall develop and maintain—

(A) capabilities for measuring perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance contamination in drinking water, ground water, and any other relevant environmental, municipal, industrial, or residential water samples using methods certified by the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(B) capabilities for—

(i) evaluating emerging perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance removal and destruction technologies and methods; and

(ii) benchmarking those technologies and methods relative to existing technologies and methods.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Centers shall, at a minimum—

(i) develop instruments and personnel capable of analyzing perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance contamination in water using—

(I) the method described by the Environmental Protection Agency in the document entitled ''Method 533: Determination of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Drinking Water by Isotope Dilution Anion Exchange Solid Phase Extraction and Liquid Chromatography/Tandem mass Spectrometry'' (commonly known as ''EPA Method 533'');

(II) the method described by the Environmental Protection Agency in the document entitled ''Method 537.1: Determination of Selected Per- and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances in Drinking Water by Solid Phase Extraction and Liquid Chromatography/Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC/MS/MS)'' (commonly known as ''EPA Method 537.1'');

(III) any updated or future method developed by the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(IV) any other method the Administrator considers relevant;

(ii) develop and maintain capabilities for evaluating the removal of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances from water using newly developed adsorbents or membranes;

(iii) develop and maintain capabilities to evaluate the degradation of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances in water or other media;

(iv) make the capabilities and instruments developed under clauses (i) through (iii) available to researchers throughout the regions in which the Centers are located; and

(v) make reliable perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance measurement capabilities and instruments available to municipalities and individuals in the regions in which the Centers are located at reasonable cost.

(B) OPEN-ACCESS RESEARCH.—The Centers shall provide open access to the research findings of the Centers.

(d) COORDINATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The Administrator may, as the Administrator determines to be necessary, use staff and other resources from other Federal agencies in carrying out this section.

(e) REPORTS.—

(1) REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS.—Not later than one year after the date of the establishment of the Centers under subsection (b), the Administrator, in coordination with the Centers, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing—

(A) the establishment of the Centers; and

(B) the activities of the Centers since the date on which the Centers were established.

(2) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date on which the report under paragraph (1) is submitted, and annually thereafter until the date on which the Centers are terminated under subsection (f), the Administrator, in coordination with the Centers, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing—

(A) the activities of the Centers during the year covered by the report; and

(B) any policy, research, or funding recommendations relating to the purposes or activities of the Centers.

(f) TERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Centers shall terminate on October 1, 2034.

(2) EXTENSION.—If the Administrator, in consultation with the Centers, determines that the continued operation of the Centers beyond the date described in paragraph (1) is necessary to advance science and technologies to address perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance contamination—

(A) the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(i) a notification of that determination; and

(ii) a description of the funding necessary for the Centers to continue in operation and fulfill their purpose; and

(B) subject to the availability of funds, may extend the duration of the Centers for such time as the Administrator determines to be appropriate.

(g) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2025 for the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program and the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program of the Department of Defense, $25,000,000 shall be made available to the Administrator to carry out this section.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts made available under paragraph (1) shall remain available to the Administrator for the purposes specified in that paragraph until September 30, 2033.

(3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than four percent of the amounts made available to the Administrator under paragraph (1) shall be used for the administrative costs of carrying out this section.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term the ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(3) ELIGIBLE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY.—The term ''eligible research university'' means an institution of higher education that—

(A) has annual research expenditures of not less than $750,000,000; and

(B) is located near a population center of not fewer than 5,000,000 individuals.

(4) ELIGIBLE RURAL UNIVERSITY.—The term ''eligible rural university'' means an institution of higher education that is—

(A) located in one of the five States with the lowest population density as determined by data from the most recent census;

(B) a member of the National Security Innovation Network in the Rocky Mountain Region; and

(C) in proximity to the geographic center of the United States, as determined by the Administrator.

(5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(6) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term ''National Laboratory'' has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

Subtitle F—Other Matters

SEC. 5351. IMPROVEMENTS TO FIREGUARD PROGRAM OF NATIONAL GUARD.

(a) INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIP.—Section 510 of title 32, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(b) CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with a qualified individual or entity to carry out the duties of the FireGuard Program under subsection (a).

''(2) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'qualified individual or entity' means—

''(A) any individual who possesses a requisite security clearance for handling classified remote sensing data for the purpose of wildfire detection and monitoring; or

''(B) any corporation, firm, partnership, company, nonprofit, Federal agency or subagency, or State or local government, with contractors or employees who possess a requisite security clearance for handling such data.''.

(b) TRANSITION OF FIREGUARD PROGRAM TO CIVILIAN OR COMMERCIAL CAPABILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with other entities pursuant to a memorandum of understanding under paragraph (3), shall develop a plan to transition the operation of the FireGuard Program under section 510 of title 32, United States Code, to a Federal agency or subagency (other than the Department of Defense or within the Department of Defense) or a State or local government with civilian or commercial capabilities.

(2) OPERATION OF CIVILIAN OR COMMERCIAL CAPABILITIES.—All civilian or commercial capabilities under the FireGuard Program pursuant to a transition conducted under paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) performed by an individual who possesses a requisite security clearance for handling classified remote sensing data for the purpose of wildfire detection and monitoring, including pursuant to a contract with a corporation, firm, partnership, company, nonprofit, Federal agency or sub-agency, or State or local government; and

(B) coordinated with the United States Geological Survey.

(3) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—In developing the transition plan required under paragraph (1), the Secretary may enter into a memorandum of understanding with one or more Federal agencies or subagencies or State or local governments to identify and leverage shared or external civilian resources from Federal, State, local, and tribal entities.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall submit to Congress a report that evaluates the effectiveness of the FireGuard Program under section 510 of title 32, United States Code, and opportunities to further engage civilian capacity within the program.

(2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of the efficacy of the FireGuard Program in detecting and monitoring wildfires, including the speed of detection.

(B) A plan to facilitate production and dissemination of unclassified remote sensing information for use by civilian organizations, including Federal, State, and local government organizations, in carrying out wildfire detection activities.

(C) A plan to contract with qualified civilian entities to facilitate access to remote sensing information for the purpose of wildfire detection and monitoring beginning January 1, 2026.

SEC. 5352. IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO THE FOOD PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall—

(1) implement the recommendations of the Comptroller General of the United States contained in the report published by the Comptroller General in June 2024 and titled ''DOD Food Program: Additional Actions Needed to Implement, Oversee, and Evaluate Nutrition Efforts for Service Members'' (GAO–24–106155); or

(2) if the Secretary does not implement any such recommendation, submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report explaining why the Secretary has not implemented those recommendations.

TITLE LV—MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY

Subtitle C—General Service Authorities and Military Records

SEC. 5521. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROCESS FOR SHARING MILITARY SERVICE DATA WITH STATES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Military and Education Data Integration Act''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ''local educational agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(2) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term ''secondary school'' has the meaning given the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(3) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ''State educational agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(c) DATA SHARING PROCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, State educational agencies, local educational agencies, military leaders, and other experts in student data and privacy shall, not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, develop and implement a secure, data sharing process that enables State educational agencies to, on a not less than annual basis—

(A) access data elements described in paragraph (2) maintained by the Secretary of Defense related to each such State's high school graduates; and

(B) integrate data elements described in paragraph (2) maintained by the Secretary of Defense related to each such State's high school graduates into—

(i) such State's statewide longitudinal data system; or

(ii) an alternate data system operated by such State.

(2) DATA ELEMENTS.—The data elements described in this paragraph shall include information, updated not less than annually, regarding the following:

(A) The military service of officers and enlisted personnel, disaggregated by State of secondary school graduation (or most recent secondary school attendance before enlistment or accession), including the following:

(i) The highest level of education attained by the service member.

(ii) The name and location of the school that provided the education referenced in clause (i).

(iii) The name and location of the secondary school from which the service member graduated (if different than the information provided under clause (ii)) (or most recently attended if the service member did not graduate).

(iv) The service member's score on the Armed Forces Qualification Test.

(v) The date of accession into the Armed Forces by the service member.

(vi) The military service of the service member.

(vii) The current rank of the service member.

(viii) The area of expertise or military occupational specialty (MOS) of the service member.

(ix) The date of separation from the Armed Forces by the service member.

(x) Any other information deemed relevant by the Secretary of Defense.

(B) Information with respect to individuals who applied for military service (as officers or enlisted personnel, disaggregated by State of secondary school graduation (or most recent secondary school attendance before enlistment or accession)), including the following:

(i) The highest level of education attained by the individual.

(ii) The name and location of the school that provided the education referenced in clause (i).

(iii) The name and location of the secondary school from which the individual graduated (if different than the information provided under clause (ii)) (or most recently attended if the individual did not graduate).

(iv) The individual's score on the Armed Forces Qualification Test.

(3) PRIVACY.—The Secretary of Defense shall carry out the secure data sharing process required under paragraph (1) in a manner that protects individual privacy and data security, in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local privacy laws. The data collected pursuant to this subsection shall be collected and maintained in an anonymous format.

Subtitle D—Military Justice and Other Legal Matters

SEC. 5531. CLARIFYING AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 2 OF THE UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE.

Section 802(a)(14) of title 10, United States Code (article 2(a)(14) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), is amended by inserting ''20601 or'' before ''20603''.

Subtitle F—Military Family Readiness and Dependents' Education

SEC. 5571. ELIGIBILITY OF DEPENDENTS OF CERTAIN DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FOR ENROLLMENT IN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DOMESTIC DEPENDENT ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Section 2164(j) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence, by striking ''an individual described in paragraph (2)'' and inserting ''a member of a foreign armed force residing on a military installation in the United States (including territories, commonwealths, and possessions of the United States)''; and

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2)(A) The Secretary may authorize the enrollment in a Department of Defense education program provided by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (a) of a dependent not otherwise eligible for such enrollment who is the dependent of a member of the armed forces who died in—

''(i) an international terrorist attack against the United States or a foreign country friendly to the United States, as determined by the Secretary;

''(ii) military operations while serving outside the United States (including the commonwealths, territories, and possessions of the United States) as part of a peacekeeping force; or

''(iii) the line of duty in a combat-related operation, as designated by the Secretary.

''(B)(i) Except as provided by clause (ii), enrollment of a dependent described in subparagraph (A) in a Department of Defense education program provided pursuant to subsection (a) shall be on a tuition-free, space available basis.

''(ii) In the case of a dependent described in subparagraph (A) residing on a military installation in the United States (including territories, commonwealths, and possessions of the United States), the Secretary may authorize enrollment of the dependent in a Department of Defense education program provided pursuant to subsection (a) on a tuition-free, space required basis.''.

SEC. 5572. REVIEW OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity (in this section referred to as ''DODEA'') shall review the special education processes and procedures in place within DODEA to locate, identify (through screening or other evidence-based tools), evaluate, and refer children with disabilities from birth to age 21 and provide evidence-based interventions and supports for students with disabilities.

(b) CONSISTENCY WITH EXISTING LAW.—The review required by subsection (a) shall be conducted consistent with child-find requirements under Department of Defense Instruction 1342.12, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), and part 300 of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations.

(c) PROVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION MATERIALS AND INFORMATION TO CONGRESS.—As part of the review required by subsection (a), the Director shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees the following:

(1) A briefing on the special education processes and procedures of DODEA, particularly those for locating, identifying, evaluating, and referring for specific learning disabilities, including dyslexia.

(2) Documents, including documents not publicly available, related to subsection (d).

(d) PROVISION OF MATERIALS AND INFORMATION TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, as part of the review required by subsection (a), the Director shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees the following information regarding any screening programs of DODEA as that information pertains to locating and identifying, including screening, for early literacy skill development in children in DODEA schools:

(A) A description of the following:

(i) The extent to which DODEA ensures that it locates and identifies, including by screening, children enrolled in an elementary school operated by DODEA for deficiencies in early literacy skill development.

(ii) The extent to which DODEA ensures that it locates, identifies, and screens new enrollees in each such school regardless of year, unless the new enrollee has already been identified with a specific learning disability, including dyslexia.

(iii) The extent to which DODEA ensures it provides comprehensive literacy instruction (as defined in section 2221(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6641(b)(1))).

(iv) The extent to which DODEA provides high-quality training for school personnel, particularly specialized instructional support personnel (as defined in section 8101(47)(A)(ii) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(47)(A)(ii))) related to early literacy, reading, and specific learning disabilities, including dyslexia.

(v) The extent to which DODEA ensures that each district of schools operated by DODEA employs at least one specialized instructional support personnel who specializes in early literacy, reading, and specific learning disabilities, including dyslexia.

(B) Information with respect to the following:

(i) The number of children at schools operated by DODEA screened for deficiencies in early literacy skill development, including dyslexia, each year and the grade in which those children were screened.

(ii) The number and types of early literacy screening tools used by DODEA each year.

(iii) The total number of children evaluated and identified with specific learning disabilities, disaggregated by dyslexia and other reading disabilities, as applicable, that are served by DODEA.

(iv) The total number of such children described in subparagraph (C), disaggregated by each subgroup of student (as defined in section 1111(c)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(c)(2))).

(v) The number of days, on average, from referral from the screening program to evaluation for specific learning disabilities, including dyslexia.

(vi) The type of professional conducting intervention programs for children with early literacy challenges and specific learning disabilities, particularly dyslexia.

(vii) A list of, and descriptions of materials related to, early literacy and reading interventions used by DODEA to provide special education and related services to children with specific learning disabilities, particularly dyslexia.

(viii) The number of trainings per year provided by DODEA to school personnel on screening for evaluating and providing services to children with early literacy challenges and specific learning disabilities, particularly dyslexia.

(ix) A list of organizations outside of DODEA, if applicable, that are consulted with on such screening programs and related reading intervention programs.

(2) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—The Director shall ensure that any information provided to the appropriate congressional committees under paragraph (1) does not reveal personally identifiable information.

(e) ASSESSMENT OF DEFINITIONS USED BY DODEA.—As part of the review required by subsection (a), the Director shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a description of how DODEA's definitions of the following terms align with or differ from the following definitions:

(1) COMPREHENSIVE LITERACY INSTRUCTION.—The term ''comprehensive literacy instruction'' has the meaning given that term in section 2221(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6641(b)(1)).

(2) SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITIES.—The term ''specific learning disabilities'' has the meaning of that term under section 300.309 of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) SCREENING PROGRAM.—The term ''screening program'' means a screening program that is—

(A) evidence-based and proven for validity and reliability to measure early literacy and reading skills;

(B) efficient and low-cost; and

(C) readily available.

(4) EVIDENCE-BASED.—The term ''evidence-based'' has the meaning given that term in section 8101(21)(A)(i) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(21)(A)(i)).

(f) DYSLEXIA DEFINITION USED BY DODEA.—As part of the review required by subsection (a), the Director shall provide to the appropriate congressional committee the definition of ''dyslexia'' used by DODEA.

(g) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

Subtitle I—Enhanced Recruiting Efforts

SEC. 5591. PROGRAM OF MILITARY RECRUITMENT AND EDUCATION AT THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Not later than September 30, 2025, the Secretary of Defense shall seek to enter into an agreement with the entity that operates the National September 11 Memorial and Museum (in this section referred to as ''the Museum'') under which the Secretary and such entity shall carry out a program at the Museum to promote military recruitment and education.

(b) PROGRAM.—A program under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Provision by the Secretary to such entity of informational materials to promote enlistment in the covered Armed Forces for distribution at the Museum.

(2) Education and exhibits, developed jointly by the Secretary and such entity, and provided to the public by employees of the Museum, to—

(A) enhance understanding of the military response to the attacks on September 11, 2001; and

(B) encourage enlistment and re-enlistment in the covered Armed Forces.

(c) COVERED ARMED FORCES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered Armed Forces'' means the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space Force.

Subtitle K—Other Matters

SEC. 5595. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM TO PROMOTE PARTICIPATION OF FOREIGN STUDENTS IN THE SENIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2026, the Secretary of Defense shall establish a program using the authority provided under section 2103(b) of title 10, United States Code, to promote the participation of foreign students in the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (in this section referred to as the ''Program'').

(2) ORGANIZATION.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, the Secretaries of the military departments, the commanders of the combatant commands, the participant institutions in the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program, and any other individual the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate, shall be responsible for, and shall oversee, the Program.

(b) OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the Program is to promote the readiness and interoperability of the United States Armed Forces and the military forces of partner countries by providing a high-quality, cost effective military-based educational experience for foreign students in furtherance of the military-to-military program objectives of the Department of Defense and to enhance the educational experience and preparation of future United States military leaders through increased, extended interaction with highly qualified potential foreign military leaders.

(c) ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Under the Program, the Secretary of Defense shall—

(A) identify to the military services' Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program the foreign students who, based on criteria established by the Secretary, the Secretary recommends be considered for admission under the Program;

(B) coordinate with partner countries to evaluate interest in and promote awareness of the Program;

(C) establish a mechanism for tracking an alumni network of foreign students who participate in the Program; and

(D) to the extent practicable, work with the participant institutions in the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program and partner countries to identify academic institutions and programs that—

(i) have specialized academic programs in areas of study of interest to participating countries; or

(ii) have high participation from or significant diaspora populations from participating countries.

(d) STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2025, 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 strategy for the implementation of the Program.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) A governance structure for the Program, including—

(i) the officials tasked to oversee the Program;

(ii) the format of the governing body of the Program;

(iii) the functions and duties of such governing body with respect to establishing and maintaining the Program; and

(iv) mechanisms for coordinating with partner countries whose students are selected to participate in the Program.

(B) A list of additional authorities, appropriations, or other congressional support necessary to ensure the success of the Program.

(C) A description of targeted partner countries and participant institutions in the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps for the first three fiscal years of the Program, including a rationale for selecting such initial partners.

(D) A description of opportunities and potential timelines for future Program expansion, as appropriate.

(E) A description of the mechanism for tracking the alumni network of participants of the Program.

(F) Any other information the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate.

(e) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 20, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees (as defined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code) a report on the Program.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) A narrative summary of activities conducted as part of the Program during the preceding fiscal year.

(B) An overview of participant Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs, individuals, and countries, to include a description of the areas of study entered into by the students participating in the Program.

(C) A description of opportunities and potential timelines for future Program expansion, as appropriate.

(D) Any other information the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate.

(f) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Defense may not use the authority provided under this section to pay for tuition or room and board for foreign students who participate in the Program.

(g) TERMINATION.—The Program shall terminate on December 31, 2030.

TITLE LVI—COMPENSATION AND OTHER MATTERS

Subtitle C—Other Matters

SEC. 5621. REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF RESERVE COMPONENTS FOR MILEAGE DRIVEN TO INACTIVE-DUTY TRAINING.

The Secretary of Defense shall revise the Joint Travel Regulations maintained under section 464 of title 37, United States Code, to ensure that, if a member of a reserve component drives a vehicle of the member to inactive-duty training, the member may be paid a mileage allowance for the mileage driven by the member.

TITLE LVII—HEALTH CARE

Subtitle E—REports and Other Matters

SEC. 5741. WAIVER WITH RESPECT TO EXPERIENCED NURSES AT MILITARY MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The hiring manager of a military medical treatment facility or other health care facility of the Department of Defense may waive any General Schedule qualification standard related to work experience established by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management in the case of any applicant for a nursing or practical nurse position in a medical treatment facility or other health care facility the Department of Defense who—

(1)(A) is a nurse or practical nurse in the Department of Defense; or

(B) was a nurse or practical nurse in the Department of Defense for at least 1 year; and

(2) after commencing work as a nurse or practical nurse in the Department of Defense, obtained an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree, or a graduate degree from an accredited professional nursing educational program.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—If, in the case of any applicant described in subsection (a), a hiring manager waives a qualification standard in accordance with such subsection, such hiring manager shall submit to the Director of the Office of Personnel Management a certification that such applicant meets all remaining General Schedule qualification standards established by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management for the applicable position.

SEC. 5742. REPORT ON BIOLOGIC VASCULAR REPAIR.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report on the status of developing and integrating innovative biologic vascular repair solutions as standard protocol in military trauma care, including field-testing and assessment of long-term benefits and performance of biologic solutions.

SEC. 5743. STUDY ON EFFECTIVENESS OF HEARING LOSS PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense, in partnership with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of hearing loss prevention programs of the Department of Defense in reducing hearing loss and tinnitus prevalence among members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum—

(A) the amount of funding used and types of programs implemented to address hearing loss among members of the Armed Forces;

(B) an identification of such programs that are effective; and

(C) recommendations for legislative action to improve hearing health outcomes among members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5744. REVIEW ON USE OF MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES FOR THE PREVENTION, TREATMENT, OR MITIGATION OF SYMPTOMS RELATED TO MILD COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT OR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.

(a) FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(A) There are multiple treatments for Alzheimer's disease that are approved by the Food and Drug Administration and are shown to reduce the rate of disease progression and to slow cognitive and functional decline.

(B) Alzheimer's disease is a progressive disease affecting almost 7,000,000 people in the United States, and approved treatment options for such disease are most effective when administered early in the disease course.

(C) Following traditional approval by the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced broader coverage of monoclonal antibodies directed against amyloid for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and the Department of Veterans Affairs has also established a criteria for use of such treatments.

(D) The TRICARE program has a role in facilitating timely and equitable beneficiary access to novel therapeutics, including monoclonal antibodies approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that Congress encourages continued collaboration between the Department of Defense, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and other Federal agencies to reduce coverage gaps and ensure that all people in the United States, including members of the Armed Forces and their dependents, with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias have access to effective treatments.

(b) REVIEW AND REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall review the policy manual for the TRICARE program relating to the exclusion of the use of monoclonal antibodies for the prevention, treatment, or mitigation of symptoms related to mild cognitive impairment or Alzheimer's disease, and submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) outlines the review process of the Department of Defense for including or excluding the use of monoclonal antibodies;

(2) assesses whether the policy of the Department aligns with current science;

(3) indicates whether the Secretary has or is currently restricting access by beneficiaries under the TRICARE program to therapies for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease that are approved by the Food and Drug Administration; and

(4) indicates whether there are any disparities in treatment for Alzheimer's disease under the TRICARE program in different care delivery settings.

(c) TRICARE PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''TRICARE program'' has the meaning given that term in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code.

TITLE LVIII—ACQUISITION POLICY

Subtitle D—Small Business Matters

SEC. 5861. AMENDMENTS TO CONTRACTING AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.

(a) SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—Section 8(a)(1)(D)(i)(II) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)(1)(D)(i)(II)) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(or $10,000,000, in the case of a Department of Defense contract, as adjusted for inflation by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council under section 1.109 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation)'' after ''$7,000,000''; and

(2) by inserting ''(or $8,000,000, in the case of a Department of Defense contract, as adjusted for inflation by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council under section 1.109 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation)'' after ''$3,000,000''.

(b) CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.—Section 8(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7)(B)—

(A) in clause (i), by inserting ''(or $10,000,000, in the case of a Department of Defense contract, as adjusted for inflation by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council under section 1.109 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation)'' after ''$7,000,000''; and

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting ''(or $8,000,000, in the case of a Department of Defense contract, as adjusted for inflation by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council under section 1.109 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation)'' after ''$4,000,000''; and

(2) in paragraph (8)(B)—

(A) in clause (i), by inserting ''(or $10,000,000, in the case of a Department of Defense contract, as adjusted for inflation by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council under section 1.109 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation)'' after ''$7,000,000''; and

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting ''(or $8,000,000, in the case of a Department of Defense contract, as adjusted for inflation by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council under section 1.109 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation)'' after ''$4,000,000''.

(c) QUALIFIED HUBZONE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—Section 31(c)(2)(A)(ii) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657a(c)(2)(A)(ii)) is amended—

(1) in subclause (I), by inserting ''(or $10,000,000, in the case of a Department of Defense contract, as adjusted for inflation by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council under section 1.109 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation)'' after ''$7,000,000''; and

(2) in subclause (II), by inserting ''(or $8,000,000, in the case of a Department of Defense contract, as adjusted for inflation by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council under section 1.109 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation)'' after ''$3,000,000''.

(d) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS.—Section 36(c)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657f(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''(or $10,000,000, in the case of a Department of Defense contract, as adjusted for inflation by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council under section 1.109 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation)'' after ''$7,000,000''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''(or $8,000,000, in the case of a Department of Defense contract, as adjusted for inflation by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council under section 1.109 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation)'' after ''$3,000,000''.

SEC. 5862. SMALL BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTING IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Small Business Subcontractor Utilization Act of 2024''.

(b) REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE SUBCONTRACTORS ARE UTILIZED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SUBCONTRACTING PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8(d) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (H) as subparagraphs (D) through (I), respectively;

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) If a subcontracting plan is required with respect to this contract under paragraph (4) or (5) of section 8(d) of the Small Business Act—

''(i) at the same time as the contractor submits the subcontracting report with respect to this contract, the contractor shall provide to the contracting officer a utilization report that identifies, for each covered small business subcontractor for this contract—

''(I) the service or product that the covered small business subcontractor is required to provide to the prime contractor;

''(II) the total contract dollars that are to be paid to the covered small business subcontractor;

''(III) the total contract dollars that have been paid to the covered small business subcontractor, to date;

''(IV) the estimated date range for the performance of the covered small business subcontractor on the contract; and

''(V) any change to the contract, including changes to the services and products required or total contract dollars, that impacts the ability of the prime contractor to utilize the covered small business subcontractor as anticipated during the bid and proposal process; and

''(ii) not later than 30 days after the deadline to submit to the contracting officer the subcontracting report with respect to this contract, the contractor shall provide to each covered small business subcontractor for this contract a utilization report that identifies, for that covered small business subcontractor—

''(I) the service or product that the covered small business subcontractor is required to provide to the prime contractor;

''(II) the total contract dollars that are to be paid to the covered small business subcontractor;

''(III) the total contract dollars that have been paid to the covered small business subcontractor, to date;

''(IV) the estimated date range for the performance of the covered small business subcontractor on the contract; and

''(V) any change to the contract, including changes to the services and products required or total contract dollars, that impacts the ability of the prime contractor to utilize the covered small business subcontractor as anticipated during the bid and proposal process.''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(J) In this contract, the term 'covered small business subcontractor' means a first-tier subcontractor that—

''(i) is a small business concern; and

''(ii)(I) was used in preparing the bid or proposal of the prime contractor; or

''(II) provides goods or services to the prime contractor in performance of the contract.''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(18) NONCOMPLIANCE WITH SUBCONTRACTING PLAN.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

''(i) the term 'covered small business subcontractor' means a first-tier subcontractor that—

''(I) is a small business concern; and

''(II)(aa) was used in preparing the bid or proposal of the prime contractor; or

''(bb) provides goods or services to the prime contractor in performance of the contract; and

''(ii) the term 'subcontracting plan' means a subcontracting plan required under paragraph (4) or (5).

''(B) REVIEW.—A covered small business subcontractor is authorized to confidentially report to the contracting officer that the covered small business subcontractor is not being utilized in accordance with the subcontracting plan of the prime contractor. If reported, the contracting officer shall, in consultation with the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization or the Office of Small Business Programs, determine whether the prime contractor made a good faith effort to utilize the covered small business subcontractor in accordance with the subcontracting plan.

''(C) ACTION.—After the review required under subparagraph (B), if the contracting officer determines that the prime contractor failed to make a good faith effort to utilize the covered small business subcontractor in accordance with the subcontracting plan, the contracting officer shall assess liquidated damages in accordance with paragraph (4)(F).''.

(2) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall promulgate regulations pursuant to this Act.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, in consultation with relevant Federal agencies, including the General Services Administration, shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the improvements that can be made to SAM.gov, the Electronic Subcontracting Reporting System (eSRS), the Federal Subaward Reporting System (FSRS), and any other successor database to—

(1) incorporate the reporting requirements under the amendments made by subsection (b); and

(2) improve the ability of contracting officers to—

(A) evaluate whether prime contractors achieved their subcontracting goals; and

(B) make evidence-based determinations regarding whether small subcontractors are being utilized to the extent outlined in subcontracting plans.

SEC. 5863. UNCONDITIONAL OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEE-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration;

(2) the term ''budget justification materials'' has the meaning given that term in section 3(b)(2) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note);

(3) the term ''eligible worker-owned cooperative'' has the meaning given that term in section 1042(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(4) the term ''employee stock ownership plan'' has the meaning given that term in section 4975(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(5) the term ''small business concern owned and controlled by women'' has the meaning given that term in section 8(m)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)(1)).

(b) REPORT ON OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL THROUGH AN EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN OR ELIGIBLE WORKER-OWNED COOPERATIVE RELATING TO SET-ASIDE PROCUREMENT.—

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(A) employee stock ownership plans and eligible worker-owned cooperatives have unique ownership structures that create barriers to accessing set-aside procurement programs due to unconditional ownership and control requirements; and

(B) the ownership structures of an employee stock ownership plan or an eligible worker-owned cooperative should not prevent an otherwise eligible entity from accessing set-aside procurement programs.

(2) STUDY AND REPORT.—

(A) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in coordination with stakeholders, including national certifying agencies approved by the Administrator for certifying small business concerns owned and controlled by women and relevant Federal agencies, shall complete a study and recommend alternatives to unconditional ownership and control requirements for employee stock ownership plans and eligible worker-owned cooperatives that would enable access to set-aside procurement programs.

(B) REPORT.—The Administrator shall—

(i) not later than 5 days after the date on which the Administrator completes the study required under subparagraph (A), make that study, including the recommendations developed under that subparagraph, publicly available on the website of the Small Business Administration; and

(ii) not later than 30 days after the date on which the Administrator completes the study required under subparagraph (A), submit to Congress the recommendations developed under that subparagraph and a plan to implement the recommendations for all set-aside procurement programs.

(C) NECESSARY STATUTORY CHANGES.—In the first budget justification materials submitted by the Administrator on or after the date on which the Administrator submits the recommendations and plan required under subparagraph (B)(ii), the Administrator shall identify any applicable statutory changes necessary to implement the recommendations.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3(q) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(q)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''(not including any stock owned by an ESOP)'' each place it appears;

(2) by striking paragraph (6); and

(3) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (6).

SEC. 5864. REPEAL OF BONAFIDE OFFICE RULE FOR 8(a) CONTRACTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

Section 8(a)(11) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)(11)) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(A)'' before ''To the maximum''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) Subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect to a contract entered into under this subsection with the Department of Defense.''.

SEC. 5865. TRAINING ON INCREASING CONTRACT AWARDS TO CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.

(a) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS.—Section 36 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657f) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) TRAINING ON INCREASING CONTRACT AWARDS TO SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Office of Veterans Business Development and the Office of Government Contracting, shall, with respect to each Federal agency that did not meet the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(ii) for the most recently completed fiscal year, provide training to contracting officers of that Federal agency on how to increase the number of contracts awarded to small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.

''(2) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator, in consultation with the Office of Veterans Business Development and the Office of Government Contracting, shall issue guidance and best practices on increasing the number of contracts awarded to small businesses owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans for Federal agencies to which the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(ii) applies.

''(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report detailing—

''(A) for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year to which the report applies, a list of each Federal agency that failed to meet the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(ii);

''(B) for the fiscal year to which the report applies, the number of trainings provided to each Federal agency described in subparagraph (A); and

''(C) an overview of the content included in the training sessions described in subparagraph (B).''.

(b) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.—Section 8(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9) TRAINING ON INCREASING CONTRACT AWARDS TO SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Office of Women's Business Ownership and the Office of Government Contracting, shall, with respect to each Federal agency that did not meet the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(v) for the most recently completed fiscal year, provide training to contracting officers of that Federal agency on how to increase the number of contracts awarded to small business concerns owned and controlled by women.

''(B) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator, in consultation with the Office of Office of Women's Business Ownership and the Office of Government Contracting, shall issue guidance and best practices on increasing the number of contracts awarded to small businesses owned and controlled by women for Federal agencies to which the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(v) applies.

''(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report detailing—

''(i) for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year to which the report applies, a list of each Federal agency that failed to meet the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(v);

''(ii) for the fiscal year to which the report applies, the number of trainings provided to each Federal agency described in clause (i); and

''(iii) an overview of the content included in the training sessions described in clause (ii).''.

(c) QUALIFIED HUBZONE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—Section 31 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) TRAINING ON INCREASING CONTRACT AWARDS TO SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS

OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY QUALIFIED HUBZONE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Office of the HUBZone Program and the Office of Government Contracting, shall, with respect to each Federal agency that did not meet the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(iii) for the most recently completed fiscal year, provide training to contracting officers of that Federal agency on how to increase the number of contracts awarded to qualified HUBZone small business concerns.

''(2) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator, in consultation with the Office of the HUBZone Program and the Office of Government Contracting, shall issue guidance and best practices on increasing the number of contracts awarded to qualified HUBZone small business concern for Federal agencies to which the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(iii) applies.

''(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report detailing—

''(A) for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year to which the report applies, a list of each Federal agency that failed to meet the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(iii);

''(B) for the fiscal year to which the report applies, the number of trainings provided to each Federal agency described in subparagraph (A); and

''(C) an overview of the content included in the training sessions described in subparagraph (B).''.

(d) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS.—Section 8(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(22) TRAINING ON INCREASING CONTRACT AWARDS TO SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Office of Government Contracting, shall, with respect to each Federal agency that did not meet the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(iv) for the most recently completed fiscal year, provide training to contracting officers of that Federal agency on how to increase the number of contracts awarded to small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

''(B) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator, in consultation with the Office of Government Contracting, shall issue guidance and best practices on increasing the number of contracts awarded to small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals for Federal agencies to which the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(iv) applies.

''(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report detailing—

''(i) for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year to which the report applies, a list of each Federal agency that failed to meet the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(iv);

''(ii) for the fiscal year to which the report applies, the number of trainings provided to each Federal agency described in clause (i); and

''(iii) an overview of the content included in the training sessions described in clause (ii).''.

(e) NO AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS.—No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section or any of the amendments made by this section.

SEC. 5866. 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 controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and small business concerns owned and controlled by women''; and

(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''.

SEC. 5867. 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).

Subtitle E—Other Matters

SEC. 5871. REPORT ON ABILITY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO IDENTIFY PROHIBITED SEAFOOD IMPORTS IN SUPPLY CHAIN FOR FOOD PROCUREMENT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report assessing whether the Department has policies and procedures in place to verify that the food the Department procures does not include seafood originating in the People's Republic of China the importation of which is prohibited under section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307), including pursuant to a presumption under—

(1) section 3 of the Act entitled ''An Act to ensure that goods made with forced labor in the Xinjiang Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China do not enter the United States market, and for other purposes'', approved December 23, 2021 (Public Law 117–78; 22 U.S.C. 6901 note) (commonly referred to as the ''Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act''); or

(2) section 302A of the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9241a).

TITLE LX—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subtitle F—Studies and Reports

SEC. 6031. REPORT ON PORTABLE, DRONE-AGNOSTIC MUNITIONS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation with the Secretaries of the military departments, submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the feasibility and cost of acquiring and fielding portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall address the following:

(1) The potential use of portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions to augment small unit tactics and lethality in the ground combat forces, including—

(A) trench warfare;

(B) countermine operations;

(C) anti-armor uses; and

(D) anti-personnel uses.

(2) The capability for portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions to have a dual

tactical capacity to explode in the air or on impact.

(3) The cost-effectiveness, affordability, and domestic production capacity of portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions in comparison to one-way small uncrewed aerial systems.

(4) The use of portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions in the Ukraine conflict and best practices learned.

(5) The potential use of portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions in the defense of Taiwan.

(6) Procurement challenges, legal restrictions, training shortfalls, operational limitations, or other impediments to fielding portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions at the platoon level.

(7) A plan to equip platoon-sized ground combat formations in the close combat force with portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions at a basis of issue, as determined appropriate by the Secretary of the military department concerned, including a proposed timeline and fielding strategy.

(8) A plan to equip such other ground combat units with portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions, as determined appropriate by the Secretary of the military department concerned.

(9) The capacity of the domestic defense industrial base to produce portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions.

(10) The capacity of the industrial bases of foreign partners to produce portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions.

(11) The feasibility of fielding portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions in support of the findings of the report required by section 1071 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31; 137 Stat. 407).

Subtitle H—Other Matters

SEC. 6041. ELIGIBILITY OF SPOUSES FOR SERVICES UNDER THE DISABLED VETERANS' OUTREACH PROGRAM.

Section 4103A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''and eligible persons'' after ''eligible veterans''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting '', and eligible persons,'' after ''Other eligible veterans'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''and eligible persons'' after ''veterans'' each place it appears; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting ''or eligible person'' after ''veteran'' each place it appears; and

(ii) by inserting ''or eligible person's'' after ''veteran's'';

(2) in subsection (d)(1)—

(A) by inserting ''and eligible persons'' after ''eligible veterans'' each place it appears; and

(B) by striking ''non-veteran-related''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) ELIGIBLE PERSON DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'eligible person' means—

''(1) any spouse described in section 4101(5) of this title; or

''(2) the spouse of any person who died while a member of the Armed Forces.''.

SEC. 6042. DISCLOSURES BY DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AND PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 16(a)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78p(a)(1)) is amended by inserting ''(including any such security of a foreign private issuer, as that term is defined in section 240.3b–4 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation)'' after ''pursuant to section 12''.

(b) EFFECT ON REGULATION.—If any provision of section 240.3a12–3(b) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, is inconsistent with the amendment made by subsection (a), that provision of such section 240.3a12–3(b) (or such successor) shall have no force or effect.

(c) ISSUANCE OR AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall issue final regulations (or amend existing regulations of the Commission) to carry out the amendment made by subsection (a).

SEC. 6043. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON INTENTIONAL DISRUPTION OF THE NATIONAL AIRSPACE SYSTEM.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States (in this section referred to as the ''Comptroller General'') shall conduct a study on the vulnerability of the National Airspace System to potential disruptive operations by any person, party, or entity (in this section referred to as ''adversaries'') exploiting the electromagnetic spectrum and security vulnerabilities in the Aircraft Communications, Reporting and Addressing System (ACARS) and Controller Pilot Data Link Communications (CPDLC). Such study shall include an analysis of—

(1) the extent to which adversaries can engage in denial of service attacks and electromagnetic spectrum interference against—

(A) the National Airspace System; and

(B) high-traffic international routes of economic and strategic importance to the United States;

(2) the Federal Government's efforts, to date, to prevent and prepare for such denial of service attacks and spectrum disruptions;

(3) the feasibility of mitigating the vulnerabilities through cybersecurity and other upgrades to the Aircraft Communications, Reporting and Addressing System and Controller Pilot Data Link Communications;

(4) whether the Federal Aviation Administration is requiring sufficient cybersecurity and electromagnetic spectrum defenses to address denial of service attacks and other risks in new technologies it mandates be used on aircraft; and

(5) any other item determined appropriate by the Comptroller General.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) TO CONGRESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives a report containing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a), together with recommendations for such legislation and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

(B) UNCLASSIFIED FORM.—In preparing the report under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General shall ensure that any classified information is only in an addendum to the report and not in the main body of the report.

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Comptroller General shall post the report submitted under paragraph (1) on the public internet website of the Government Accountability Office at the time of such submission, but shall not include any classified addendum included with such report.

SEC. 6044. NOMINATION IN EVENT OF DEATH, RESIGNATION, OR EXPULSION FROM OFFICE OF MEMBER OF CONGRESS OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED TO NOMINATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 513 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 51302 the following new section:

''§ 51302a. Nomination in event of death, resignation, or expulsion from office of Member of Congress otherwise authorized to nominate

''(a) SENATORS.—In the event a Senator does not submit nominations for cadets for an academic year in accordance with section 51302(b)(1) of this title due to death, resignation from office, or expulsion from office and the date of the swearing-in of the Senator's successor as Senator occurs after the date of the deadline for submittal of nominations for cadets for the academic year, the nominations for cadets otherwise authorized to be made by the Senator pursuant to such section shall be made instead by the other Senator from the State concerned.

''(b) REPRESENTATIVES.—In the event a Member of the House of Representatives from a State does not submit nominations for cadets for an academic year in accordance with section 51302(b)(2) of this title due to death, resignation from office, or expulsion from office and the date of the swearing-in of the Representative's successor as Representative occurs after the date of the deadline for submittal of nominations for cadets for the academic year, the nominations for cadets otherwise authorized to be made by the Representative pursuant to such section shall be made instead by the Senators from the State of the congressional district concerned, with such nominations divided equally among such Senators and any remainder going to the senior Senator from the State.

''(c) CONSTRUCTION OF AUTHORITY.—Any nomination for cadets made by a Member pursuant to this section is not a reallocation of a nomination. Such nominations are made in lieu of a Member not submitting nominations for cadets for an academic year in accordance with section 51302 of this title due to death, resignation from office, or expulsion from office and the date of the swearing-in of the Member's successor occurs after the date of the deadline for submittal of nominations for cadets for the academic year.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 513 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 51302 the following new item:

''51302a. Nomination in event of death, resignation, or expulsion from office of Member of Congress otherwise authorized to nominate''.

SEC. 6045. REPORT ON AIRBORNE HAZARDS AND OPEN BURN PIT REGISTRY 2.0.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the current status and timeline for when the redesigned Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry 2.0 will be completed.

SEC. 6046. PREEMIE REAUTHORIZATION ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2024''.

(b) RESEARCH RELATING TO PRETERM LABOR AND DELIVERY AND THE CARE, TREATMENT, AND OUTCOMES OF PRETERM AND LOW BIRTHWEIGHT INFANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(e) of the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–4f(e)) is amended by striking ''fiscal years 2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2024 through 2028''.

(2) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Effective as if included in the enactment of the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–328), section 2 of such Act is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''Section 2'' and inserting ''Section 3''.

(c) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—Section 5(a) of the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–328) is amended by striking ''The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with other departments, as appropriate, may establish'' and inserting ''Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2024, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with other departments, as appropriate, shall establish''.

(d) STUDY ON PRETERM BIRTHS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall enter into appropriate arrangements with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under which the National Academies shall—

(A) not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, convene a committee of experts in maternal health to study premature births in the United States; and

(B) upon completion of the study under subparagraph (A)—

(i) approve by consensus a report on the results of such study;

(ii) include in such report—

(I) an assessment of each of the topics listed in paragraph (2);

(II) the analysis required by paragraph (3); and

(III) the raw data used to develop such report; and

(iii) not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, transmit such report to—

(I) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(II) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(III) the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

(2) ASSESSMENT TOPICS.—The topics listed in this paragraph are each of the following:

(A) The financial costs of premature birth to society, including—

(i) an analysis of stays in neonatal intensive care units and the cost of such stays;

(ii) long-term costs of stays in such units to society and the family involved post-discharge; and

(iii) health care costs for families post-discharge from such units (such as medications, therapeutic services, co-payments for visits, and specialty equipment).

(B) The factors that impact preterm birth rates.

(C) Opportunities for earlier detection of premature birth risk factors, including—

(i) opportunities to improve maternal and infant health; and

(ii) opportunities for public health programs to provide support and resources for parents in-hospital, in non-hospital settings, and post-discharge.

(3) ANALYSIS.—The analysis required by this paragraph is an analysis of—

(A) targeted research strategies to develop effective drugs, treatments, or interventions to bring at-risk pregnancies to term;

(B) State and other programs' best practices with respect to reducing premature birth rates; and

(C) precision medicine and preventative care approaches starting early in the life course (including during pregnancy) with a focus on behavioral and biological influences on premature birth, child health, and the trajectory of such approaches into adulthood.

SEC. 6047. BRIEFING ON A SECOND PILOT PROGRAM FOR ADVANCED REACTORS.

(a) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a briefing describing the requirements for, and components of, a pilot program to provide resilience for critical national security infrastructure at Department of Defense facilities with high energy intensity requirements by contracting with a commercial entity to site, construct, and operate at least one licensed reactor, capable of producing at least 60 megawatts of power, at a facility selected for purposes of the pilot program by December 31, 2029.

(b) CONTENTS.—The briefing submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of how a public-private partnership for the reactor could reduce ratepayer costs and avoid financial risk to the mission of the Department of Defense.

(2) Identification of potential locations to site, construct, and operate a reactor at either—

(A) a commercial site that serves critical mission interests of the Department; or

(B) a Department facility that contains critical national security infrastructure that the Secretary determines may not be energy resilient.

(3) Assessments of different nuclear technologies, including technologies capable of producing at least 60 megawatts of power, to provide energy resiliency for critical national security infrastructure.

(4) A survey of potential commercial stakeholders with which to enter into a contract under the pilot program to construct and operate a licensed reactor and, if appropriate, share offtake needs.

(5) A description of options to enter into long-term contracting, including various financial mechanisms for such purpose.

(6) Identification of requirements for reactors to provide energy resilience to mission-critical functions at facilities identified under paragraph (2).

(7) An estimate of the costs of the pilot program.

(8) A timeline with milestones for the pilot program.

(9) An analysis of the existing authority of the Secretary to permit the siting, construction, and operation of a reactor, if different than authorities for micro-reactors.

(10) Such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Secretary determines necessary for the Department to permit the siting, construction, or operation of a reactor under the pilot program.

(11) A strategy for deploying additional reactors at other sites to increase the order book for such reactors, including through public-private partnerships.

(12) A plan for implementing the pilot program, to begin implementation no later than three months after submission of the report.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the briefing required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with the following:

(1) The Secretary of Energy.

(2) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

(3) The Administrator of the General Services Administration.

SEC. 6048. FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU.

During the period beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on the date on which a new Federal programs and services agreement with the Government of the Republic of Palau enters into force, any activities described in sections 132 and 221(a) of the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Palau set forth in section 201 of Public Law 99–658 (48 U.S.C. 1931 note) shall, with the mutual consent of the Government of the Republic of Palau, continue in the manner authorized and required for fiscal year 2024 under the amended agreements described in subsections (b) and (f) of section 462 of that Compact.

SEC. 6049. REAUTHORIZATION OF UPPER COLORADO AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS ENDANGERED FISH AND THREATENED FISH RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS.

(a) PURPOSE.—Section 1 of Public Law 106–392 (114 Stat. 1602) is amended by inserting ''and threatened'' after ''endangered''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of Public Law 106–392 (114 Stat. 1602; 116 Stat. 3113) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''to implement the Recovery Implementation Program for the Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River dated September 29, 1987, and extended by the Extension of the Cooperative Agreement dated December 6, 2001, and the 1992 Cooperative Agreement to implement the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program dated October 21, 1992, and as they may be amended'' and inserting ''for the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin dated September 29, 1987, and the 1992 Cooperative Agreement for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program dated October 21, 1992, as the agreements may be amended and extended'';

(2) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by inserting ''or threatened'' after ''endangered''; and

(B) by striking ''removal or translocation'' and inserting ''control'';

(3) in paragraph (7), by striking ''long-term'' each place it appears;

(4) in paragraph (8), in the second sentence, by striking ''1988 Cooperative Agreement and the 1992 Cooperative Agreement'' and inserting ''Recovery Implementation Programs'';

(5) in paragraph (9)—

(A) by striking ''leases and agreements'' and inserting ''acquisitions'';

(B) by inserting ''or threatened'' after ''endangered''; and

(C) by inserting '', as approved under the Recovery Implementation Programs'' after ''nonnative fishes''; and

(6) in paragraph (10), by inserting ''pursuant to the Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin'' after ''Service''.

(c) AUTHORIZATION TO FUND RECOVERY PROGRAMS.—Section 3 of Public Law 106–392 (114 Stat. 1603; 116 Stat. 3113; 120 Stat. 290; 123 Stat 1310; 126 Stat. 2444; 133 Stat. 809; 136 Stat. 5572) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''(1) There is hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, $88,000,000 to undertake capital projects to carry out the purposes of this Act. Such funds'' and inserting the following:

''(1) AUTHORIZATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for use by the Bureau of Reclamation to undertake capital projects to carry out the purposes of this Act $50,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2024 through 2031.

''(B) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT.—For each of fiscal years 2025 through 2031, the amount authorized to be appropriated under subparagraph (A) shall be annually adjusted to reflect widely available engineering cost indices applicable to relevant construction activities.

''(C) NONREIMBURSABLE FUNDS.—Amounts made available pursuant to subparagraph (A)'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''Program for Endangered Fish Species in the Upper Colorado River Basin shall expire in fiscal year 2024'' and inserting ''Programs shall expire in fiscal year 2031''; and

(C) by striking paragraph (3);

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

''(b) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO CAPITAL PROJECTS.—The Secretary, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, may accept contributed funds, interests in land and water, or other contributions from the Upper Division States, political subdivisions of the Upper Division States, or individuals, entities, or organizations within the Upper Division States, pursuant to agreements that provide for the contributions to be used for capital projects costs.'';

(3) by redesignating subsections (d) through (j) as subsections (c) through (i), respectively;

(4) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024'' and inserting ''$92,040,000 for the period of fiscal years 2024 through 2031'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking ''$4,000,000 per year'' and inserting ''$61,100,000 for the period of fiscal years 2024 through 2031'';

(ii) in the second sentence—

(I) by inserting ''Basin'' after ''San Juan River''; and

(II) by striking ''$2,000,000 per year'' and inserting ''$30,940,000 for the period of fiscal years 2024 through 2031''; and

(iii) in the third sentence, by striking ''in fiscal years commencing after the enactment of this Act'' and inserting ''for fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter''; and

(C) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO ANNUAL BASE FUNDING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years 2024 through 2031, the Secretary, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, may accept funds from other Federal agencies, including power revenues collected pursuant to the Act of April 11, 1956 (commonly known as the ''Colorado River Storage Project Act'') (43 U.S.C. 620 et seq.).

''(B) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds made available under subparagraph (A) shall be available for expenditure by the Secretary, as determined by the contributing agency in consultation with the Secretary.

''(C) TREATMENT OF FUNDS.—Funds made available under subparagraph (A) shall be treated as nonreimbursable Federal expenditures.

''(D) TREATMENT OF POWER REVENUES.—Not more than $499,000 in power revenues over the period of fiscal years 2024 through 2031 shall be accepted under subparagraph (A) and treated as having been repaid and returned to the general fund of the Treasury.

''(4) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO ANNUAL BASE FUNDING.—The Secretary, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, may accept contributed funds from the Upper Division States, political subdivisions of the Upper Division States, or individuals, entities, or organizations within the Upper Division States, pursuant to agreements that provide for the contributions to be used for annual base funding.

''(5) REPLACEMENT POWER.—Contributions of funds made pursuant to this subsection shall not include the cost of replacement power purchased to offset modifications to the operation of the Colorado River Storage Project to benefit threatened or endangered fish species under the Recovery Implementation Programs.'';

(5) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated), in the first sentence, by inserting ''or threatened'' after ''endangered'';

(6) in subsection (g) (as so redesignated), by striking ''unless the time period for the respective Cooperative Agreement is extended to conform with this Act'' and inserting '', as amended or extended'';

(7) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated), in the first sentence, by striking ''Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program or the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program'' and inserting ''Recovery Implementation Programs''; and

(8) in subsection (i)(1) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking ''2022'' each place it appears and inserting ''2030'';

(B) by striking ''2024'' each place it appears and inserting ''2031''; and

(C) in subparagraph (C)(ii)(III), by striking ''contributions by the States, power customers, Tribes, water users, and environmental organizations'' and inserting ''non-Federal contributions''.

SEC. 6050. RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS CONTINUING SERVICE.

Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''PART PP—CIVIL LAW ENFORCEMENT TASK GRANTS

''SEC. 3061. DEFINITIONS.

''In this part:

''(1) CIVILIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT TASK.—The term 'civilian law enforcement task' includes—

''(A) assisting in homicide investigations;

''(B) assisting in carjacking investigations;

''(C) assisting in financial crimes investigations;

''(D) reviewing camera footage;

''(E) crime scene analysis;

''(F) forensics analysis; and

''(G) providing expertise in computers, computer networks, information technology, or the internet.

''(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means a State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency.

''SEC. 3062. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.

''The Attorney General may award grants to eligible entities for the purpose of hiring retired personnel from law enforcement agencies to—

''(1) train civilian employees of the eligible entity on civilian law enforcement tasks that can be performed on behalf of a law enforcement agency; and

''(2) perform civilian law enforcement tasks on behalf of the eligible entity.

''SEC. 3063. ACCOUNTABILITY PROVISIONS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—A grant awarded under this part shall be subject to the accountability requirements of this section.

''(b) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—

''(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'unresolved audit finding' means a finding in a final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that an audited grantee has used grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved within 12 months from the date when the final audit report is issued.

''(2) AUDITS.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of the Retired Law Enforcement Officers Continuing Service Act, and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of grants under this part to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall determine the appropriate number of grantees to be audited each year.

''(3) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient of grant funds under this part that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive grant funds under this part during the first 2 fiscal years beginning after the end of the 12-month period described in paragraph (1).

''(4) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this part, the Attorney General shall give priority to eligible entities that did not have an unresolved audit finding during the 3 fiscal years before submitting an application for a grant under this part.

''(c) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Beginning in the fiscal year during which audits commence under subsection (b)(2), the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives an annual certification—

''(1) indicating whether—

''(A) all audits issued by the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice under subsection (b) have been completed and reviewed by the appropriate Assistant Attorney General or Director; and

''(B) all mandatory exclusions required under subsection (b)(3) have been issued; and

''(2) that includes a list of any grant recipients excluded under subsection (b)(3) from the previous year.

''(d) PREVENTING DUPLICATIVE GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Before the Attorney General awards a grant to an eligible entity under this part, the Attorney General shall compare potential grant awards with other grants awarded by the Attorney General to determine if grant awards are or have been awarded for a similar purpose.

''(2) REPORT.—If the Attorney General awards grants to the same applicant for a similar purpose, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

''(A) a list of all such grants awarded, including the total dollar amount of any such grants awarded; and

''(B) the reason the Attorney General awarded multiple grants to the same applicant for a similar purpose.''.

SEC. 6051. MODERNIZING LAW ENFORCEMENT NOTIFICATION.

(a) VERIFIED ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION DEFINED.—Section 921(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(38) The term 'verified electronic notification', with respect to a communication to a chief law enforcement officer required under section 922(c)(2), means a digital communication—

''(A) sent to the electronic communication address that the chief law enforcement officer voluntarily designates for the purpose of receiving those communications; and

''(B) that includes a method for verifying—

''(i) the receipt of the communication; and

''(ii) the electronic communication address to which the communication is sent.''.

(b) VERIFIED ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION.—Section 922(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) the transferor has—

''(A) prior to the shipment or delivery of the firearm, forwarded a copy of the sworn statement, together with a description of the

firearm, in a form prescribed by the Attorney General, to the chief law enforcement officer of the transferee's place of residence, by—

''(i) registered or certified mail (return receipt requested); or

''(ii) verified electronic notification; and

''(B)(i) with respect to a delivery method described in subparagraph (A)(i)—

''(I) received a return receipt evidencing delivery of the statement; or

''(II) had the statement returned due to the refusal of the named addressee to accept such letter in accordance with United States Post Office Department regulations; or

''(ii) with respect to a delivery method described in subparagraph (A)(ii), received a return receipt evidencing delivery of the statement; and''.

SEC. 6052. RED HILL HEALTH REGISTRY.

(a) REGISTRY FOR IMPACTED INDIVIDUALS OF THE RED HILL INCIDENT.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF REGISTRY.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall establish within the Department of Defense or through an award of a grant or contract, as the Secretary determines appropriate, a Red Hill Incident exposure registry to collect data on health implications of petroleum-contaminated water for impacted individuals and potentially impacted individuals on a voluntary basis.

(2) CONTRACTS.—The Secretary of Defense may contract with independent research institutes or consultants, nonprofit or public entities, laboratories, or medical schools, as the Secretary considers appropriate, that are not part of the Federal Government to assist with the registry established under paragraph (1).

(3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense shall consult with non-Federal experts, including individuals with certification in epidemiology, toxicology, mental health, pediatrics, and environmental health, and members of the impacted community.

(b) USE OF EXISTING FUNDS.—The Secretary of Defense shall carry out activities under this section using amounts previously appropriated for the Defense Health Agency for such activities.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) IMPACTED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''impacted individual'' means an individual who, at the time of the Red Hill Incident, lived or worked in a building or residence served by the community water system at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Oahu, Hawaii.

(2) POTENTIALLY IMPACTED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''potentially impacted individual'' means an individual who, after the Red Hill Incident, lived or worked in a building or residence served by the community water system at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Oahu, Hawaii, including an individual who is not a beneficiary of the military health system.

(3) RED HILL INCIDENT.—The term ''Red Hill Incident'' means the release of fuel from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, Oahu, Hawaii, into the sole-source basal aquifer located 100 feet below the facility, contaminating the community water system at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on November 20, 2021.

SEC. 6053. IMPROVE INITIATIVE.

Part B of title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 409K. IMPROVE INITIATIVE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Institutes of Health, in consultation with the Director the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, shall establish a program to be known as the Implementing a Maternal health and PRegnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone Initiative (referred to in this section as the 'Initiative').

''(b) DUTIES.—The Initiative shall—

''(1) advance research to—

''(A) reduce preventable causes of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity;

''(B) reduce health disparities related to maternal health outcomes, including such disparities associated with medically underserved populations; and

''(C) improve health for pregnant and postpartum women before, during, and after pregnancy;

''(2) use an integrated approach to understand the factors, including biological, behavioral, and other factors, that affect maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity by building an evidence base for improved outcomes in specific regions of the United States; and

''(3) target health disparities associated with maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity by—

''(A) implementing and evaluating community-based interventions for disproportionately affected women; and

''(B) identifying risk factors and the underlying biological mechanisms associated with leading causes of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity in the United States.

''(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Director of the Institute may award grants or enter into contracts, cooperative agreements, or other transactions to carry out subsection (a).

''(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $53,400,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2031.''.

SEC. 6054. SECOND CHANCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024.

(a) STATE AND LOCAL REENTRY DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—Section 2976 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10631) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (7), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(9) treating substance use disorders, including by providing peer recovery services, case management, and access to overdose education and overdose reversal medications; and

''(10) providing reentry housing services.''; and

(2) in subsection (o)(1), by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2025 through 2029''.

(b) GRANTS FOR FAMILY-BASED SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT.—Section 2926(a) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10595a(a)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2025 through 2029''.

(c) GRANT PROGRAM TO EVALUATE AND IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL METHODS AT PRISONS, JAILS, AND JUVENILE FACILITIES.—Section 1001(a)(28) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261(a)(28)) is amended by striking ''2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023'' and inserting ''2025 through 2029''.

(d) CAREERS TRAINING DEMONSTRATION GRANTS.—Section 115(f) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60511(f)) is amended by striking ''2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023'' and inserting ''2025 through 2029''.

(e) OFFENDER REENTRY SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COLLABORATION PROGRAM.—Section 201(f)(1) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60521(f)(1)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2025 through 2029''.

(f) COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING AND TRANSITIONAL SERVICE GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 211(f) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60531(f)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2025 through 2029''.

SEC. 6055. MODIFICATION OF RULES FOR APPROVAL OF COMMERCIAL DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR PURPOSES OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3680A(e) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3) as subparagraphs (A) though (C), respectively;

(2) in the matter before subparagraph (A), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by inserting ''(1)'' before ''The Secretary'';

(3) in paragraph (1)(B), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by inserting ''except as provided in paragraph (2),'' before ''the course''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph (2):

''(2)(A) Subject to this paragraph, a commercial driver education program is exempt from paragraph (1)(B) for a branch of an educational institution if the commercial driver education program offered at the branch by the educational institution—

''(i) is appropriately licensed; and

''(ii)(I) the branch is located in a State in which the same commercial driver education program is offered by the same educational institution at another branch of that educational institution in the same State that is approved for purposes of this chapter by a State approving agency or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency; or

''(II)(aa) the branch is located in a State in which the same commercial driver education program is not offered at another branch of the same educational institution in the same State; and

''(bb) the branch has been operating for a period of at least one year using the same curriculum as a commercial driver education program offered by the educational institution at another location that is approved for purposes of this chapter by a State approving agency or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency.

''(B)(i) In order for a commercial driver education program of an educational institution offered at a branch described in paragraph (1)(B) to be exempt under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the educational institution shall submit to the Secretary each year that paragraph (1)(B) would otherwise apply a report that demonstrates that the curriculum at the new branch is the same as the curriculum at the primary location.

''(ii) Reporting under clause (i) shall be submitted in accordance with such requirements as the Secretary shall establish in consultation with the State approving agencies.

''(C)(i) The Secretary may withhold an exemption under subparagraph (A) for any educational institution or branch of an educational institution as the Secretary considers appropriate.

''(ii) In making any determination under clause (i), the Secretary may consult with the Secretary of Transportation on the performance of a provider of a commercial driver program, including the status of the provider within the Training Provider Registry of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration when appropriate.

''(D) 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 notification not later than 30 days after the Secretary grants an exemption under this paragraph. Such notification shall identify the educational institution and branch of such educational institution granted such exemption.''.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish requirements under section 3680A(e)(2)(B)(ii) of such title, as added by subsection (a).

(2) RULEMAKING.—In promulgating any rules to carry out paragraph (2) of section 3680A(e) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall consult with State approving agencies.

(3) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to commercial driver education programs on and after the day that is 365 days after the date on which the Secretary establishes the requirements under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES STUDY.—Not later than 365 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) conduct a study to—

(A) ascertain the effects of the amendments made by subsection (a); and

(B) the feasibility and advisability of similarly amending the rules for approval of programs of education for other vocational programs of education; and

(2) 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 findings of the Comptroller General with respect to such study.

SEC. 6056. ENSURING ONLY LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS PERFORM MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS UNDER CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) PROHIBITION ON USE OF CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.—Section 504(c)(1) of the Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–275; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by inserting ''only'' before ''a health care professional''.

(b) REMEDIES.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall take such actions as the Secretary considers appropriate to ensure compliance with section 504(c) of the Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–275; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note), as amended by subsection (a).

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and not less frequently than once each year thereafter, 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—

(1) the conduct of the pilot program established under section 504 of the Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–275; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note); and

(2) the actions of the Secretary under subsection (b).

(d) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Section 504 of the Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–275; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended, in the section heading, by striking ''**PHYSICIANS**'' and inserting ''**HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**''.

SEC. 6057. REQUIREMENT TO INCLUDE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN IN STRATEGY TO RESPOND TO UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS INCURSIONS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit a plan to expedite the testing, demonstration and validation of technologies that support the strategy required under subparagraph (A) of section 1057(a)(1) to the appropriate committees of Congress (as that term is defined in subparagraph (C) of such section).

SEC. 6058. READMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICEMEMBERS.

Subsection (a) of section 484C of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091c(a)) is amended to read as follows:

''(a) DEFINITION OF SERVICE IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.—In this section, the term 'service in the uniformed services' means service (whether voluntary or involuntary) on active duty in the Armed Forces, including such service by a member of the National Guard or Reserve.''.

SEC. 6059. SICKLE CELL DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1106(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b–5(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A)(iii), by striking ''prevention and treatment of sickle cell disease'' and inserting ''treatment of sickle cell disease and the prevention and treatment of complications of sickle cell disease'';

(2) in paragraph (2)(D), by striking ''prevention and treatment of sickle cell disease'' and inserting ''treatment of sickle cell disease and the prevention and treatment of complications of sickle cell disease'';

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''enter into a contract with'' and inserting ''make a grant to, or enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with,''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), in each of clauses (ii) and (iii), by striking ''prevention and treatment of sickle cell disease'' and inserting ''treatment of sickle cell disease and the prevention and treatment of complications of sickle cell disease''; and

(4) in paragraph (6), by striking ''$4,455,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''$8,205,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028''.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that further research should be undertaken to expand the understanding of the causes of, and to find cures for, heritable blood disorders, including sickle cell disease.

SEC. 6060. SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO SUSPECTED VIOLATIONS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.

Section 628A of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1628a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''suspects'' and inserting ''has a reasonable suspicion'';

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting '', packing materials, shipping containers,'' after ''its packaging'' each place it appears; and

(ii) by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) may provide to the person nonpublic information about the merchandise that was—

''(A) generated by an online marketplace or other similar market platform, an express consignment operator, a freight forwarder, or any other entity that plays a role in the sale or importation of merchandise into the United States or the facilitation of such sale or importation; and

''(B) provided to, shared with, or obtained by, U.S. Customs and Border Protection.''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) any other party with an interest in the merchandise, as determined appropriate by the Commissioner.''.

SEC. 6061. TREATMENT OF PRESCREENING REPORT REQUESTS.

Section 604(c) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681b(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) TREATMENT OF PRESCREENING REPORT REQUESTS.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

''(i) CREDIT UNION.—The term 'credit union' means a Federal credit union or a State credit union, as those terms are defined in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C 1752).

''(ii) INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term 'insured depository institution' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(c)).

''(iii) RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOAN.—The term 'residential mortgage loan' has the meaning given the term in section 1503 of the S.A.F.E. Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 (12 U.S.C. 5102).

''(iv) SERVICER.—The term 'servicer' has the meaning given the term in section 6(i) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2605(i)).

''(B) LIMITATION.—If a person requests a consumer report from a consumer reporting agency in connection with a credit transaction involving a residential mortgage loan, that agency may not, based in whole or in part on that request, furnish a consumer report to another person under this subsection unless that other person—

''(i) has submitted documentation to that agency certifying that such other person has, pursuant to paragraph (1)(A), the authorization of the consumer to whom the consumer report relates; or

''(ii)(I) has originated a current residential mortgage loan of the consumer to whom the consumer report relates;

''(II) is the servicer of a current residential mortgage loan of the consumer to whom the consumer report relates; or

''(III)(aa) is an insured depository institution or credit union; and

''(bb) holds a current account for the consumer to whom the consumer report relates.''.

SEC. 6062. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE COAST GUARD.

Section 4902 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''fiscal years 2022 and 2023'' and inserting ''fiscal year 2024'';

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''(1)(A) For the'' and all that follows through ''2023.'' at the end of clause (ii) and inserting the following:

''(1)(A) For the operation and maintenance of the Coast Guard, not otherwise provided for, $10,054,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.'';

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking ''subparagraph (A)(i)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (A)''; and

(ii) by striking ''$23,456,000'' and inserting ''$24,717,000''; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (C);

(3) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) For the procurement, construction, renovation, and improvement of aids to navigation, shore facilities, vessels, aircraft, and systems, including equipment related thereto, and for maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, $1,413,950,000 for fiscal year 2024.'';

(4) in paragraph (3), by striking ''equipment—'' and all that follows through the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting ''equipment, $7,476,000 for fiscal year 2024.''; and

(5) in paragraph (4), by striking ''Defense—'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''Defense, $277,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.''.

SEC. 6063. MODIFICATION OF ACQUISITION OF ICEBREAKER.

Section 11223 of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 4021; 14 U.S.C. 561 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''Paragraphs'' and all that follows through ''apply'' and inserting ''Paragraphs (1) and (3) of subsection (a), and subsection (b), of section 1132 of title 14, United States Code, shall not apply''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAW.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Commandant provides the briefing described in subparagraph (B), paragraphs (4) and (5) of subsection (a), and subsections (d) and (e), of section 1132 of title 14, United States Code, shall not apply to an acquisition or procurement of an icebreaker under subsection (a) until—

''(i) the first phase of the initial acquisition or procurement is complete; and

''(ii) initial operating capacity is achieved.

''(B) BRIEFING DESCRIBED.—The briefing described in this subparagraph is a briefing provided by the Commandant to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph that includes a detailed cost estimate for an icebreaker procured or acquired under subsection (a), including—

''(i) expected upgrades and crewing needs; and

''(ii) for each year of the estimated service life of such an icebreaker, the estimated costs for modification, shore infrastructure, crewing, and maintenance.'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (g) through (j) as subsection (h) through (k);

(3) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection (g):

''(g) FULL OPERATING CAPABILITY.—

''(1) BRIEFING.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the procurement or acquisition of an icebreaker under subsection (a), the Commandant shall provide the appropriate congressional committees with a briefing that includes a detailed cost estimate for the icebreaker for each year of the estimated service life of the icebreaker, including the estimated costs for modification, shore infrastructure to support the cutter and crew, crewing, maintenance, and any other costs related to the icebreaker.

''(2) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Commandant shall not expend any funds to reconfigure an icebreaker procured or acquired under subsection (a), beyond the funds required to achieve initial operating capability of the icebreaker, until the date that 7 days after the date on which the Commandant provides the briefing required by paragraph (1).

''(B) PLANNING AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—The limitation on use of funds under subparagraph (A) shall not apply to the expenditure of funds for planning and program management activities relating to reconfiguration of an icebreaker procured or acquired under subsection (a).''; and

(4) in subsection (k), as redesignated, by striking ''3 years'' and inserting ''5 years''.

SEC. 6064. AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL ASSETS SALE AND TRANSFER ACT OF 2016.

(a) PURPOSES.—Section 2 of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (10), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(11) implementing innovative methods for the sale, redevelopment, consolidation, or lease of Federal buildings and facilities, including the use of no cost, nonappropriated contracts for expert real estate services to obtain the highest and best value for the taxpayer.''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3(5)(B)(viii) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by inserting '', other than office buildings and warehouses,'' after ''Properties''.

(c) BOARD.—Section 4(c)(3) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended—

(1) by striking ''The term'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the term''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the term of a member of the Board shall continue beyond 6 years until such time as the President appoints a replacement member of the Board.''.

(d) BOARD MEETINGS.—Section 5(b) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by striking ''Five Board members'' and inserting ''4 Board members''.

(e) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—Section 7 of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) RETURN TO CIVIL SERVICE.—An Executive Director selected from the civil service (as defined in section 2101 of title 5, United States Code) shall be entitled to return to the civil service (as so defined) after service to the Board ends if the service of the Executive Director to the Board ends for reasons other than misconduct, neglect of duty, or malfeasance.''.

(f) STAFF.—Section 8 of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''and the Director of OMB''; and

(B) by inserting ''for a period of not less than 1 year'' before ''to assist the Board'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) HIRING OF TERM EMPLOYEES.—The Executive Director, with approval of the Board, may use the Office of Personnel Management to hire employees for terms not to exceed 2 years pursuant to the Office of Personnel Management guidance for nonstatus appointments in the competitive service.''.

(g) TERMINATION.—Section 10 of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by striking ''6 years after the date on which the Board members are appointed pursuant to section 4'' and inserting ''on December 31, 2026''.

(h) DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO BOARD.—Section 11 of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''the Administrator and the Director of OMB'' and inserting ''the Administrator, the Director of OMB, and the Board'';

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''and square'' and inserting ''number of Federal employees physically reporting to the respective property each work day, square''; and

(ii) by inserting '', amount of acreage associated with the respective property, and whether the respective property is on a campus or larger facility, other than Federal civilian real properties excluded for reasons of national security in accordance with section 3(5)(B)(iii)'' before the period at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) CONSOLIDATION PLANS.—Any Federal agency plans to consolidate, reconfigure, or otherwise reduce the use of owned and leased Federal civilian real property of the Federal agency if those plans are estimated to further the purposes of this Act as described in section 2.'';

(2) in subsection (b)(3)(J), by inserting '', including access by members of federally recognized Indian Tribes,'' after ''public access''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—The Board may not publicly disclose any information received under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a) until the Board, the Administrator, and the Director of OMB enter into an agreement describing what information is ready to be publicly disclosed.''.

(i) BOARD DUTIES.—Section 12 of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: ''In the case of a failure by a Federal agency to comply with a request of the Board, the Board shall notify the committees listed in section 5(c), the relevant congressional committees of jurisdiction for the Federal agency, and the inspector general of the Federal agency of that failure.'';

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting '', Tribal,'' after ''State''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting '', Tribal,'' after ''State'';

(3) by redesignating subsections (d) through (i) as subsections (e) through (j), respectively;

(4) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) PREPARATION OF PROPERTIES FOR DISPOSAL.—At the request of, and in coordination with, the Board, a Federal agency may undertake any analyses and due diligence as necessary, to supplement the independent analysis of the Board under subsection (c), to prepare a property for disposition so that the property may be included in the recommendations of the Board under subsection (h), including completion of the requirements of section 306108 of title 54, United States Code, for historic preservation and identification of the likely highest and best use of the property subsequent to disposition.'';

(5) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) the process to be followed by Federal agencies to carry out the actions described in subparagraph (A), including the use of no cost, nonappropriated contracts for expert real estate services and other innovative methods, to obtain the highest and best value for the taxpayer; and''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following:

''(C) THIRD ROUND.—During the period beginning on the day after the transmittal of the second report and ending on the day before the date on which the Board terminates under section 10, the Board shall transmit to the Director of OMB a third report required under paragraph (1).''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION.—45 days before the date on which the Board transmits the third report required under paragraph (1), the Board shall notify—

''(A) any State or local government of any findings, conclusions, or recommendations contained in that report that relate to a Federal civilian real property located in the State or locality, as applicable; and

''(B) any federally recognized Indian Tribe of any findings, conclusions, or recommendations contained in that report that relate to a Federal civilian real property that—

''(i) is in close geographic proximity to a property described in section 3(5)(B)(v); or

''(ii) relates to a Federal civilian real property that is known to be accessed at regular frequency by members of the federally recognized Indian Tribe for other reasons.''; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

''(k) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Board shall periodically submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report containing any recommendations on consolidations, exchanges, sales, lease reductions, and redevelopments that are not included in the transmissions submitted under subsection (h), or approved by the Director of OMB under section 13, but that the majority of the Board concludes meets the goals of this Act.''.

(j) REVIEW BY OMB.—Section 13 of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''subsections (b) and (g)'' and inserting ''subsections (b) and (h)''; and

(2) in subsection (c)(4)—

(A) by inserting '', in whole or in part,'' before ''received under paragraph (3)''; and

(B) by striking ''revised'' the second place it appears.

(k) AGENCY RETENTION OF RECORDS.—Section 20 of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The provisions of this section, including the amendments made by this section, shall take effect on the date on which the Board transmits the second report under section 12(h)(2)(B) and shall apply to proceeds from—

''(1) transactions contained in that report; and

''(2) any transactions conducted after the date on which the Board terminates under section 10.''.

(l) FEDERAL REAL PROPERTY DATABASE.—Section 21(b) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9)(A) Whether the Federal real property is on a campus or similar facility; and

''(B) if applicable, identification of the campus or facility and related details, including total acreage of the campus or facility.''.

(m) ACCESS TO FEDERAL REAL PROPERTY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 26. ACCESS TO FEDERAL REAL PROPERTY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND REPORTS.

''The Federal Real Property Council established by subsection (a) of section 623 of title 40, United States Code, shall ensure that the Board has access to any meetings of the Federal Real Property Council and any reports required under that section, subject to the condition that the Board enters into a memorandum of understanding relating to public disclosure with the Administrator and the Federal Real Property Council before the Board has access to those meetings and reports.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–287; 130 Stat. 1463) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 25 the following:

''Sec. 26. Access to Federal Real Property Council meetings and reports.''.

(n) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 3(9) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by striking ''section 12(e)'' and inserting ''section 12(f)''.

(2) Section 14(g)(1)(A) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by striking ''section 12(g)'' and inserting ''section 12(h)''.

(o) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 16(b)(1) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended, in the second sentence, by striking ''of General Services''.

(2) Section 21(a) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by striking ''of General Services''.

(3) Section 24 of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended, in each of subsections (a), (b), and (c), by striking ''of General Services''.

(4) Section 25(b) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by striking ''of General Services''.

SEC. 6065. CHIP EQUIP ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''The Chip Equipment Quality, Usefulness, and Integrity Protection Act of 2024'' or the ''Chip EQUIP Act''.

(b) PURCHASES OF SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 9901 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651) is amended by inserting after paragraph (13) the following:

''(14) The term 'completed, fully assembled' means the state in which all (or substantially all) necessary parts, chambers, subsystems, and subcomponents have been put together, resulting in a ready-to-use or ready-to-install item to be directly purchased from an entity.

''(15) The term 'ineligible equipment'—

''(A) means completed, fully assembled semiconductor manufacturing equipment that is manufactured or assembled by a foreign entity of concern or subsidiary of a foreign entity of concern and used in the fabrication, assembly, testing, advanced packaging, production, or research and development of semiconductors;

''(B) includes—

''(i) deposition equipment;

''(ii) etching equipment;

''(iii) lithography equipment;

''(iv) inspection and measuring equipment;

''(v) wafer slicing equipment;

''(vi) wafer dicing equipment;

''(vii) wire bonders;

''(viii) ion implantation equipment;

''(ix) chemical mechanical polishing; and

''(x) diffusion or oxidation furnaces; and

''(C) does not include any part, chamber, subsystem, or subcomponent that enables or is incorporated into such equipment.''.

(2) INELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS.—Section 9902 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4652) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) INELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall include in the terms of each agreement with a covered entity for the award of Federal financial assistance under this section prohibitions with respect to a project relating to the procurement, installation, or use of ineligible equipment, to be effective for the duration of the agreement.

''(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the prohibitions described in paragraph (1) if—

''(A) the ineligible equipment to be purchased by the applicable covered entity is not produced in the United States or an allied or partner country in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality to support established or expected production capabilities; or

''(B)(i) the use of the ineligible equipment complies with the requirements set forth in the Export Administration Regulations, as defined in section 1742 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801); and

''(ii) the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence or the Secretary of Defense, determines the waiver is in the national security interest of the United States.

''(3) FOREIGN ENTITIES OF CONCERN.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to waive the application of section 9907.''.

SEC. 6066. TELEPHONE HELPLINE FOR ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS AND OTHER ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.

(a) MAINTENANCE OF HELPLINE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall maintain a toll-free telephone helpline that a covered individual may use to obtain information about, or through which a covered individual may be directed to, any service or benefit provided under a law administered by the Secretary.

(2) CONTRACT FOR DIRECTION OF CALLS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may enter into a contract with a third-party to direct calls made to the toll-free helpline maintained pursuant to paragraph (1) to the appropriate office regarding a service or benefit described in that paragraph.

(3) LIVE INDIVIDUAL REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall ensure that a covered individual using the telephone helpline maintained pursuant to paragraph (1) has the option to speak with a live individual.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''covered individual'' means—

(A) a veteran;

(B) an individual acting on behalf of a veteran; or

(C) an individual, other than a veteran, who is eligible to receive a benefit or service under a law administered by the Secretary.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(3) VETERAN.—The term ''veteran'' has the meaning given the term in section 2002(b) of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 6067. STUDY AND REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE USE OF CHINESE-MADE UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE SYSTEMS AND PROHIBITION ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROCUREMENT AND OPERATION OF SUCH SYSTEMS.

(a) STUDY AND REPORT ON USE IN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SYSTEMS OF CHINESE-MADE UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE SYSTEMS.—

(1) STUDY AND REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall—

(A) conduct a study on the use in Department of Defense systems of covered unmanned ground vehicle systems made by covered foreign entities; and

(B) submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the findings of the Secretary with respect to the study conducted pursuant to subparagraph (A).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The study conducted pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) shall cover the following:

(A) The extent to which covered unmanned ground vehicle systems made by covered foreign entities are used by the Department, including a list of all such covered unmanned ground vehicle systems.

(B) The extent to which covered unmanned ground vehicle systems made by covered foreign entities are used by contractors of the Department.

(C) The nature of the use described in subparagraph (B).

(D) An assessment of the national security threats associated with using covered unmanned ground vehicle systems in applications of the Department. Such assessment shall cover concerns relating to the following:

(i) Cybersecurity.

(ii) Technological maturity of the systems.

(iii) Technological vulnerabilities in the systems that may be exploited by foreign adversaries of the United States.

(E) Actions taken by the Department to identify covered foreign entities that—

(i) develop or manufacture covered unmanned ground vehicle systems; and

(ii) have a military-civil nexus on the list maintained by the Department under section 1260H(b) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 10 U.S.C. 113 note).

(F) The feasibility and advisability of directing the Defense Innovation Unit, or another entity in the Department of Defense, to develop a list of United States manufacturers of covered unmanned ground vehicle systems.

(G) A recommendation on whether a prohibition on the procurement and operation of covered unmanned ground vehicle systems is in the best interest of the Department.

(b) PROHIBITION ON PROCUREMENT AND OPERATION BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OF COVERED UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE SYSTEMS FROM COVERED FOREIGN ENTITIES.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary of Defense may not procure or operate any covered unmanned ground vehicle system that is manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign entity.

(B) APPLICABILITY TO CONTRACTED SERVICES.—The prohibition under subparagraph (A) with respect to the operation of covered unmanned ground vehicles systems applies to any such system that is being used by the Department of Defense through the method of contracting for the services of such systems.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary of Defense is exempt from any restrictions under subsection (a) in a case in which the Secretary determines that the procurement or operation—

(A) is required in the national interest of the United States; and

(B) is for the sole purposes of—

(i) research, evaluation, training, testing, or analysis for electronic warfare, information warfare operations, cybersecurity, or the development of unmanned ground vehicle system or counter-unmanned ground vehicle system technology; or

(ii) conducting counterterrorism or counterintelligence activities, protective missions, Federal criminal or national security investigations (including forensic examinations), electronic warfare, information warfare operations, cybersecurity activities, or the development of unmanned ground vehicle system or counter-unmanned ground vehicle system technology.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRY.—The term ''covered foreign country'' means any of the following:

(A) The People's Republic of China.

(B) The Russian Federation.

(C) The Islamic Republic of Iran.

(D) The Democratic People's Republic of Korea

(2) COVERED FOREIGN ENTITY.—The term ''covered foreign entity'' means an entity that is domiciled in a covered foreign country or subject to influence or control by the government of a covered foreign country, as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

(3) COVERED UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE SYSTEM.—The term ''covered unmanned ground vehicle system''—

(A) means a mechanical device that—

(i) is capable of locomotion, navigation, or movement on the ground; and

(ii) operates at a distance from one or more operators or supervisors based on commands or in response to sensor data, or through any combination thereof; and

(B) includes—

(i) remote surveillance vehicles, autonomous patrol technologies, mobile robotics, and humanoid robots; and

(ii) the vehicle, its payload, and any external device used to control the vehicle.

SEC. 6068. EXPANDING COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS TO PARTNERSHIPS WITH UNITED STATES TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS.

Section 12 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''State or local government'' and inserting ''State, local, or territorial government''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(h) TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS.—For the purposes of this section, the government of a territory of the United States shall be considered a non-Federal party.''.

SEC. 6069. PRESERVATION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESOURCES.

(a) FACILITATING PREPAYMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS FOR CERTAIN PROPERTIES.—In fiscal year 2024, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') may waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q) (as in effect before the date of enactment of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12701 et seq.)) and section 811 of the American Homeownership and Economic Opportunity Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 1701q note; Public Law 106–569), except for requirements relating to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment, in order to facilitate prepayment of any indebtedness relating to any remaining principal and interest under a loan made under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q) (as in effect before the date of enactment of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12701 et seq.)) for a property that consists of not more than 15 units, is located in a municipality with a population of not more than 15,000 individuals, is within 5 years of maturity, is no longer effectively serving a need in the community, is functionally obsolescent, and for which the Secretary has determined that the property prepayment is part of a transaction, including a transaction involving transfer or replacement contracts described in subsection (b), that will provide rental housing assistance for the elderly or persons with disabilities on terms of at least equal duration and at least as advantageous to existing and future tenants as the terms required by current loan agreements entered into under any provisions of law.

(b) TRANSFER OR REPLACEMENT OF CONTRACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, in order to preserve affordable housing resources, upon a prepayment of a loan described in subsection (a), the Secretary may transfer or replace the contract for assistance at such prepaid property with a project-based subsidy contract under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) to 1 or more multifamily housing projects located in the same State as the prepaid property, for the benefit of the elderly or persons with disabilities who are eligible to receive housing assistance under such section 8, to assist the same number of units at the receiving multifamily housing project or projects.

(2) USE OF PROJECT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE AMOUNTS.—The Secretary may fund a transferred or replaced contract described in paragraph (1) from amounts available to the Secretary under the heading ''Project-Based Rental Assistance''.

SEC. 6070. USE OF ROYALTY GAS AT MCALESTER ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT.

Section 342 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15902) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(j) MCALESTER ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT.—At the request of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary shall—

''(1) take in-kind royalty gas from any lease on the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant in McAlester, Oklahoma; and

''(2) sell such royalty gas to the Department of Defense in accordance with subsection (h)(1), for use only at that plant, only for energy resilience purposes, and only to the extent necessary to meet the natural gas needs of that plant.''.

SEC. 6071. OUTBOUND INVESTMENT TRANSPARENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''TITLE VIII—PROTECTION OF COVERED SECTORS

''SEC. 801. DEFINITIONS.

''In this title:

''(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

''(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

''(B) the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

''(2) COUNTRY OF CONCERN.—The term 'country of concern' means, subject to such regulations as may be prescribed in accordance with section 806, a country specified in section 4872(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code.

''(3) COVERED ACTIVITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to such regulations as may be prescribed in accordance with section 806, and except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term 'covered activity' means any activity engaged in by a United States person in a related covered sector that involves—

''(i) an acquisition by such United States person of an equity interest or contingent equity interest, or monetary capital contribution, in a covered foreign entity, directly or indirectly, by contractual commitment or otherwise, with the goal of generating income or gain;

''(ii) an arrangement for an interest held by such United States person in the short- or long-term debt obligations of a covered foreign entity that includes governance rights that are characteristic of an equity investment, management, or other important rights, as defined in regulations prescribed in accordance with section 806;

''(iii) the establishment of a wholly owned subsidiary in a country of concern, such as a greenfield investment, for the purpose of production, design, testing, manufacturing, fabrication, or development related to one or more covered sectors;

''(iv) the establishment by such United States person of a joint venture in a country of concern or with a covered foreign entity for the purpose of production, design, testing, manufacturing, fabrication, or research involving one or more covered sectors, or other contractual or other commitments involving a covered foreign entity to jointly research and develop new innovation, including through the transfer of capital or intellectual property or other business proprietary information; or

''(v) the acquisition by a United States person with a covered foreign entity of—

''(I) operational cooperation, such as through supply or support arrangements;

''(II) the right to board representation (as an observer, even if limited, or as a member) or an executive role (as may be defined through regulation) in a covered foreign entity;

''(III) the ability to direct or influence such operational decisions as may be defined through such regulations;

''(IV) formal governance representation in any operating affiliate, like a portfolio company, of a covered foreign entity; or

''(V) a new relationship to share or provide business services, such as but not limited to financial services, marketing services, maintenance, or assembly functions, related to covered sectors.

''(B) EXCEPTIONS.—The term 'covered activity' does not include—

''(i) any transaction the value of which the Secretary of the Treasury determines is de minimis, as defined in regulations prescribed in accordance with section 806;

''(ii) any category of transactions that the Secretary determines is in the national interest of the United States, as may be defined in regulations prescribed in accordance with section 806;

''(iii) any ordinary or administrative business transaction as may be defined in such regulations;

''(iv) an investment by a United States person in—

''(I) any publicly traded security (as that term is defined in section 3(a)(10) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(10)), denominated in any currency, that trades on a securities exchange or through the method of trading that is commonly referred to as 'over-the-counter,' in any jurisdiction; or

''(II) a security issued by—

''(aa) any investment company (as that term is defined in section 3(a)(1) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, at 15 U.S.C. 80a–3(a)(1)) that is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, such as index funds, mutual funds, or exchange traded funds;

''(bb) any company that has elected to be a business development company pursuant to section 54 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–53); or

''(cc) any derivative of item (aa) or (bb);

''(v) any ancillary transaction undertaken by a financial institution (as that term is defined in defined in section 5312 of title 31, United States Code); or

''(vi) the creation, contribution to, or provision of software distributed under open source licenses that permit downstream users to use, reproduce, distribute, copy, create derivative works of, and make modifications to the software.

''(C) ANCILLARY TRANSACTION DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'ancillary transaction' means the processing, settling, clearing or sending of payments and cash transactions, underwriting services, credit rating services, and other services ordinarily incident to and part of the provision of financial services, such as opening bank accounts, direct custody services, foreign exchange services, remittances services, and safe deposit services.

''(4) COVERED FOREIGN ENTITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to regulations prescribed in accordance with section 806, and except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term 'covered foreign entity' means—

''(i) any entity that is incorporated in, has a principal place of business in, or is organized under the laws of a country of concern;

''(ii) any entity the equity securities of which are primarily traded in the ordinary course of business on one or more exchanges in a country of concern;

''(iii) any entity in which any entity described in subclause (i) or (ii) holds, individually or in the aggregate, directly or indirectly, an ownership interest of greater than 50 percent; or

''(iv) any other entity that is not a United States person and that meets such criteria as may be specified by the Secretary of the Treasury in such regulations.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—The term 'covered foreign entity' does not include any entity described in subparagraph (A) that can demonstrate that a majority of the equity interest in the entity is ultimately owned by—

''(i) nationals of the United States; or

''(ii) nationals of such countries (other than countries of concern) as are identified for purposes of this subparagraph pursuant to regulations prescribed in accordance with section 806.

''(5) COVERED SECTORS.—Subject to regulations prescribed in accordance with section 806, the term 'covered sectors' includes sectors within the following areas, as specified in such regulations:

''(A) Advanced semiconductors and microelectronics.

''(B) Artificial intelligence.

''(C) Quantum information science and technology.

''(D) Hypersonics.

''(E) Satellite-based communications.

''(F) Networked laser scanning systems with dual-use applications.

''(6) PARTY.—The term 'party', with respect to an activity, has the meaning given that term in regulations prescribed in accordance with section 806.

''(7) UNITED STATES.—The term 'United States' means the several States, the District of Columbia, and any territory or possession of the United States.

''(8) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term 'United States person' means—

''(A) an individual who is a citizen or national of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States; and

''(B) any corporation, partnership, or other entity organized under the laws of the United States or the laws of any jurisdiction within the United States.

''SEC. 802. ADMINISTRATION OF UNITED STATES INVESTMENT NOTIFICATION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall delegate the authorities and functions under this title to the Secretary of the Treasury.

''(b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the duties of the Secretary under this title, the Secretary shall—

''(1) coordinate with the Secretary of Commerce; and

''(2) consult with the United States Trade Representative, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of National Intelligence.

''SEC. 803. MANDATORY NOTIFICATION OF COVERED ACTIVITIES.

''(a) MANDATORY NOTIFICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to regulations prescribed in accordance with section 806, beginning on the date that is 90 days after such regulations take effect, a United States person that plans to engage in a covered activity shall—

''(A) if such covered activity is not a secured transaction, submit to the Secretary of the Treasury a complete written notification of the activity not later than 14 days before the anticipated completion date of the activity; and

''(B) if such covered activity is a secured transaction, submit to the Secretary of the Treasury a complete written notification of the activity not later than 14 days after the completion date of the activity.

''(2) CIRCULATION OF NOTIFICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, upon receipt of a notification under paragraph (1), promptly inspect the notification for completeness.

''(B) INCOMPLETE NOTIFICATIONS.—If a notification submitted under paragraph (1) is incomplete, the Secretary shall promptly inform the United States person that submits the notification that the notification is not complete and provide an explanation of relevant material respects in which the notification is not complete.

''(3) IDENTIFICATION OF NON-NOTIFIED ACTIVITY.—The Secretary shall establish a process to identify covered activities for which—

''(A) a notification is not submitted to the Secretary under paragraph (1); and

''(B) information is reasonably available.

''(b) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), any information or documentary material filed with the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to this section shall be exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, and no such information or documentary material may be made public by any government agency or Member of Congress.

''(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The exemption from disclosure provided by paragraph (1) shall not prevent the disclosure of the following:

''(A) Information relevant to any administrative or judicial action or proceeding.

''(B) Information provided to Congress or any of the appropriate congressional committees.

''(C) Information important to the national security analysis or actions of the President to any domestic governmental entity, or to any foreign governmental entity of an ally or partner of the United States, under the direction and authorization of the President or the Secretary, only to the extent necessary for national security purposes, and subject

to appropriate confidentiality and classification requirements.

''(D) Information that the parties have consented to be disclosed to third parties.

''SEC. 804. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 360 days after the date on which the regulations prescribed under section 806 take effect, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

''(1) lists all notifications submitted under section 803(a) during the year preceding submission of the report and includes, with respect to each such notification—

''(A) basic information on each party to the covered activity with respect to which the notification was submitted; and

''(B) the nature of the covered activity that was the subject to the notification, including the elements of the covered activity that necessitated a notification;

''(2) includes a summary of those notifications, disaggregated by sector, by covered activity, and by country of concern;

''(3) provides additional context and information regarding trends in the sectors, the types of covered activities, and the countries involved in those notifications;

''(4) includes a description of the national security risks associated with—

''(A) the covered activities with respect to which those notifications were submitted; or

''(B) categories of such activities; and

''(5) assesses the overall impact of those notifications, including recommendations for—

''(A) expanding existing Federal programs to support the production or supply of covered sectors in the United States, including the potential of existing authorities to address any related national security concerns;

''(B) investments needed to enhance covered sectors and reduce dependence on countries of concern regarding those sectors; and

''(C) the continuation, expansion, or modification of the implementation and administration of this title, including recommendations with respect to whether the definition of 'country of concern' under section 801(2) should be amended to add or remove countries.

''(b) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required by this section shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

''(c) TESTIMONY REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this title, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Commerce shall each provide to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives testimony with respect to the national security threats relating to investments by United States persons in countries of concern and broader international capital flows.

''SEC. 805. PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT.

''(a) PENALTIES WITH RESPECT TO UNLAWFUL ACTS.—Subject to regulations prescribed in accordance with section 806, it shall be unlawful—

''(1) to fail to submit a notification under subsection (a) of section 803 with respect to a covered activity or to submit other information as required by the Secretary of the Treasury; or

''(2) to make a material misstatement or to omit a material fact in any information submitted to the Secretary under this title.

''(b) ENFORCEMENT.—The President may direct the Attorney General to seek appropriate relief in the district courts of the United States, in order to implement and enforce this title.

''SEC. 806. REQUIREMENT FOR REGULATIONS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 360 days after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary of the Treasury shall finalize regulations to carry out this title.

''(b) ELEMENTS.—Regulations prescribed to carry out this title shall include specific examples of the types of—

''(1) activities that will be considered to be covered activities; and

''(2) the specific sectors and subsectors that may be considered to be covered sectors.

''(c) REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe regulations further defining the terms used in this title, including 'covered activity', 'covered foreign entity', and 'party', in accordance with subchapter II of chapter 5 and chapter 7 of title 5 (commonly known as the 'Administrative Procedure Act').

''(d) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN RULEMAKING.—The provisions of section 709 shall apply to any regulations issued under this title.

''(e) LOW-BURDEN REGULATIONS.—In prescribing regulations under this section, the Secretary of the Treasury shall structure the regulations—

''(1) to minimize the cost and complexity of compliance for affected parties;

''(2) to ensure the benefits of the regulations outweigh their costs;

''(3) to adopt the least burdensome alternative that achieves regulatory objectives;

''(4) to prioritize transparency and stakeholder involvement in the process of prescribing the regulations; and

''(5) to regularly review and streamline existing regulations to reduce redundancy and complexity.

''SEC. 807. MULTILATERAL ENGAGEMENT AND COORDINATION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall delegate the authorities and functions under this section to the Secretary of State.

''(b) AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, the United States Trade Representative, and the Director of National Intelligence, shall—

''(1) conduct bilateral and multilateral engagement with the governments of countries that are allies and partners of the United States to ensure coordination of protocols and procedures with respect to covered activities with countries of concern and covered foreign entities; and

''(2) upon adoption of protocols and procedures described in paragraph (1), work with those governments to establish mechanisms for sharing information, including trends, with respect to such activities.

''(c) STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF OUTBOUND INVESTMENT SCREENING MECHANISMS.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury and in consultation with the Attorney General, shall—

''(1) develop a strategy to work with countries that are allies and partners of the United States to develop mechanisms comparable to this title for the notification of covered activities; and

''(2) provide technical assistance to those countries with respect to the development of those mechanisms.

''(d) REPORT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the development of the strategy required by subsection (b), and annually thereafter for a period of 5 years, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the strategy, the status of implementing the strategy, and a description of any impediments to the establishment of mechanisms comparable to this title by allies and partners.

''(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

''(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

''(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

''SEC. 808. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this title, including to provide outreach to industry and persons affected by this title.

''(b) HIRING AUTHORITY.—The head of any agency designated as a lead agency under section 802(b) may appoint, without regard to the provisions of sections 3309 through 3318 of title 5, United States Code, not more than 25 candidates directly to positions in the competitive service (as defined in section 2102 of that title) in that agency. The primary responsibility of individuals in positions authorized under the preceding sentence shall be to administer this title.

''SEC. 809. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO FREE AND FAIR COMMERCE.

''Nothing in this title may be construed to restrain or deter foreign investment in the United States, United States investment abroad, or trade in goods or services, if such investment and trade do not pose a risk to the national security of the United States.''.

(b) SUNSET.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6072. TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS FROM THE RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACCOUNT.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 235 of the Continued Assistance to Rail Workers Act of 2020 (subchapter III of title II of division N of Public Law 116–260; 2 U.S.C. 906 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2); and

(B) by striking ''subsection (a)—'' and inserting ''subsection (a) shall take effect 7 days after the date of enactment of the Continued Assistance to Rail Workers Act of 2020.''; and

(2) by striking subsection (c).

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply as if enacted on the day before the date on which the national emergency concerning the novel coronavirus disease (COVID–19) outbreak declared by the President on March 13, 2020, under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) terminates.

(c) OFFSET FROM TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION FUND.—Of the unobligated balances of the amount made available under section 4011 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (135 Stat. 80), $13,000,000 are rescinded.

SEC. 6073. RECORDS PRESERVATION PROCESSES FOR CERTAIN AT-RISK AFGHAN ALLIES.

(a) DEFINITION OF AFGHAN ALLY.—In this section and only for the purpose of the Department of Defense records preservation processes established by this section, the term ''Afghan ally'' means an alien who is a citizen or national of Afghanistan, or in the case of an alien having no nationality, an

alien who last habitually resided in Afghanistan, who—

(1) was—

(A) a member of—

(i) the special operations forces of the Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces;

(ii) the Afghanistan National Army Special Operations Command;

(iii) the Afghan Air Force; or

(iv) the Special Mission Wing of Afghanistan;

(B) a female member of any other entity of the Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces, including—

(i) a cadet or instructor at the Afghanistan National Defense University; and

(ii) a civilian employee of the Ministry of Defense or the Ministry of Interior Affairs;

(C) an individual associated with former Afghan military and police human intelligence activities, including operators and Department of Defense sources;

(D) an individual associated with former Afghan military counterintelligence, counterterrorism, or counternarcotics;

(E) an individual associated with the former Afghan Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior Affairs, or court system, and who was involved in the investigation, prosecution or detention of combatants or members of the Taliban or criminal networks affiliated with the Taliban;

(F) an individual employed in the former justice sector in Afghanistan as a judge, prosecutor, or investigator who was engaged in rule of law activities for which the United States provided funding or training; or

(G) a senior military officer, senior enlisted personnel, or civilian official who served on the staff of the former Ministry of Defense or the former Ministry of Interior Affairs of Afghanistan; and

(2) provided service to an entity or organization described in paragraph (1) for not less than 1 year during the period beginning on December 22, 2001, and ending on September 1, 2021, and did so in support of the United States mission in Afghanistan.

(b) INCLUSIONS.—For purposes of this section, the Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces includes members of the security forces under the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Interior Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, including the Afghanistan National Army, the Afghan Air Force, the Afghanistan National Police, and any other entity designated by the Secretary of Defense as part of the Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces during the relevant period of service of the applicant concerned.

(c) AFGHAN ALLIES RECORDS PRESERVATION PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall establish a process by which an individual may apply to the Secretary of Defense for classification as an Afghan ally.

(2) APPLICATION SYSTEM.—The process established under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) include the development and maintenance of a secure online portal through which applicants may provide information verifying their status as Afghan allies and upload supporting documentation; and

(B) allow—

(i) an applicant to submit his or her own application;

(ii) a designee of an applicant to submit an application on behalf of the applicant; and

(iii) the submission of an application regardless of where the applicant is located, provided that the applicant is outside the United States.

(3) REVIEW PROCESS.—As soon as practicable after receiving a request for classification described in paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense shall—

(A) review—

(i) the service record of the applicant, if available;

(ii) if the applicant provides a service record or other supporting documentation, any information within the internal or contractor-held records of the Department of Defense that helps verify the service record concerned, including information or an attestation provided by any current or former official of the Department of Defense who has personal knowledge of the eligibility of the applicant for such classification; and

(iii) available data holdings in the possession of the Department of Defense or any contractor of the Department of Defense, including as applicable biographic and biometric records, iris scans, fingerprints, voice biometric information, hand geometry biometrics, other identifiable information, and any other information related to the applicant, including relevant derogatory information; and

(B)(i) in a case in which the Secretary of Defense determines that the applicant is an Afghan ally without significant derogatory information, the Secretary shall preserve a complete record of such application for potential future use by the applicant or a designee of the applicant; and

(ii) include with such preserved record—

(I) any service record concerned, if available;

(II) if the applicant provides a service record, any information that helps verify the service record concerned; and

(III) any biometrics for the applicant.

(4) REVIEW PROCESS FOR DENIAL OF REQUEST FOR RECORDS PRESERVATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an applicant with respect to whom the Secretary of Defense denies a request for classification and records preservation based on a determination that the applicant is not an Afghan ally or based on derogatory information—

(i) the Secretary shall provide the applicant with a written notice of the denial that provides, to the maximum extent practicable, a description of the basis for the denial, including the facts and inferences, or evidentiary gaps, underlying the individual determination; and

(ii) the applicant shall be provided an opportunity to submit not more than 1 written appeal to the Secretary for each such denial.

(B) DEADLINE FOR APPEAL.—An appeal under clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) shall be submitted—

(i) not more than 120 days after the date on which the applicant concerned receives notice under clause (i) of that subparagraph; or

(ii) on any date thereafter, at the discretion of the Secretary of Defense.

(C) REQUEST TO REOPEN.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An applicant who receives a denial under subparagraph (A) may submit a request to reopen a request for classification and records preservation under the process established under paragraph (1) so that the applicant may provide additional information, clarify existing information, or explain any unfavorable information.

(ii) LIMITATION.—After considering 1 such request to reopen from an applicant, the Secretary of Defense may deny subsequent requests to reopen submitted by the same applicant.

(5) TERMINATION.—The application process under this subsection shall terminate on the date that—

(A) is not earlier than ten years after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) on which the Secretary of Defense makes a determination that such termination is in the national interest of the United States.

(6) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

(A) PROHIBITION ON FEES.—The Secretary of Defense may not charge any fee in connection with a request for a classification or records preservation under this section.

(B) DEFENSE PERSONNEL.—Any limitation in law with respect to the number of personnel within the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the military departments, or a Defense Agency (as defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code) shall not apply to personnel employed for the primary purpose of carrying out this section.

(C) REPRESENTATION.—An alien applying for records preservation under this section may be represented during the application process, including at relevant interviews and examinations, by an attorney or other accredited representative. Such representation shall not be at the expense of the United States Government.

SEC. 6074. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Jens Stoltenberg served as the Prime Minister of Norway from 2000 to 2001 and 2005 to 2013.

(2) Norway was a founding member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (referred to in this Act as ''NATO'') on April 4, 1949.

(3) As Prime Minister of Norway, Jens Stoltenberg oversaw Norway's increased defense spending levels and the modernization of the Norwegian Armed Forces.

(4) A primary objective of NATO is to provide security and support to member nations and promote democratic values to ensure stability and peace.

(5) Jens Stoltenberg assumed the position of Secretary General of NATO in October 2014.

(6) The United States was the first NATO member to support Jens Stoltenberg's appointment as Secretary General.

(7) Jens Stoltenberg has led NATO through significant new investments, reinforced its capabilities and enhanced the collective defense of the Alliance.

(8) Jens Stoltenberg has advocated for greater burden sharing among members of the NATO Alliance, and under his leadership the Alliance will see 23 member countries reach or exceed the 2 percent defense spending commitment by 2024, compared to 4 member countries in 2014.

(9) Jens Stoltenberg's commitment to better burden sharing has resulted in a stronger and more sustainable Alliance than at any other time in NATO history.

(10) Under Jens Stoltenberg's leadership, NATO has successfully undergone multiple enlargement periods and has extended membership to Finland, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Sweden.

(11) In addition to bolstering the collective security of the Alliance, NATO enlargement indicates that an increasing number of countries are meeting key benchmarks on the military, political and legal requirements needed for NATO accession, enhancing interoperability, defense expenditure and intelligence sharing among member countries.

(12) Jens Stoltenberg has increased NATO's partnerships with Indo-Pacific countries to cooperate more closely to address our shared global challenges including cyber defense, emergency technologies, and the multitude of challenges posed by the People's Republic of China.

(13) Jens Stoltenberg included Indo-Pacific leaders at NATO summits and traveled to the region which further cemented these important partnerships.

(14) Following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Jens Stoltenberg has led the Alliance in maintaining unprecedented unity against Putin's unprovoked, illegal actions.

(15) Since February 2022, NATO members have supplied Ukraine with the equipment and resources it needs to defend its democracy and its sovereignty.

(16) Jens Stoltenberg successfully marshaled political and financial support from Indo-Pacific partners to support Ukraine, including contributions of munitions and military equipment and sizeable financial contributions to NATO's Comprehensive Assistance Plan Action Trust Fund for Ukraine.

(17) Jens Stoltenberg's mandate was extended a total of 4 times with unanimous support by NATO allies, with 2 extensions agreed to following Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

(18) Jens Stoltenberg is the second longest-serving Secretary General, serving over 9 years in this position.

(19) Jens Stoltenberg has re-committed that the NATO Alliance will stand together against any threat posed to a NATO member, ensuring continued peace and stability within NATO territory and around the world.

(b) AWARD AND DESIGN.—

(1) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of the Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design to Jens Stoltenberg, in recognition of his contributions to the security, unity, and defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

(2) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the award referred to in paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the ''Secretary'') shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary. The design shall bear a image of, and inscription of the name of, Jens Stoltenberg.

(c) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under subsection (b), at a price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

(d) STATUS OF MEDALS.—

(1) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(2) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

(e) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(2) PROCEEDS OF SALES.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under subsection (c) shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

SEC. 6075. TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS IN THE DISTRICT COURTS.

(a) EXISTING JUDGESHIPS.—The existing judgeships for the district of Hawaii, the district of Kansas, and the eastern district of Missouri authorized by section 203(c) of the Judicial Improvements Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–650; 28 U.S.C. 133 note) and the existing judgeships for the northern district of Alabama, the district of Arizona, the central district of California, the southern district of Florida, the district of New Mexico, the western district of North Carolina, and the eastern district of Texas authorized by section 312(c) of the 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act (Public Law 107–273; 28 U.S.C. 133 note) shall, as of the effective date of this section, be authorized under section 133 of title 28, United States Code, and the incumbents in those offices shall hold the office under section 133 of title 28, United States Code, as amended by this section.

(b) TABLES.—In order that the table contained in section 133 of title 28, United States Code, will, with respect to each judicial district, reflect the changes in the total number of permanent district judgeships authorized as a result of subsection (a) of this section, such table is amended—

(1) by striking the items relating to Alabama and inserting the following:

''Alabama:	
Northern	8
Middle	3
Southern	3'';

(2) by striking the item relating to Arizona and inserting the following:

''Arizona	13'';

(3) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

''California:	
Northern	14
Eastern	6
Central	28
Southern	13'';

(4) by striking the items relating to Florida and inserting the following:

''Florida:	
Northern	4
Middle	15
Southern	18'';

(5) by striking the item relating to Hawaii and inserting the following:

''Hawaii	4'';

(6) by striking the item relating to Kansas and inserting the following:

''Kansas	6'';

(7) by striking the items relating to Missouri and inserting the following:

''Missouri:	
Eastern	7
Western	5
Eastern and Western	2'';

(8) by striking the item relating to New Mexico and inserting the following:

''New Mexico	7'';

(9) by striking the items relating to North Carolina and inserting the following:

''North Carolina:	
Eastern	4
Middle	4
Western	5'';

and

(10) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

''Texas:	
Northern	12
Southern	19
Eastern	8
Western	13''.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section and the amendments made by this section.

SEC. 6076. TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS IN THE DISTRICT COURTS.

(a) EXISTING JUDGESHIPS.—The existing judgeships for the district of Hawaii, the district of Kansas, and the eastern district of Missouri authorized by section 203(c) of the Judicial Improvements Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–650; 28 U.S.C. 133 note) and the existing judgeships for the northern district of Alabama, the district of Arizona, the central district of California, the southern district of Florida, the district of New Mexico, the western district of North Carolina, and the eastern district of Texas authorized by section 312(c) of the 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act (Public Law 107–273; 28 U.S.C. 133 note) shall, as of the effective date of this section, be authorized under section 133 of title 28, United States Code, and the incumbents in those offices shall hold the office under section 133 of title 28, United States Code, as amended by this section.

(b) TABLES.—In order that the table contained in section 133 of title 28, United States Code, will, with respect to each judicial district, reflect the changes in the total number of permanent district judgeships authorized as a result of subsection (a) of this section, such table is amended—

(1) by striking the items relating to Alabama and inserting the following:

''Alabama:	
Northern	8
Middle	3
Southern	3'';

(2) by striking the item relating to Arizona and inserting the following:

''Arizona	13'';

(3) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

''California:	
Northern	14
Eastern	6
Central	28
Southern	13'';

(4) by striking the items relating to Florida and inserting the following:

''Florida:	
Northern	4
Middle	15
Southern	18'';

(5) by striking the item relating to Hawaii and inserting the following:

''Hawaii	4'';

(6) by striking the item relating to Kansas and inserting the following:

''Kansas	6'';

(7) by striking the items relating to Missouri and inserting the following:

''Missouri:	
Eastern	7
Western	5
Eastern and Western	2'';

(8) by striking the item relating to New Mexico and inserting the following:

''New Mexico	7'';

(9) by striking the items relating to North Carolina and inserting the following:

''North Carolina:	
Eastern	4
Middle	4
Western	5'';

and

(10) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

''Texas:	
Northern	12
Southern	19
Eastern	8
Western	13''.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section and the amendments made by this section.

Subtitle I—International Nuclear Energy Act of 2024

SEC. 6081. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''International Nuclear Energy Act of 2024''.

SEC. 6082. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR.—The term ''advanced nuclear reactor'' means—

(A) a nuclear fission reactor, including a prototype plant (as defined in sections 50.2 and 52.1 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations)), with significant improvements compared to reactors operating on October 19, 2016, including improvements such as—

(i) additional inherent safety features;

(ii) lower waste yields;

(iii) improved fuel and material performance;

(iv) increased tolerance to loss of fuel cooling;

(v) enhanced reliability or improved resilience;

(vi) increased proliferation resistance;

(vii) increased thermal efficiency;

(viii) reduced consumption of cooling water and other environmental impacts;

(ix) the ability to integrate into electric applications and nonelectric applications;

(x) modular sizes to allow for deployment that corresponds with the demand for electricity or process heat; and

(xi) operational flexibility to respond to changes in demand for electricity or process heat and to complement integration with intermittent renewable energy or energy storage;

(B) a fusion reactor; and

(C) a radioisotope power system that utilizes heat from radioactive decay to generate energy.

(2) ALLY OR PARTNER NATION.—The term ''ally or partner nation'' means—

(A) the Government of any country that is a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development;

(B) the Government of the Republic of India; and

(C) the Government of any country designated as an ally or partner nation by the Secretary of State for purposes of this subtitle.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committees on Foreign Relations and Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(4) ASSISTANT.—The term ''Assistant'' means the Assistant to the President and Director for International Nuclear Energy Policy described in section 6083(a)(1)(D).

(5) ASSOCIATED ENTITY.—The term ''associated entity'' means an entity that—

(A) is owned, controlled, or operated by—

(i) an ally or partner nation; or

(ii) an associated individual; or

(B) is organized under the laws of, or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of, a country described in paragraph (2), including a corporation that is incorporated in a country described in that paragraph.

(6) ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''associated individual'' means a foreign national who is a national of a country described in paragraph (2).

(7) CIVIL NUCLEAR.—The term ''civil nuclear'' means activities relating to—

(A) nuclear plant construction;

(B) nuclear fuel services;

(C) nuclear energy financing;

(D) nuclear plant operations;

(E) nuclear plant regulation;

(F) nuclear medicine;

(G) nuclear safety;

(H) community engagement in areas in reasonable proximity to nuclear sites;

(I) infrastructure support for nuclear energy;

(J) nuclear plant decommissioning;

(K) nuclear liability;

(L) safe storage and safe disposal of spent nuclear fuel;

(M) environmental safeguards;

(N) nuclear nonproliferation and security; and

(O) technology related to the matters described in subparagraphs (A) through (N).

(8) EMBARKING CIVIL NUCLEAR NATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''embarking civil nuclear nation'' means a country that—

(i) does not have a civil nuclear energy program;

(ii) is in the process of developing or expanding a civil nuclear energy program, including safeguards and a legal and regulatory framework, for—

(I) nuclear safety;

(II) nuclear security;

(III) radioactive waste management;

(IV) civil nuclear energy;

(V) environmental safeguards;

(VI) community engagement in areas in reasonable proximity to nuclear sites;

(VII) nuclear liability; or

(VIII) advanced nuclear reactor licensing;

(iii) is in the process of selecting, developing, constructing, or utilizing advanced light water reactors, advanced nuclear reactors, or advanced civil nuclear technologies; or

(iv) is eligible to receive development lending from the World Bank.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''embarking civil nuclear nation'' does not include—

(i) the People's Republic of China;

(ii) the Russian Federation;

(iii) the Republic of Belarus;

(iv) the Islamic Republic of Iran;

(v) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(vi) the Republic of Cuba;

(vii) the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;

(viii) the Syrian Arab Republic;

(ix) Burma; or

(x) any other country—

(I) the property or interests in property of the government of which are blocked pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or

(II) the government of which the Secretary of State has determined has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism for purposes of—

(aa) section 620A(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371(a));

(bb) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d));

(cc) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)(1)(A)(i)); or

(dd) any other relevant provision of law.

(9) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Energy.

(10) SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL.—The term ''spent nuclear fuel'' has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101).

(11) U.S. NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY.—The term ''U.S. nuclear energy company'' means a company that—

(A) is organized under the laws of, or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of, the United States; and

(B) is involved in the nuclear energy industry.

SEC. 6083. CIVIL NUCLEAR COORDINATION AND STRATEGY.

(a) WHITE HOUSE FOCAL POINT ON CIVIL NUCLEAR COORDINATION.—

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Given the critical importance of developing and implementing, with input from various agencies throughout the executive branch, a cohesive policy with respect to international efforts related to civil nuclear energy, it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) there should be a focal point within the White House, which may, if determined to be appropriate, report to the National Security Council, for coordination on issues relating to those efforts;

(B) to provide that focal point, the President should establish, within the Executive Office of the President, an office, to be known as the ''Office of the Assistant to the President and Director for International Nuclear Energy Policy'' (referred to in this subsection as the ''Office'');

(C) the Office should act as a coordinating office for—

(i) international civil nuclear cooperation; and

(ii) civil nuclear export strategy;

(D) the Office should be headed by an individual appointed as an Assistant to the President with the title of ''Director for International Nuclear Energy Policy''; and

(E) the Office should—

(i) coordinate civil nuclear export policies for the United States;

(ii) develop, in coordination with the officials described in paragraph (2), a cohesive Federal strategy for engagement with foreign governments (including ally or partner nations and the governments of embarking civil nuclear nations), associated entities, and associated individuals with respect to civil nuclear exports;

(iii) coordinate with the officials described in paragraph (2) to ensure that necessary framework agreements and trade controls relating to civil nuclear materials and technologies are in place for key markets; and

(iv) develop—

(I) a whole-of-government coordinating strategy for civil nuclear cooperation;

(II) a whole-of-government strategy for civil nuclear exports; and

(III) a whole-of-government approach to support appropriate foreign investment in civil nuclear energy projects supported by the United States in embarking civil nuclear nations.

(2) OFFICIALS DESCRIBED.—The officials referred to in paragraph (1)(E) are—

(A) appropriate officials of any Federal agency that the President determines to be appropriate; and

(B) appropriate officials representing foreign countries and governments, including—

(i) ally or partner nations;

(ii) embarking civil nuclear nations; and

(iii) any other country or government that the Assistant (if appointed) and the officials described in subparagraph (A) jointly determine to be appropriate.

(b) NUCLEAR EXPORTS WORKING GROUP.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a working group, to be known as the ''Nuclear Exports Working Group'' (referred to in this subsection as the ''working group'').

(2) COMPOSITION.—The working group shall be composed of—

(A) senior-level Federal officials, selected internally by the applicable Federal agency or organization, from any Federal agency or organization that the President determines to be appropriate; and

(B) other senior-level Federal officials, selected internally by the applicable Federal agency or organization, from any other Federal agency or organization that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(3) REPORTING.—The working group shall report to the appropriate White House official, which may be the Assistant (if appointed).

(4) DUTIES.—The working group shall coordinate, not less frequently than quarterly, with the Civil Nuclear Trade Advisory Committee of the Department of Commerce, the Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee of the Department of Energy, and other advisory or stakeholder groups, as necessary, to maintain an accurate and up-to-date knowledge of the standing of civil nuclear exports from the United States, including with respect to meeting the targets established as part of the 10-year civil nuclear trade strategy described in paragraph (5)(A).

(5) STRATEGY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the working group shall establish a 10-year civil nuclear trade strategy, including biennial targets for the export of civil nuclear technologies, including light water and non-light water reactors and associated equipment and technologies, civil nuclear materials, and nuclear fuel that align with meeting international energy demand while seeking to avoid or reduce emissions.

(B) COLLABORATION REQUIRED.—In establishing the strategy under subparagraph (A), the working group shall collaborate with—

(i) any Federal agency that the President determines to be appropriate; and

(ii) representatives of private industry.

SEC. 6084. ENGAGEMENT WITH ALLY OR PARTNER NATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall launch, in accordance with applicable nuclear technology export laws (including regulations), an international initiative to modernize the civil nuclear outreach to embarking civil nuclear nations.

(b) FINANCING.—In carrying out the initiative described in subsection (a), the President, acting through an appropriate Federal official, who may be the Assistant (if appointed) or the Chief Executive Officer of the International Development Finance Corporation, if determined to be appropriate, and in coordination with the officials described in section 6083(a)(2), may, if the President determines to be appropriate, seek to establish cooperative financing relationships for the export of civil nuclear technology, components, materials, and infrastructure to embarking civil nuclear nations.

(c) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the initiative described in subsection (a), the President shall—

(1) assist nongovernmental organizations and appropriate offices, administrations, agencies, laboratories, and programs of the Department of Energy and other relevant Federal agencies and offices in providing education and training to foreign governments in nuclear safety, security, and safeguards—

(A) through engagement with the International Atomic Energy Agency; or

(B) independently, if the applicable entity determines that it would be more advantageous under the circumstances to provide the applicable education and training independently;

(2) assist the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency to expand the support provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency to embarking civil nuclear nations for nuclear safety, security, and safeguards;

(3) coordinate the work of the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation and the Export-Import Bank of the United States to expand outreach to the private investment community to create public-private financing relationships to assist in the adoption of civil nuclear technologies by embarking civil nuclear nations, including through exports from the United States;

(4) seek to better coordinate, to the maximum extent practicable, the work carried out by any Federal agency that the President determines to be appropriate; and

(5) coordinate the work of the Export-Import Bank of the United States to improve the efficient and effective exporting and importing of civil nuclear technologies and materials.

SEC. 6085. COOPERATIVE FINANCING RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALLY OR PARTNER NATIONS AND EMBARKING CIVIL NUCLEAR NATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall designate an appropriate White House official, who may be the Assistant (if appointed), and the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation to coordinate with the officials described in section 6083(a)(2) to develop, as the President determines to be appropriate, financing relationships with ally or partner nations to assist in the adoption of civil nuclear technologies exported from the United States or ally or partner nations to embarking civil nuclear nations.

(b) UNITED STATES COMPETITIVENESS CLAUSES.—

(1) DEFINITION OF UNITED STATES COMPETITIVENESS CLAUSE.—In this subsection, the term ''United States competitiveness clause'' means any United States competitiveness provision in any agreement entered into by the Department of Energy, including—

(A) a cooperative agreement;

(B) a cooperative research and development agreement; and

(C) a patent waiver.

(2) CONSIDERATION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the relevant officials described in that subsection shall consider the impact of United States competitiveness clauses on any financing relationships entered into or proposed to be entered into under that subsection.

(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary shall facilitate waivers of United States competitiveness clauses as necessary to facilitate financing relationships with ally or partner nations under subsection (a).

SEC. 6086. COOPERATION WITH ALLY OR PARTNER NATIONS ON ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR DEMONSTRATION AND COOPERATIVE RESEARCH FACILITIES FOR CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce, shall conduct bilateral and multilateral meetings with not fewer than 5 ally or partner nations, with the aim of enhancing nuclear energy cooperation among those ally or partner nations and the United States, for the purpose of developing collaborative relationships with respect to research, development, licensing, and deployment of advanced nuclear reactor technologies for civil nuclear energy.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—The meetings described in subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a focus on cooperation to demonstrate and deploy advanced nuclear reactors, with an emphasis on U.S. nuclear energy companies, during the 10-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act to provide options for addressing energy security and climate change; and

(2) a focus on developing a memorandum of understanding or any other appropriate agreement between the United States and ally or partner nations with respect to—

(A) the demonstration and deployment of advanced nuclear reactors; and

(B) the development of cooperative research facilities.

(c) FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS.—In conducting the meetings described in subsection (a), the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce, shall seek to develop financing arrangements to share the costs of the demonstration and deployment of advanced nuclear reactors and the development of cooperative research facilities with the ally or partner nations participating in those meetings.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Commerce shall jointly submit to Congress a report highlighting potential partners—

(1) for the establishment of cost-share arrangements described in subsection (c); or

(2) with which the United States may enter into agreements with respect to—

(A) the demonstration of advanced nuclear reactors; or

(B) cooperative research facilities.

SEC. 6087. INTERNATIONAL CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY COOPERATION.

Section 959B of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16279b) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary'';

(2) in subsection (a) (as so designated)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''financing,''; and

(ii) by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''preparations for''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C)(v), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) to support, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, the safe, secure, and peaceful use of civil nuclear technology in countries developing nuclear energy programs, with a focus on countries that have increased civil nuclear cooperation with the Russian Federation or the People's Republic of China; and

''(4) to promote the fullest utilization of the reactors, fuel, equipment, services, and technology of U.S. nuclear energy companies (as defined in section 6082 of the International Nuclear Energy Act of 2024) in civil nuclear energy programs outside the United States through—

''(A) bilateral and multilateral arrangements developed and executed with the concurrence of the Secretary of State that contain commitments for the utilization of the reactors, fuel, equipment, services, and technology of U.S. nuclear energy companies (as defined in that section);

''(B) the designation of 1 or more U.S. nuclear energy companies (as defined in that section) to implement an arrangement under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines that the designation is necessary and appropriate to achieve the objectives of this section; and

''(C) the waiver of any provision of law relating to competition with respect to any activity related to an arrangement under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Commerce, determines that a waiver is necessary and appropriate to achieve the objectives of this section.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The program under subsection (a) shall be supported in consultation with the Secretary of State and implemented by the Secretary—

''(1) to facilitate, to the maximum extent practicable, workshops and expert-based exchanges to engage industry, stakeholders, and foreign governments with respect to international civil nuclear issues, such as—

''(A) training;

''(B) financing;

''(C) safety;

''(D) security;

''(E) safeguards;

''(F) liability;

''(G) advanced fuels;

''(H) operations; and

''(I) options for multinational cooperation with respect to the disposal of spent nuclear fuel (as defined in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101)); and

''(2) in coordination with any Federal agency that the President determines to be appropriate.

''(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out subsection (a)(3) $15,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.''.

SEC. 6088. INTERNATIONAL CIVIL NUCLEAR PROGRAM SUPPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Assistant (if appointed), shall launch an international initiative (referred to in this section as the ''initiative'') to provide financial assistance to, and facilitate the building of technical capacities by, in accordance with this section, embarking civil nuclear nations for activities relating to the development of civil nuclear energy programs.

(b) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the initiative, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Assistant (if appointed), may award grants of financial assistance to embarking civil nuclear nations in accordance with this subsection—

(A) for activities relating to the development of civil nuclear energy programs; and

(B) to facilitate the building of technical capacities for those activities.

(2) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant of financial assistance under paragraph (1) shall be not more than $5,500,000.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Assistant (if appointed), may award—

(A) not more than 1 grant of financial assistance under paragraph (1) to any 1 embarking civil nuclear nation each fiscal year; and

(B) not more than a total of 5 grants of financial assistance under paragraph (1) to any 1 embarking civil nuclear nation.

(c) SENIOR ADVISORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the initiative, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Assistant (if appointed), may provide financial assistance to an embarking civil nuclear nation for the purpose of contracting with a U.S. nuclear energy company to hire 1 or more senior advisors to assist the embarking civil nuclear nation in establishing a civil nuclear program.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—A senior advisor described in paragraph (1) shall have relevant experience and qualifications to advise the embarking civil nuclear nation on, and facilitate on behalf of the embarking civil nuclear nation, 1 or more of the following activities:

(A) The development of financing relationships.

(B) The development of a standardized financing and project management framework for the construction of nuclear power plants.

(C) The development of a standardized licensing framework for—

(i) light water civil nuclear technologies; and

(ii) non-light water civil nuclear technologies and advanced nuclear reactors.

(D) The identification of qualified organizations and service providers.

(E) The identification of funds to support payment for services required to develop a civil nuclear program.

(F) Market analysis.

(G) The identification of the safety, security, safeguards, and nuclear governance required for a civil nuclear program.

(H) Risk allocation, risk management, and nuclear liability.

(I) Technical assessments of nuclear reactors and technologies.

(J) The identification of actions necessary to participate in a global nuclear liability regime based on the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage, with Annex, done at Vienna September 12, 1997 (TIAS 15–415).

(K) Stakeholder engagement.

(L) Management of spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste.

(M) Any other major activities to support the establishment of a civil nuclear program, such as the establishment of export, financing, construction, training, operations, and education requirements.

(3) CLARIFICATION.—Financial assistance under this subsection may be provided to an embarking civil nuclear nation in addition to any financial assistance provided to that embarking civil nuclear nation under subsection (b).

(d) LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO EMBARKING CIVIL NUCLEAR NATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Offices of the Inspectors General for the Department of State and the Department of Energy shall coordinate—

(1) to establish and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a joint strategic plan to conduct comprehensive oversight of activities authorized under this section to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse; and

(2) to engage in independent and effective oversight of activities authorized under this section through joint or individual audits, inspections, investigations, or evaluations.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State to carry out the initiative $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

SEC. 6089. BIENNIAL CABINET-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SAFETY, SECURITY, SAFEGUARDS, AND SUSTAINABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President, in coordination with international partners, as determined by the President, and industry, shall hold a biennial conference on civil nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability (referred to in this section as a ''conference'').

(b) CONFERENCE FUNCTIONS.—It is the sense of Congress that each conference should—

(1) be a forum in which ally or partner nations may engage with each other for the purpose of reinforcing the commitment to—

(A) nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability;

(B) environmental safeguards; and

(C) local community engagement in areas in reasonable proximity to nuclear sites; and

(2) facilitate—

(A) the development of—

(i) joint commitments and goals to improve—

(I) nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability;

(II) environmental safeguards; and

(III) local community engagement in areas in reasonable proximity to nuclear sites;

(ii) stronger international institutions that support nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability;

(iii) cooperative financing relationships to promote competitive alternatives to Chinese and Russian financing;

(iv) a standardized financing and project management framework for the construction of civil nuclear power plants;

(v) a standardized licensing framework for civil nuclear technologies;

(vi) a strategy to change internal policies of multinational development banks, such as the World Bank, to support the financing of civil nuclear projects;

(vii) a document containing any lessons learned from countries that have partnered with the Russian Federation or the People's Republic of China with respect to civil nuclear power, including any detrimental outcomes resulting from that partnership; and

(viii) a global civil nuclear liability regime;

(B) cooperation for enhancing the overall aspects of civil nuclear power, such as—

(i) nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability;

(ii) nuclear laws (including regulations);

(iii) waste management;

(iv) quality management systems;

(v) technology transfer;

(vi) human resources development;

(vii) localization;

(viii) reactor operations;

(ix) nuclear liability; and

(x) decommissioning; and

(C) the development and determination of the mechanisms described in paragraphs (7) and (8) of section 6089A(a), if the President intends to establish an Advanced Reactor Coordination and Resource Center as described in that section.

(c) INPUT FROM INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT.—It is the sense of Congress that each conference should include a meeting that convenes nuclear industry leaders and leaders of government agencies with expertise relating to nuclear safety, security, safeguards, or sustainability to discuss best practices relating to—

(1) the safe and secure use, storage, and transport of nuclear and radiological materials;

(2) managing the evolving cyber threat to nuclear and radiological security; and

(3) the role that the nuclear industry should play in nuclear and radiological safety, security, and safeguards, including with respect to the safe and secure use, storage, and transport of nuclear and radiological materials, including spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste.

SEC. 6089A. ADVANCED REACTOR COORDINATION AND RESOURCE CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall consider the feasibility of leveraging existing activities or frameworks or, as necessary, establishing a center, to be known as the ''Advanced Reactor Coordination and Resource Center'' (referred to in this section as the ''Center''), for the purposes of—

(1) identifying qualified organizations and service providers—

(A) for embarking civil nuclear nations;

(B) to develop and assemble documents, contracts, and related items required to establish a civil nuclear program; and

(C) to develop a standardized model for the establishment of a civil nuclear program that can be used by the International Atomic Energy Agency;

(2) coordinating with countries participating in the Center and with the Nuclear Exports Working Group established under section 6083(b)—

(A) to identify funds to support payment for services required to develop a civil nuclear program;

(B) to provide market analysis; and

(C) to create—

(i) project structure models;

(ii) models for electricity market analysis;

(iii) models for nonelectric applications market analysis; and

(iv) financial models;

(3) identifying and developing the safety, security, safeguards, and nuclear governance required for a civil nuclear program;

(4) supporting multinational regulatory standards to be developed by countries with civil nuclear programs and experience;

(5) developing and strengthening communications, engagement, and consensus-building;

(6) carrying out any other major activities to support export, financing, education, construction, training, and education requirements relating to the establishment of a civil nuclear program;

(7) developing mechanisms for how to fund and staff the Center; and

(8) determining mechanisms for the selection of the location or locations of the Center.

(b) OBJECTIVE.—The President shall carry out subsection (a) with the objective of establishing the Center if the President determines that it is feasible to do so.

SEC. 6089B. STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE FUND WORKING GROUP.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a working group, to be known as the ''Strategic Infrastructure Fund Working Group'' (referred to in this section as the ''working group'') to provide input on the feasibility of establishing a program to support strategically important capital-intensive infrastructure projects.

(b) COMPOSITION.—The working group shall be—

(1) led by a White House official, who may be the Assistant (if appointed), who shall serve as the White House focal point with respect to matters relating to the working group; and

(2) composed of—

(A) senior-level Federal officials, selected by the head of the applicable Federal agency or organization, from any Federal agency or organization that the President determines to be appropriate;

(B) other senior-level Federal officials, selected by the head of the applicable Federal agency or organization, from any other Federal agency or organization that the Secretary determines to be appropriate; and

(C) any senior-level Federal official selected by the White House official described in paragraph (1) from any Federal agency or organization.

(c) REPORTING.—The working group shall report to the National Security Council.

(d) DUTIES.—The working group shall—

(1) provide direction and advice to the officials described in section 6083(a)(2)(A) and appropriate Federal agencies, as determined by the working group, with respect to the establishment of a Strategic Infrastructure Fund (referred to in this subsection as the ''Fund'') to be used—

(A) to support those aspects of projects relating to—

(i) civil nuclear technologies; and

(ii) microprocessors; and

(B) for strategic investments identified by the working group; and

(2) address critical areas in determining the appropriate design for the Fund, including—

(A) transfer of assets to the Fund;

(B) transfer of assets from the Fund;

(C) how assets in the Fund should be invested; and

(D) governance and implementation of the Fund.

(e) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the working group shall submit to the committees described in paragraph (2) a report on the findings of the working group that includes suggested legislative text for how to establish and structure a Strategic Infrastructure Fund.

(2) COMMITTEES DESCRIBED.—The committees referred to in paragraph (1) are—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee on Environment and Public Works, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

(3) ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include suggested legislative language requiring all expenditures from a Strategic Infrastructure Fund established in accordance with this section to be administered by the Secretary of State (or a designee of the Secretary of State).

SEC. 6089C. JOINT ASSESSMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND INDIA ON NUCLEAR LIABILITY RULES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall establish and maintain within the U.S.-India Strategic Security Dialogue a joint consultative mechanism with the Government of the Republic of India that convenes on a recurring basis—

(1) to assess the implementation of the Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of India Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, signed at Washington October 10, 2008 (TIAS 08–1206);

(2) to discuss opportunities for the Republic of India to align domestic nuclear liability rules with international norms; and

(3) to develop a strategy for the United States and the Republic of India to pursue bilateral and multilateral diplomatic engagements related to analyzing and implementing those opportunities.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes the joint assessment developed pursuant to subsection (a)(1).

SEC. 6089D. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this subtitle may be construed to alter or otherwise affect the interpretation or implementation of section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2153).

Subtitle J—Law Enforcement and Victim Support Act of 2024

SEC. 6091. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Law Enforcement and Victim Support Act of 2024''.

SEC. 6092. PREVENTING CHILD TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2024.

(a) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term ''anti-trafficking recommendations'' means the recommendations set forth in the report of the Government Accountability Office entitled ''Child Trafficking: Addressing Challenges to Public Awareness and Survivor Support'', which was published on December 11, 2023.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Office for Victims of Crime of the Department of Justice, in coordination with the Office on Trafficking in Persons of the Administration for Children and Families, shall implement the anti-trafficking recommendations.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Office for Victims of Crime implements the anti-trafficking recommendations pursuant to subsection (c), the Director of the Office for Victims of Crime shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that explicitly describes the steps taken by the Office to complete such implementation.

SEC. 6093. PROJECT SAFE CHILDHOOD ACT.

Section 143 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (34 U.S.C. 20942) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 143. PROJECT SAFE CHILDHOOD.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL.—The term 'child sexual abuse material' has the meaning given the term 'child pornography' in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code.

''(2) CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OFFENSE.—The term 'child sexual exploitation offense' means—

''(A)(i) an offense involving a minor under section 1591 or chapter 117 of title 18, United States Code;

''(ii) an offense under subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 2251 of title 18, United States Code;

''(iii) an offense under section 2251A or 2252A(g) of title 18, United States Code; or

''(iv) any attempt or conspiracy to commit an offense described in clause (i) or (ii); or

''(B) an offense involving a minor under a State or Tribal statute that is similar to a provision described in subparagraph (A).

''(3) CIRCLE OF TRUST OFFENDER.—The term 'circle of trust offender' means an offender who is related to, or in a position of trust, authority, or supervisory control with respect to, a child.

''(4) COMPUTER.—The term 'computer' has the meaning given the term in section 1030 of title 18, United States Code.

''(5) CONTACT SEXUAL OFFENSE.—The term 'contact sexual offense' means—

''(A) an offense involving a minor under chapter 109A of title 18, United States Code, or any attempt or conspiracy to commit such an offense; or

''(B) an offense involving a minor under a State or Tribal statute that is similar to a provision described in subparagraph (A).

''(6) DUAL OFFENDER.—The term 'dual offender' means—

''(A) a person who commits—

''(i) a technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation offense or an offense involving child sexual abuse material; and

''(ii) a contact sexual offense; and

''(B) without regard to whether the offenses described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A)—

''(i) are committed as part of the same course of conduct; or

''(ii) involve the same victim.

''(7) FACILITATOR.—The term 'facilitator' means an individual who facilitates the commission by another individual of—

''(A) a technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation offense or an offense involving child sexual abuse material; or

''(B) a contact sexual offense.

''(8) ICAC AFFILIATE PARTNER.—The term 'ICAC affiliate partner' means a law enforcement agency that has entered into a formal operating agreement with the ICAC Task Force Program.

''(9) ICAC TASK FORCE.—The term 'ICAC task force' means a task force that is part of the ICAC Task Force Program.

''(10) ICAC TASK FORCE PROGRAM.—The term 'ICAC Task Force Program' means the National Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program established under section 102 of the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (34 U.S.C. 21112).

''(11) OFFENSE INVOLVING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL.—The term 'offense involving child sexual abuse material' means—

''(A) an offense under section 2251(d), section 2252, or paragraphs (1) through (6) of section 2252A(a) of title 18, United States Code, or any attempt or conspiracy to commit such an offense; or

''(B) an offense under a State or Tribal statute that is similar to a provision described in subparagraph (A).

''(12) SERIOUS OFFENDER.—The term 'serious offender' means—

''(A) an offender who has committed a contact sexual offense or child sexual exploitation offense;

''(B) a dual offender, circle of trust offender, or facilitator; or

''(C) an offender with a prior conviction for a contact sexual offense, a child sexual exploitation offense, or an offense involving child sexual abuse material.

''(13) STATE.—The term 'State' means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, and any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

''(14) TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED.—The term 'technology-facilitated', with respect to an offense, means an offense that is committed through the use of a computer, even if the use of a computer is not an element of the offense.

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Attorney General shall create and maintain a nationwide initiative to align Federal, State, and local entities to combat the growing epidemic of online child sexual exploitation and abuse, to be known as the 'Project Safe Childhood program', in accordance with this section.

''(c) BEST PRACTICES.—The Attorney General, in coordination with the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice, and in consultation with training and technical assistance providers under the ICAC Task Force Program who are funded by the Attorney General and with appropriate nongovernmental organizations, shall—

''(1) develop best practices to adopt a balanced approach to the investigation of suspect leads involving contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, and offenses involving child sexual abuse material, and the prosecution of those offenses, prioritizing when feasible the identification of a child victim or a serious offender, which approach shall incorporate the use of—

''(A) proactively generated leads, including leads generated by current and emerging technology;

''(B) in-district investigative referrals; and

''(C) CyberTipline reports from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children;

''(2) develop best practices to be used by each United States Attorney and ICAC task force to assess the likelihood that an individual could be a serious offender or that a child victim may be identified;

''(3) develop and implement a tracking and communication system for Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and prosecutor's offices to report successful cases of victim identification and child rescue to the Department of Justice and the public; and

''(4) encourage the submission of all lawfully seized visual depictions to the Child Victim Identification Program of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

''(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—Except as authorized under subsection (e), funds authorized under this section may only be used for the following 4 purposes:

''(1) Integrated Federal, State, and local efforts to investigate and prosecute contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, and offenses involving child sexual abuse material, including—

''(A) the partnership by each United States Attorney with each Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force within the district of such attorney;

''(B) training of Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors through—

''(i) programs facilitated by the ICAC Task Force Program;

''(ii) ICAC training programs supported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice;

''(iii) programs facilitated by appropriate nongovernmental organizations with subject matter expertise, technical skill, or technological tools to assist in the identification of and response to serious offenders, contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, or offenses involving child sexual abuse material; and

''(iv) any other program that provides training—

''(I) on the investigation and identification of serious offenders or victims of contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, or offenses involving child sexual abuse material; or

''(II) that specifically addresses the use of existing and emerging technologies to commit or facilitate contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, or offenses involving child sexual abuse material;

''(C) the development by each United States Attorney of a district-specific strategic plan to coordinate with State and local law enforcement agencies and prosecutor's offices, including ICAC task forces and their ICAC affiliate partners, on the investigation of suspect leads involving serious offenders, contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, and offenses involving child sexual abuse material, and the prosecution of those offenders and offenses, which plan—

''(i) shall include—

''(I) the use of the best practices developed under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c);

''(II) the development of plans and protocols to target and rapidly investigate cases involving potential serious offenders or the identification and rescue of a victim of a contact sexual offense, a child sexual exploitation offense, or an offense involving child sexual abuse material;

''(III) the use of training and technical assistance programs to incorporate victim-centered, trauma-informed practices in cases involving victims of contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, and offenses involving child sexual abuse material, which may include the use of child protective services, children's advocacy centers, victim support specialists, or other supportive services;

''(IV) the development of plans to track, report, and clearly communicate successful cases of victim identification and child rescue to the Department of Justice and the public;

''(V) an analysis of the investigative and forensic capacity of law enforcement agencies and prosecutor's offices within the district, and goals for improving capacity and effectiveness;

''(VI) a written policy describing the criteria for referrals for prosecution from Federal, State, or local law enforcement agencies, particularly when the investigation may involve a potential serious offender or the identification or rescue of a child victim;

''(VII) plans and budgets for training of relevant personnel on contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, and offenses involving child sexual abuse material;

''(VIII) plans for coordination and cooperation with State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies and prosecutorial offices; and

''(IX) evidence-based programs that educate the public about and increase awareness of such offenses; and

''(ii) shall be developed in consultation, as appropriate, with—

''(I) the local ICAC task force;

''(II) the United States Marshals Service Sex Offender Targeting Center;

''(III) training and technical assistance providers under the ICAC Task Force Program who are funded by the Attorney General;

''(IV) nongovernmental organizations with subject matter expertise, technical skill, or technological tools to assist in the identification of and response to contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, or offenses involving child sexual abuse material;

''(V) any relevant component of Homeland Security Investigations;

''(VI) any relevant component of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

''(VII) the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice;

''(VIII) the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice;

''(IX) the United States Postal Inspection Service;

''(X) the United States Secret Service; and

''(XI) each military criminal investigation organization of the Department of Defense; and

''(D) a quadrennial assessment by each United States Attorney of the investigations within the district of such attorney of contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, and offenses involving child sexual abuse material—

''(i) with consideration of—

''(I) the variety of sources for leads;

''(II) the proportion of work involving proactive or undercover law enforcement investigations;

''(III) the number of serious offenders identified and prosecuted; and

''(IV) the number of children identified or rescued; and

''(ii) information from which may be used by the United States Attorney, as appropriate, to revise the plan described in subparagraph (C).

''(2) Major case coordination by the Department of Justice (or other Federal agencies as appropriate), including specific cooperation, as appropriate, with—

''(A) the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice;

''(B) any relevant component of Homeland Security Investigations;

''(C) any relevant component of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

''(D) the ICAC task forces and ICAC affiliate partners;

''(E) the United States Marshals Service, including the Sex Offender Targeting Center;

''(F) the United States Postal Inspection Service;

''(G) the United States Secret Service;

''(H) each Military Criminal Investigation Organization of the Department of Defense; and

''(I) any task forces established in connection with the Project Safe Childhood program set forth under subsection (b).

''(3) Increased Federal involvement in, and commitment to, the prevention and prosecution of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation offenses or offenses involving child sexual abuse material by—

''(A) using technology to identify victims and serious offenders;

''(B) developing processes and tools to identify victims and offenders; and

''(C) taking measures to improve information sharing among Federal law enforcement agencies, including for the purposes of implementing the plans and protocols described in paragraph (1)(C)(i)(II) to identify and rescue—

''(i) victims of contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, and offenses involving child sexual abuse material; or

''(ii) victims of serious offenders.

''(4) The establishment, development, and implementation of a nationally coordinated 'Safer Internet Day' every year developed in collaboration with the Department of Education, national and local internet safety organizations, parent organizations, social media companies, and schools to provide—

''(A) national public awareness and evidence-based educational programs about the threats posed by circle of trust offenders and the threat of contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, or offenses involving child sexual abuse material, and the use of technology to facilitate those offenses;

''(B) information to parents and children about how to avoid or prevent technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation offenses; and

''(C) information about how to report possible technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation offenses or offenses involving child sexual abuse material through—

''(i) the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children;

''(ii) the ICAC Task Force Program; and

''(iii) any other program that—

''(I) raises national awareness about the threat of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation offenses or offenses involving child sexual abuse material; and

''(II) provides information to parents and children seeking to report possible violations of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation offenses or offenses involving child sexual abuse material.

''(e) EXPANSION OF PROJECT SAFE CHILDHOOD.—Notwithstanding subsection (d), funds authorized under this section may be also be used for the following purposes:

''(1) The addition of not less than 20 Assistant United States Attorneys at the Department of Justice, relative to the number of such positions as of the day before the date of enactment of the Law Enforcement and Victim Support Act of 2024, who shall be—

''(A) dedicated to the prosecution of cases in connection with the Project Safe Childhood program set forth under subsection (b); and

''(B) responsible for assisting and coordinating the plans and protocols of each district under subsection (d)(1)(C)(i)(II).

''(2) Such other additional and related purposes as the Attorney General determines appropriate.

''(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated—

''(A) for the activities described under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (d), $28,550,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2028;

''(B) for the activities described under subsection (d)(4), $4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2028; and

''(C) for the activities described under subsection (e), $29,100,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2028.

''(2) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Amounts made available to State and local agencies, programs, and services under this section shall supplement, and not supplant, other Federal, State, or local funds made available for those agencies, programs, and services.''.

SEC. 6094. STRONG COMMUNITIES ACT OF 2023.

Section 1701 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(q) COPS STRONG COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

''(i) an institution of higher education, as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001), that, in coordination or through an agreement with a local law enforcement agency, offers a law enforcement training program; or

''(ii) a local law enforcement agency that offers a law enforcement training program.

''(B) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The term 'local law enforcement agency' means an agency of a State, unit of local government, or Indian Tribe that is authorized by law or by a government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of criminal law.

''(2) GRANTS.—The Attorney General may use amounts otherwise appropriated to carry out this section for a fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year 2024) to make competitive grants to local law enforcement agencies to be used for officers and recruits to attend law enforcement training programs at eligible entities if the officers and recruits agree to serve in law enforcement agencies in their communities.

''(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant through a local law enforcement agency under this subsection, each officer or recruit described in paragraph (2) shall—

''(A) serve as a full-time law enforcement officer for a total of not fewer than 4 years during the 8-year period beginning on the date on which the officer or recruit completes a law enforcement training program for which the officer or recruit receives benefits;

''(B) complete the service described in subparagraph (A) in a local law enforcement agency located within—

''(i) 7 miles of the residence of the officer or recruit where the officer or recruit has resided for not fewer than 5 years; or

''(ii) if the officer or recruit resides in a county with fewer than 150,000 residents, within 20 miles of the residence of the officer or recruit where the officer or recruit has resided for not fewer than 5 years; and

''(C) submit to the eligible entity providing a law enforcement training program to the officer or recruit evidence of employment of the officer or recruit in the form of a certification by the chief administrative officer of the local law enforcement agency where the officer or recruit is employed.

''(4) REPAYMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If an officer or recruit does not complete the service described in paragraph (3), the officer or recruit shall submit to the local law enforcement agency an amount equal to any benefits the officer or recruit received through the local law enforcement agency under this subsection.

''(B) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General shall promulgate regulations that establish categories of extenuating circumstances under which an officer or recruit may be excused from repayment under subparagraph (A).''.

SEC. 6095. FIGHTING POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER ACT OF 2023.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Public safety officers serve their communities with bravery and distinction in order to keep their communities safe.

(2) Public safety officers, including police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and 911 dispatchers, are on the front lines of dealing with situations that are stressful, graphic, harrowing, and life-threatening.

(3) The work of public safety officers puts them at risk for developing post-traumatic stress disorder and acute stress disorder.

(4) It is estimated that 30 percent of public safety officers develop behavioral health conditions at some point in their lifetimes, including depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, in comparison to 20 percent of the general population that develops such conditions.

(5) Victims of post-traumatic stress disorder and acute stress disorder are at a higher risk of dying by suicide.

(6) Firefighters have been reported to have higher suicide attempt and ideation rates than the general population.

(7) It is estimated that between 125 and 300 police officers die by suicide every year.

(8) In 2019, pursuant to section 2(b) of the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–113; 131 Stat. 2276), the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services of the Department of Justice developed a report (referred to in this section as the ''LEMHWA report'') that expressed that many law enforcement agencies do not have the capacity or local access to the mental health professionals necessary for treating their law enforcement officers.

(9) The LEMHWA report recommended methods for establishing remote access or regional mental health check programs at the State or Federal level.

(10) Individual police and fire departments generally do not have the resources to employ full-time mental health experts who are able to treat public safety officers with state-of-the-art techniques for the purpose of treating job-related post-traumatic stress disorder and acute stress disorder.

(b) PROGRAMMING FOR POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER.—The term ''public safety officer''—

(i) has the meaning given the term in section 1204 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10284); and

(ii) includes Tribal public safety officers.

(B) PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATOR.—The term ''public safety telecommunicator'' means an individual who—

(i) operates telephone, radio, or other communication systems to receive and communicate requests for emergency assistance at 911 public safety answering points and emergency operations centers;

(ii) takes information from the public and other sources relating to crimes, threats, disturbances, acts of terrorism, fires, medical emergencies, and other public safety matters; and

(iii) coordinates and provides information to law enforcement and emergency response personnel.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 150 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, acting through the Director of

the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services of the Department of Justice, shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on—

(A) not fewer than 1 proposed program, if the Attorney General determines it appropriate and feasible to do so, to be administered by the Department of Justice for making state-of-the-art treatments or preventative care available to public safety officers and public safety telecommunicators with regard to job-related post-traumatic stress disorder or acute stress disorder by providing public safety officers and public safety telecommunicators access to evidence-based trauma-informed care, peer support, counselor services, and family supports for the purpose of treating or preventing post-traumatic stress disorder or acute stress disorder;

(B) a draft of any necessary grant conditions required to ensure that confidentiality is afforded to public safety officers on account of seeking the care or services described in paragraph (1) under the proposed program;

(C) how each proposed program described in subparagraph (A) could be most efficiently administered throughout the United States at the State, Tribal, territorial, and local levels, taking into account in-person and telehealth capabilities;

(D) a draft of legislative language necessary to authorize each proposed program described in subparagraph (A); and

(E) an estimate of the amount of annual appropriations necessary for administering each proposed program described in subparagraph (A).

(3) DEVELOPMENT.—In developing the report required under paragraph (2), the Attorney General shall consult relevant stakeholders, including—

(A) Federal, State, Tribal, territorial, and local agencies employing public safety officers and public safety telecommunicators; and

(B) non-governmental organizations, international organizations, academies, or other entities, including organizations that support the interests of public safety officers and public safety telecommunicators and the interests of family members of public safety officers and public safety telecommunicators.

SEC. 6096. ADMINISTRATIVE FALSE CLAIMS ACT OF 2023.

(a) CHANGE IN SHORT TITLE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title VI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–509; 100 Stat. 1934) is amended—

(A) in the subtitle heading, by striking ''**Program Fraud Civil Remedies**'' and inserting ''**Administrative False Claims**''; and

(B) in section 6101 (31 U.S.C. 3801 note), by striking ''Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986'' and inserting ''Administrative False Claims Act''.

(2) REFERENCES.—Any reference to the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986 in any provision of law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be deemed a reference to the Administrative False Claims Act.

(b) REVERSE FALSE CLAIMS.—Chapter 38 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 3801(a)(3), by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

''(C) made to an authority which has the effect of concealing or improperly avoiding or decreasing an obligation to pay or transmit property, services, or money to the authority,''; and

(2) in section 3802(a)(3)—

(A) by striking ''An assessment'' and inserting ''(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an assessment''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) In the case of a claim described in section 3801(a)(3)(C), an assessment shall not be made under the second sentence of paragraph (1) in an amount that is more than double the value of the property, services, or money that was wrongfully withheld from the authority.''.

(c) INCREASING DOLLAR AMOUNT OF CLAIMS.—Section 3803(c) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''$150,000'' each place that term appears and inserting ''$1,000,000''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—The maximum amount in paragraph (1) shall be adjusted for inflation in the same manner and to the same extent as civil monetary penalties under the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act (28 U.S.C. 2461 note).''.

(d) RECOVERY OF COSTS.—Section 3806(g)(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(1)(A) Except as provided in paragraph (2)—

''(i) any amount collected under this chapter shall be credited first to reimburse the authority or other Federal entity that expended costs in support of the investigation or prosecution of the action, including any court or hearing costs; and

''(ii) amounts reimbursed under clause (i) shall—

''(I) be deposited in—

''(aa) the appropriations account of the authority or other Federal entity from which the costs described in subparagraph (A) were obligated;

''(bb) a similar appropriations account of the authority or other Federal entity; or

''(cc) if the authority or other Federal entity expended nonappropriated funds, another appropriate account; and

''(II) remain available until expended.

''(B) Any amount remaining after reimbursements described in subparagraph (A) shall be deposited as miscellaneous receipts in the Treasury of the United States.''.

(e) SEMIANNUAL REPORTING.—Section 405(c) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) information relating to cases under chapter 38 of title 31, including—

''(A) the number of reports submitted by investigating officials to reviewing officials under section 3803(a)(1) of such title;

''(B) actions taken in response to reports described in subparagraph (A), which shall include statistical tables showing—

''(i) pending cases;

''(ii) resolved cases;

''(iii) the average length of time to resolve each case;

''(iv) the number of final agency decisions that were appealed to a district court of the United States or a higher court; and

''(v) if the total number of cases in a report is greater than 2—

''(I) the number of cases that were settled; and

''(II) the total penalty or assessment amount recovered in each case, including through a settlement or compromise; and

''(C) instances in which the reviewing official declined to proceed on a case reported by an investigating official; and''.

(f) INCREASING EFFICIENCY OF DOJ PROCESSING.—Section 3803(j) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' before ''The reviewing''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) A reviewing official shall notify the Attorney General in writing not later than 30 days before entering into any agreement to compromise or settle allegations of liability under section 3802 and before the date on which the reviewing official is permitted to refer allegations of liability to a presiding officer under subsection (b).''.

(g) REVISION OF DEFINITION OF HEARING OFFICIALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 38 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in section 3801(a)(7)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(vii), by adding ''or'' at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) a member of the board of contract appeals pursuant to section 7105 of title 41, if the authority does not employ an available presiding officer under subparagraph (A);''; and

(B) in section 3803(d)(2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking ''the presiding'' and inserting ''(i) in the case of a referral to a presiding officer described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 3801(a)(7), the presiding'';

(II) in clause (i), as so designated, by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) in the case of a referral to a presiding officer described in subparagraph (C) of section 3801(a)(7)—

''(I) the reviewing official shall submit a copy of the notice required by under paragraph (1) and of the response of the person receiving such notice requesting a hearing—

''(aa) to the board of contract appeals that has jurisdiction over matters arising from the agency of the reviewing official pursuant to section 7105(e)(1) of title 41; or

''(bb) if the Chair of the board of contract appeals declines to accept the referral, to any other board of contract appeals; and

''(II) the reviewing official shall simultaneously mail, by registered or certified mail, or shall deliver, notice to the person alleged to be liable under section 3802 that the referral has been made to an agency board of contract appeals with an explanation as to where the person may obtain the relevant rules of procedure promulgated by the board; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) in the case of a hearing conducted by a presiding officer described in subparagraph (C) of section 3801(a)(7)—

''(i) the presiding officer shall conduct the hearing according to the rules and procedures promulgated by the board of contract appeals; and

''(ii) the hearing shall not be subject to the provisions in subsection (g)(2), (h), or (i).''.

(2) AGENCY BOARDS.—Section 7105(e) of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following:

''(E) ADMINISTRATIVE FALSE CLAIMS ACT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The boards described in subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) shall have jurisdiction to hear any case referred to a board of contract appeals under section 3803(d) of title 31.

''(ii) DECLINING REFERRAL.—If the Chair of a board described in subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) determines that accepting a case under clause (i) would prevent adequate consideration of other cases being handled by the board, the Chair may decline to accept the referral.''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''or, in the event that a case is filed under chapter 38 of title 31, any relief that would be available to a litigant under that chapter'' before the period at the end.

(3) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each authority head, as defined in section 3801 of title 31, United States Code, and each board of contract appeals of a board described in subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) of section 7105(e) of title 41, United States Code, shall amend procedures regarding proceedings as necessary to implement the amendments made by this subsection.

(h) REVISION OF LIMITATIONS.—Section 3808 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) A notice to the person alleged to be liable with respect to a claim or statement shall be mailed or delivered in accordance with section 3803(d)(1) not later than the later of—

''(1) 6 years after the date on which the violation of section 3802 is committed; or

''(2) 3 years after the date on which facts material to the action are known or reasonably should have been known by the authority head, but in no event more than 10 years after the date on which the violation is committed.''.

(i) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3801 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (8), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(10) 'material' has the meaning given the term in section 3729(b) of this title; and

''(11) 'obligation' has the meaning given the term in section 3729(b) of this title.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) For purposes of subsection (a)(10), materiality shall be determined in the same manner as under section 3729 of this title.''.

(j) PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each authority head, as defined in section 3801 of title 31, United States Code, shall—

(1) promulgate regulations and procedures to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act; and

(2) review and update existing regulations and procedures of the authority to ensure compliance with this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

SEC. 6097. JUSTICE FOR MURDER VICTIMS ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 51 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1123. No maximum time period between act or omission and death of victim

''(a) IN GENERAL.—A prosecution may be instituted for any homicide offense under this title without regard to the time that elapsed between—

''(1) the act or omission that caused the death of the victim; and

''(2) the death of the victim.

''(b) RELATION TO STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed to supersede the limitations period under section 3282(a), to the extent applicable.

''(c) MAXIMUM TIME PERIOD APPLICABLE IF DEATH PENALTY IMPOSED.—A sentence of death may not be imposed for a homicide offense under this title unless the Government proves beyond a reasonable doubt that not more than 1 year and 1 day elapsed between—

''(1) the act or omission that caused the death of the victim; and

''(2) the death of the victim.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of sections for chapter 51 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''1123. No maximum time period between act or omission and death of victim.''.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—Section 1123(a) of title 18, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to an act or omission described in that section that occurs after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR FIRST-DEGREE MURDER BASED ON TIME PERIOD BETWEEN ACT OR OMISSION AND DEATH OF VICTIM.—Section 1111(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after ''imprisonment for life'' the following: '', unless the death of the victim occurred more than 1 year and 1 day after the act or omission that caused the death of the victim, in which case the punishment shall be imprisonment for any term of years or for life''.

SEC. 6098. PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Launched in 2001, the Project Safe Neighborhoods program is a nationwide initiative that brings together Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement officials, prosecutors, community leaders, and other stakeholders to identify the most pressing crime problems in a community and work collaboratively to address those problems.

(2) The Project Safe Neighborhoods program—

(A) operates in all 94 Federal judicial districts throughout the 50 States and territories of the United States; and

(B) implements 4 key components to successfully reduce violent crime in communities, including community engagement, prevention and intervention, focused and strategic enforcement, and accountability.

(b) REAUTHORIZATION.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018 (34 U.S.C. 60701) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as paragraphs (2), (4), and (5), respectively;

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

''(1) the term crime analyst means an individual employed by a law enforcement agency for the purpose of separating information into key components and contributing to plans of action to understand, mitigate, and neutralize criminal threats;''; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

''(3) the term law enforcement assistant means an individual employed by a law enforcement agency or a prosecuting agency for the purpose of aiding law enforcement officers in investigative or administrative duties;''.

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Section 4(b) of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018 (34 U.S.C. 60703(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking or at the end;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) hiring crime analysts to assist with violent crime reduction efforts;

''(6) the cost of overtime for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and law enforcement assistants that assist with the Program; and

''(7) purchasing, implementing, and using technology to assist with violent crime reduction efforts.''.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 6 of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018 (34 U.S.C. 60705) is amended by striking ''fiscal years 2019 through 2021'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2023 through 2028''.

(c) TASK FORCE SUPPORT.—

(1) SHORT TITLE.—This subsection may be cited as the Officer Ella Grace French and Sergeant Jim Smith Task Force Support Act of 2023.

(2) AMENDMENT.—Section 4(b) of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018 (34 U.S.C. 60703(b)), as amended by subsection (c)(2), is amended—

(A) in paragraph (6), by striking and at the end;

(B) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting ; and; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) support for multi-jurisdictional task forces.''.

(d) TRANSPARENCY.—Not less frequently than annually, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that details, for each area in which the Project Safe Neighborhoods Block Grant Program operates and with respect to the 1-year period preceding the date of the report—

(1) how the area spent funds under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Block Grant Program;

(2) the community outreach efforts performed in the area; and

(3) the number and a description of the violent crime offenses committed in the area, including murder, non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

SEC. 6099. FEDERAL JUDICIARY STABILIZATION ACT OF 2024.

(a) EXISTING JUDGESHIPS.—The existing judgeships for the district of Hawaii, the district of Kansas, and the eastern district of Missouri authorized by section 203(c) of the Judicial Improvements Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–650; 28 U.S.C. 133 note) and the existing judgeships for the northern district of Alabama, the district of Arizona, the central district of California, the southern district of Florida, the district of New Mexico, the western district of North Carolina, and the eastern district of Texas authorized by section 312(c) of the 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act (Public Law 107–273; 28 U.S.C. 133 note) shall, as of the effective date of this Act, be authorized under section 133 of title 28, United States Code, and the incumbents in those offices shall hold the office under section 133 of title 28, United States Code, as amended by this Act.

(b) TABLES.—In order that the table contained in section 133 of title 28, United States Code, will, with respect to each judicial district, reflect the changes in the total number of permanent district judgeships authorized as a result of subsection (a) of this section, such table is amended—

(1) by striking the items relating to Alabama and inserting the following:

''Alabama:	
Northern	8
Middle	3
Southern	3'';

(2) by striking the item relating to Arizona and inserting the following:

''Arizona	13'';

(3) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

''California:
Northern 14
Eastern 6
Central 28
Southern ..... 13'';

(4) by striking the items relating to Florida and inserting the following:

''Florida:
Northern 4
Middle 15
Southern ..... 18'';

(5) by striking the item relating to Hawaii and inserting the following:

''Hawaii ..... 4'';

(6) by striking the item relating to Kansas and inserting the following:

''Kansas ..... 6'';

(7) by striking the items relating to Missouri and inserting the following:

''Missouri:
Eastern 7
Western 5
Eastern and Western ..... 2'';

(8) by striking the item relating to New Mexico and inserting the following:

''New Mexico ..... 7'';

(9) by striking the items relating to North Carolina and inserting the following:

''North Carolina:
Eastern 4
Middle 4
Western ..... 5'';
and

(10) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

''Texas:
Northern 12
Southern 19
Eastern 8
Western ..... 13''.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section and the amendments made by this section.

SEC. 6099A. AMERICAN LAW ENFORCEMENT SUSTAINING AID AND VITAL EMERGENCY RESOURCES ACT.

Section 521 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10202) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) TRAUMA KITS.—

''(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'trauma kit' means a first aid response kit that—

''(A) includes, at a minimum, a bleeding control kit that can be used for controlling life-threatening hemorrhage, which shall include—

''(i) a tourniquet recommended by the Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care;

''(ii) a bleeding control bandage;

''(iii) a pair of nonlatex protective gloves and a pen-type marker;

''(iv) a pair of blunt-ended scissors;

''(v) instructional documents developed—

''(I) under the STOP THE BLEED national awareness campaign of the Department of Homeland Security, or any successor thereto;

''(II) by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma;

''(III) by the American Red Cross; or

''(IV) by any partner of the Department of Defense; and

''(vi) a bag or other container adequately designed to hold the contents of the kit; and

''(B) may include any additional trauma kit supplies that—

''(i) are approved by a State, local, or Tribal law enforcement agency or first responders;

''(ii) can adequately treat a traumatic injury; and

''(iii) can be stored in a readily available kit.

''(2) REQUIREMENT FOR TRAUMA KITS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a grantee may only purchase a trauma kit using funds made available under this part if the trauma kit meets the performance standards established by the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance under paragraph (3)(A).

''(B) AUTHORITY TO SEPARATELY ACQUIRE.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall prohibit a grantee from separately acquiring the components of a trauma kit and assembling complete trauma kits that meet the performance standards.

''(3) PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND OPTIONAL AGENCY BEST PRACTICES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, in consultation with organizations representing trauma surgeons, emergency medical response professionals, emergency physicians, and other medical professionals, relevant law enforcement agencies of States and units of local government, professional law enforcement organizations, local law enforcement labor or representative organizations, and law enforcement trade associations, shall—

''(A) develop and publish performance standards for trauma kits that are eligible for purchase using funds made available under this part; and

''(B) develop and publish optional best practices for law enforcement agencies regarding—

''(i) training law enforcement officers in the use of trauma kits;

''(ii) the deployment and maintenance of trauma kits in law enforcement vehicles; and

''(iii) the deployment, location, and maintenance of trauma kits in law enforcement agency or other government facilities.''.

SEC. 6099B. GRANTS FOR STATE, COUNTY, AND TRIBAL VETERANS' CEMETERIES THAT ALLOW INTERMENT OF CERTAIN PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR INTERMENT IN NATIONAL CEMETERIES.

Section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (k) as subsection (l); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (j) the following new subsection (k):

''(k)(1) The Secretary may not establish a condition for a grant under this section that restricts the ability of a State, county, or tribal organization receiving such a grant to allow the interment of any person described in paragraph (8) or (10) of section 2402(a) of this title in a veterans' cemetery owned by that State or county or on trust land owned by, or held in trust for, that tribal organization.

''(2) The Secretary may not deny an application for a grant under this section solely on the basis that the State, county, or tribal organization receiving such grant may use funds from such grant to expand, improve, operate, or maintain a veterans' cemetery in which interment of persons described in paragraph (8) or (10) of section 2402(a) of this title is allowed.

''(3)(A) When requested by a State, county, or tribal organization in receipt of a grant made under this section, the Secretary shall—

''(i) determine whether a person is eligible for burial in a national cemetery under paragraph (8) or (10) of section 2402(a) of this title; and

''(ii) advise the grant recipient of the determination.

''(B) A grant recipient described in subparagraph (A) may use a determination of the Secretary under such subparagraph as a determination of the eligibility of the person concerned for burial in the cemetery for which the grant was made.''.

TITLE LXI—CIVILIAN PERSONNEL MATTERS

SEC. 6101. EXTENSION OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ON ACQUISITION PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT.

Section 1762(g) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2026'' and inserting ''2031''.

TITLE LXII—MATTERS RELATING TO FOREIGN NATIONS

Subtitle A—Assistance and Training

SECTION 6201. MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION CANDIDATE COUNTRY REFORM.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Millennium Challenge Corporation Candidate Country Reform Act''.

(b) MODIFICATIONS OF REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A CANDIDATE COUNTRY.—Section 606 of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7705) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 606. CANDIDATE COUNTRIES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—A country shall be a candidate country for purposes of eligibility to receive assistance under section 605 if—

''(1) the per capita income of the country in a fiscal year is equal to or less than the World Bank threshold for initiating the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development graduation process for the fiscal year; and

''(2) subject to subsection (b), the country is not ineligible to receive United States economic assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) by reason of the application of any provision of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 or any other provision of law.

''(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For the purposes of determining whether a country is eligible, pursuant to subsection (a)(2), to receive assistance under section 605, the exercise by the President, the Secretary of State, or any other officer or employee of the United States Government of any waiver or suspension of any provision of law referred to in subsection (a)(2), and notification to the appropriate congressional committees in accordance with such provision of law, shall be construed as satisfying the requirements under subsection (a).

''(c) DETERMINATION BY THE BOARD.—The Board shall determine whether a country is a candidate country for purposes of this section.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) AMENDMENT TO REPORT IDENTIFYING CANDIDATE COUNTRIES.—Section 608(a)(1) of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7707(a)(1)) is amended by striking ''section 606(a)(1)(B)'' and inserting ''section 606(a)(2)''.

(2) AMENDMENT TO MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE COMPACT AUTHORITY.—Section 609(b)(2) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7708(b)(2)) is amended—

(A) by amending the paragraph heading to read as follows: ''COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS''; and

(B) by striking ''with respect to a lower middle income country described in section 606(b),''.

(3) AMENDMENT TO AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR CANDIDATE COUNTRIES.—Section 616(b)(1) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7715(b)(1)) is amended by striking ''subsection (a) or (b) of section 606'' and inserting ''section 606(a)''.

(d) MODIFICATION TO FACTORS IN DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY.—Section 607(c)(2) of the

Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7706(c)(2)) is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking ''consider'' and inserting ''prioritize need and impact by considering''.

(e) REPORTING ALIGNMENT.—Section 613(a) of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7712(a)) is amended to read as follows:

''(a) REPORT.—Not later than the third Friday of December of each year, the Chief Executive Officer shall submit a report to Congress describing the assistance provided pursuant to section 605 during the most recently concluded fiscal year.''.

(f) REPORT ON EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE PROGRAMS OF THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Challenge Corporation 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 details any efforts targeted towards undermining Millennium Challenge Corporation programs, particularly efforts conducted by the People's Republic of China.

(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in an unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 6202. MODIFICATION OF REGIONAL CENTERS FOR SECURITY STUDIES TO PROVIDE AUTHORITY SPECIFIC TO TED STEVENS CENTER FOR ARCTIC SECURITY STUDIES.

Section 342(i) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking ''INOUYE CENTER'' and inserting ''INOUYE AND STEVENS CENTERS'';

(2) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''and the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies'' after ''Daniel K. Inouye Center for Security Studies''; and

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking ''the Center'' and inserting ''such Centers''.

SEC. 6203. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT CENTER.

(a) FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND LIMITATIONS.—Paragraph (2) of subsection (f) of section 1287 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary of State shall only provide funds under paragraph (1) to an entity described in that paragraph if the Secretary certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the entity receiving such funds—

''(i) has been selected in accordance with relevant existing regulations;

''(ii) has the capability and experience necessary to fulfill the purposes described in that paragraph;

''(iii) is nonpartisan; and

''(iv) is compatible with United States national security and foreign policy interests and objectives.

''(B) PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY.—The Secretary of State shall not knowingly provide funds under this subsection to any entity engaged in partisan political activity within the United States, including by carrying out activities that—

''(i) are directed toward the success or failure of a political party, a candidate for partisan political office, or a partisan political group; or

''(ii) result in unlawful partisan censorship of speech protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.''.

(b) EXTENSION.—Subsection (j) of such section is amended by striking ''on the date that is 8 years after the date of the enactment of this Act'' and inserting ''on September 30, 2031''.

(c) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this section, an amendment made by this section, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this section and the amendments made by this section, and the application of the provision or amendment to any other person or circumstance, shall not be affected.

Subtitle C—Matters Relating to Europe and the Russian Federation

SEC. 6231. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF LEND-LEASE AUTHORITY TO UKRAINE.

Section 2 of the Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–118; 136 Stat. 1184) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''fiscal years 2022 and 2023'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2022 through 2026'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

''(c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the use of the authority under subsection (a), the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

''(1) a description of the defense articles loaned or leased to the Government of Ukraine, or to the government of an Eastern European country impacted by the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine, under such authority; and

''(2) a strategy and timeline for recovery and return of such defense articles.''.

Subtitle D—Matters Relating to the Indo-Pacific Region

SEC. 6241. IMPROVING MULTILATERAL COOPERATION TO IMPROVE THE SECURITY OF TAIWAN.

(a) SHORT TITLES.—This section may be cited as the ''Building Options for the Lasting Security of Taiwan through European Resolve Act'' or the ''BOLSTER Act''.

(b) CONSULTATIONS WITH EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS REGARDING SANCTIONS AGAINST THE PRC UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—The head of the Office of Sanctions Coordination at the Department of State, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control at the Department of the Treasury, shall engage in regular consultations with the International Special Envoy for the Implementation of European Union Sanctions and appropriate government officials of European countries, including the United Kingdom, to develop coordinated plans and share information on independent plans to impose sanctions and other economic measures against the PRC, as appropriate, if the PRC is found to be involved in—

(1) overthrowing or dismantling the governing institutions in Taiwan;

(2) occupying any territory controlled or administered by Taiwan as of the date of the enactment of this Act;

(3) taking significant action against Taiwan, including—

(A) creating a naval blockade or other quarantine of Taiwan;

(B) seizing the outer lying islands of Taiwan; or

(C) initiating a cyberattack that threatens civilian or military infrastructure in Taiwan; or

(4) providing assistance that helps the security forces of the Russian Federation in executing Russia's unprovoked, illegal war against Ukraine.

(c) REPORT ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF PRC MILITARY ACTION AGAINST TAIWAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President 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 contains an independent assessment of the expected economic impact of—

(1) a 30-day blockade or quarantine of Taiwan by the PLA; and

(2) a 180-day blockade or quarantine of Taiwan by the PLA.

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION AND EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS REGARDING INCREASING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States, Europe, and Taiwan are like-minded partners that—

(A) share common values, such as democracy, the rule of law and human rights; and

(B) enjoy a close trade and economic partnership;

(2) bolstering political, economic, and people-to-people relations with Taiwan would benefit the European Union, individual European countries, and the United States;

(3) the European Union can play an important role in helping Taiwan resist the economic coercion of the PRC by negotiating with Taiwan regarding new economic, commercial, and investment agreements;

(4) the United States and European countries should coordinate and increase diplomatic efforts to facilitate Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations;

(5) the United States and European countries should—

(A) publicly and repeatedly emphasize the differences between their respective ''One China'' policies and the PRC's ''One China'' principle;

(B) counter the PRC's propaganda and false narratives about United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 (XXVI), which claim the resolution recognizes PRC territorial claims to Taiwan;

(C) increase public statements of support for Taiwan's democracy and its meaningful participation in international organizations;

(D) facilitate unofficial diplomatic visits to and from Taiwan by high-ranking government officials and parliamentarians;

(E) establish parliamentary caucuses or groups that promote strong relations with Taiwan;

(F) strengthen subnational diplomacy, including diplomatic and trade-related visits to and from Taiwan by local government officials;

(G) strengthen coordination between United States and European business chambers, universities, think tanks, and other civil society groups with similar groups in Taiwan;

(H) promote direct flights to and from Taiwan;

(I) facilitate visits by civil society leaders to Taiwan; and

(J) increase economic engagement and trade relations; and

(6) Taiwan's inclusion in the U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council's Secure Supply Chain working group would bring valuable expertise and enhance transatlantic cooperation in the semiconductor sector.

(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING CONSULTATIONS WITH EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS ON SUPPORTING TAIWAN'S SELF-DEFENSE.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) preserving peace and security in the Taiwan Strait is a shared interest of the United States and Europe;

(2) European countries, particularly countries with experience combating Russian aggression and malign activities, can provide Taiwan with lessons learned from their

''total defense'' programs to mobilize the military and civilians in a time of crisis;

(3) the United States and Europe should increase coordination to strengthen Taiwan's cybersecurity, especially for critical infrastructure and network defense operations;

(4) the United States and Europe should work with Taiwan—

(A) to improve its energy resiliency;

(B) to strengthen its food security;

(C) to combat misinformation, disinformation, digital authoritarianism, offensive cyber operations, and foreign interference;

(D) to provide expertise on how to improve defense infrastructure;

(E) to increase public statements of support for Taiwan's security;

(F) to facilitate arms transfers or arms sales, particularly of weapons consistent with an asymmetric defense strategy;

(G) to facilitate transfers or sales of dual-use items and technology;

(H) to facilitate transfers or sales of critical nonmilitary supplies, such as food and medicine;

(I) to increase the military presence of such countries in the Indo-Pacific region;

(J) to engage in joint training and military exercises that may be necessary for Taiwan to maintain credible defense, in accordance with the Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3301 et seq.);

(5) European naval powers, in coordination with the United States, should increase freedom of navigation transits through the Taiwan Strait; and

(6) European naval powers, the United States, and Taiwan should establish exchanges and partnerships among their coast guards to counter coercion by the PRC.

SEC. 6242. ELIGIBILITY OF TAIWAN FOR THE STRATEGIC TRADE AUTHORIZATION EXCEPTION TO CERTAIN EXPORT CONTROL LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Taiwan has adopted high standards in the field of export controls.

(2) Taiwan has declared its unilateral adherence to the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Australia Group, and the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

(3) At the request of President George W. Bush, section 1206 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–228; 22 U.S.C. 2321k note) required that Taiwan be treated as if it were designated as a major non-NATO ally (as defined in section 644(q) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2403(q)).

(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR STRATEGIC TRADE AUTHORIZATION.—The President, consistent with the commitments of the United States under international arrangements, shall take steps so that Taiwan may be treated as if it were included in the list of countries eligible for the strategic trade authorization exception under section 740.20(c)(1) of the Export Administration Regulations to the requirement for a license for the export, re-export, or in-country transfer of an item subject to controls under the Export Administration Regulations.

(c) CRITERIA.—Before the President may treat Taiwan as eligible for the exception described in subsection (b), the President shall ensure that Taiwan satisfies any applicable criteria normally required for inclusion in the Country Group A:5 list set forth in Supplement No. 1 to part 740 of the Export Administration Regulations, particularly with respect to alignment of export control policies with such policies of the United States.

(d) EXPORT ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS DEFINED.—In this section, 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).

SEC. 6243. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR WUHAN INSTITUTE OF VIROLOGY OR ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Defense may be made available—

(1) for the Wuhan Institute of Virology for any purpose; or

(2) to fund any work to be conducted in the People's Republic of China by EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., including—

(A) work to be conducted by—

(i) any subsidiary of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.;

(ii) any organization directly controlled by EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.; or

(iii) any individual or organization that is a subgrantee or subcontractor of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.; and

(B) any grant for the conduct of any such work.

Subtitle F—Other Matters

SEC. 6261. EXTENSION OF FENTANYL SANCTIONS ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7234 of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2334) is amended by striking ''the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act'' and inserting ''December 31, 2030''.

(b) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Section 7211(c) of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 2311(c)) is amended by striking ''the date that is 5 years after such date of enactment'' and inserting ''December 31, 2030''.

(c) BRIEFING REQUIREMENT.—Section 7216 of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 2316) is amended by striking ''the date that is 5 years after such date of enactment'' and inserting ''December 31, 2030''.

SEC. 6262. AMENDMENTS TO THE 21ST CENTURY PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH ACT.

The 21st Century Peace through Strength Act (division D of Public Law 118–50) is amended—

(1) in division G—

(A) in section 1(a)—

(i) by inserting ''and the Committee on Financial Services'' after ''the Committee on Foreign Affairs''; and

(ii) by inserting ''and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs'' after ''the Committee on Foreign Relations''; and

(B) in section 2(c), by striking paragraphs (1) through (4) and inserting the following:

''(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

''(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.''; and

(2) in division O, in section 6(f)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting '', the Committee on Financial Services,'' after ''the Committee on Foreign Affairs''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting '', the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs,'' after ''the Committee on Foreign Relations''.

Subtitle G—Western Hemisphere Partnership Act

SEC. 6271. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Western Hemisphere Partnership Act''.

SEC. 6272. UNITED STATES POLICY IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

It is the policy of the United States to promote economic competitiveness, democratic governance, and security in the Western Hemisphere by—

(1) encouraging stronger economic relations, respect for property rights, the rule of law, and enforceable investment rules and labor and environmental standards;

(2) advancing the principles and practices expressed in the Charter of the Organization of American States, the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man, and the Inter-American Democratic Charter; and

(3) enhancing the capacity and technical capabilities of democratic partner nation government institutions, including civilian law enforcement, the judiciary, attorneys general, and security forces.

SEC. 6273. PROMOTING SECURITY AND THE RULE OF LAW IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, should support the improvement of security conditions and the rule of law in the Western Hemisphere through collaborative efforts with democratic partners that—

(1) enhance the institutional capacity and technical capabilities of defense and security institutions in democratic partner nations to conduct national or regional security missions, including through regular bilateral and multilateral engagements, foreign military sales and financing, international military education and training programs, expanding the National Guard State Partnership Programs, and other means;

(2) provide technical assistance and material support (including, as appropriate, radars, vessels, and communications equipment) to relevant security forces to disrupt, degrade, and dismantle organizations involved in the illicit trafficking of narcotics and precursor chemicals, transnational criminal activities, illicit mining, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and other illicit activities;

(3) enhance the institutional capacity, legitimacy, and technical capabilities of relevant civilian law enforcement, attorneys general, and judicial institutions to—

(A) strengthen the rule of law and transparent governance;

(B) combat corruption and kleptocracy in the region; and

(C) improve regional cooperation to disrupt, degrade, and dismantle transnational organized criminal networks and terrorist organizations, including through training, anticorruption initiatives, anti-money laundering programs, and strengthening cyber capabilities and resources;

(4) enhance port management and maritime security partnerships and airport management and aviation security partnerships to disrupt, degrade, and dismantle transnational criminal networks and facilitate the legitimate flow of people, goods, and services;

(5) strengthen cooperation to improve border security across the Western Hemisphere, dismantle human smuggling and trafficking networks, and increase cooperation to demonstrably strengthen migration management systems;

(6) counter the malign influence of state and non-state actors and disinformation campaigns;

(7) disrupt illicit domestic and transnational financial networks;

(8) foster mechanisms for cooperation on emergency preparedness and rapid recovery from natural disasters, including by—

(A) supporting regional preparedness, recovery, and emergency management centers to facilitate rapid response to survey and help maintain planning on regional disaster anticipated needs and possible resources;

(B) training disaster recovery officials on latest techniques and lessons learned from United States experiences;

(C) making available, preparing, and transferring on-hand nonlethal supplies, and providing training on the use of such supplies, for humanitarian or health purposes to respond to unforeseen emergencies; and

(D) conducting medical support operations and medical humanitarian missions, such as hospital ship deployments and base-operating services, to the extent required by the operation;

(9) foster regional mechanisms for early warning and response to pandemics in the Western Hemisphere, including through—

(A) improved cooperation with and research by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through regional pandemic response centers;

(B) personnel exchanges for technology transfer and skills development; and

(C) surveying and mapping of health networks to build local health capacity;

(10) promote the meaningful participation of women across all political processes, including conflict prevention and conflict resolution and post-conflict relief and recovery efforts; and

(11) hold accountable actors that violate political and civil rights.

(b) LIMITATIONS ON USE OF TECHNOLOGIES.—Operational technologies transferred pursuant to subsection (a) to partner governments for intelligence, defense, or law enforcement purposes shall be used solely for the purposes for which the technology was intended. The United States shall take steps to ensure that the use of such operational technologies is consistent with United States law, including protections of freedom of expression, freedom of movement, and freedom of association.

(c) STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a 5-year strategy to promote security and the rule of law in the Western Hemisphere in accordance to this section.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) A detailed assessment of the resources required to carry out such collaborative efforts.

(B) Annual benchmarks to track progress and obstacles in undertaking such collaborative efforts.

(C) A public diplomacy component to engage the people of the Western Hemisphere with the purpose of demonstrating that the security of their countries is enhanced to a greater extent through alignment with the United States and democratic values rather than with authoritarian countries such as the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

(3) BRIEFING.—Not later than 1 year after submission of the strategy required under paragraph (1), and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall provide to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a briefing on the implementation of the strategy.

SEC. 6274. PROMOTING DIGITALIZATION AND CYBERSECURITY IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

The Secretary of State, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, should promote digitalization and cybersecurity in the Western Hemisphere through collaborative efforts with democratic partners that—

(1) promote digital connectivity and facilitate e-commerce by expanding access to information and communications technology (ICT) supply chains that adhere to high-quality security and reliability standards, including—

(A) to open market access on a national treatment, nondiscriminatory basis; and

(B) to strengthen the cybersecurity and cyber resilience of partner countries;

(2) advance the provision of digital government services (e-government) that, to the greatest extent possible, promote transparency, lower business costs, and expand citizens' access to public services and public information; and

(3) develop robust cybersecurity partnerships to—

(A) promote the inclusion of components and architectures in information and communications technology (ICT) supply chains from participants in initiatives that adhere to high-quality security and reliability standards;

(B) share best practices to mitigate cyber threats to critical infrastructure from ICT architectures from foreign countries of concern as defined in section 10612(a)(1) of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 19221(a)(1)), foreign entities of concern as defined in section 10612(a)(2) of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 19221(a)(2)), and by technology providers that supply equipment and services covered under section 2 of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1601);

(C) effectively respond to cybersecurity threats, including state-sponsored threats; and

(D) to strengthen resilience against cyberattacks and cybercrime.

SEC. 6275. PROMOTING ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIPS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

The Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, should support the improvement of economic conditions in the Western Hemisphere through collaborative efforts with democratic partners that—

(1) facilitate a more open, transparent, and competitive environment for United States businesses and promote robust and comprehensive trade capacity-building and trade facilitation by—

(A) reducing trade and nontariff barriers between the countries in the region, establishing a mechanism for pursuing Mutual Recognition Agreements and Formalized Regulatory Cooperation Agreements in priority sectors of the economy;

(B) building relationships and exchanges between relevant regulatory bodies in the United States and democratic partners in the Western Hemisphere to promote best practices and transparency in rulemaking, implementation, and enforcement, and provide training and assistance to help improve supply chain management in the Western Hemisphere;

(C) establishing regional fora for identifying, raising, and addressing supply chain management issues, including infrastructure needs and strengthening of investment rules and regulatory frameworks;

(D) establishing a dedicated program of trade missions and reverse trade missions to increase commercial contacts and ties between the United States and Western Hemisphere partner countries; and

(E) strengthening labor and environmental standards in the region;

(2) establish frameworks or mechanisms to review and address the long-term financial sustainability and national security implications of foreign investments in strategic sectors or services;

(3) establish competitive and transparent infrastructure project selection and procurement processes that promote transparency, open competition, financial sustainability, and robust adherence to global standards and norms;

(4) advance robust and comprehensive energy production and integration, including through a more open, transparent, and competitive environment for United States companies competing in the Western Hemisphere; and

(5) explore opportunities to partner with the private sector and multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, to promote universal access to reliable and affordable electricity in the Western Hemisphere.

SEC. 6276. PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and heads of other relevant Federal agencies, should support transparent, accountable, and democratic governance in the Western Hemisphere through collaborative efforts with democratic partners that—

(1) strengthen the capacity of national electoral institutions to ensure free, fair, and transparent electoral processes, including through pre-election assessment missions, technical assistance, and independent local and international election monitoring and observation missions;

(2) enhance the capabilities of democratically elected national legislatures, parliamentary bodies, and autonomous regulatory institutions to conduct oversight;

(3) strengthen the capacity of subnational government institutions to govern in a transparent, accountable, and democratic manner, including through training and technical assistance;

(4) combat corruption at local and national levels, including through trainings, cooperation agreements, initiatives aimed at dismantling corrupt networks, and political support for bilateral or multilateral anticorruption mechanisms that strengthen attorneys general and prosecutors' offices;

(5) strengthen the capacity of civil society to conduct oversight of government institutions, build the capacity of independent professional journalism, facilitate substantive dialogue with government and the private sector to generate issue-based policies, and mobilize local resources to carry out such activities;

(6) promote the meaningful and significant participation of women in democratic processes, including in national and subnational government and civil society; and

(7) support the creation of procedures for the Organization of American States (OAS) to create an annual forum for democratically elected national legislatures from OAS member States to discuss issues of hemispheric importance, as expressed in section 4 of the Organization of American States Legislative Engagement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–343).

SEC. 6277. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PRIORITIZING NOMINATION AND CONFIRMATION OF QUALIFIED AMBASSADORS.

It is the sense of Congress that it is critically important that both the President and the Senate play their respective roles to nominate and confirm qualified ambassadors as quickly as possible.

SEC. 6278. WESTERN HEMISPHERE DEFINED.

In this subtitle, the term ''Western Hemisphere'' does not include Cuba, Nicaragua, or Venezuela.

SEC. 6279. REPORT ON EFFORTS TO CAPTURE AND DETAIN UNITED STATES CITIZENS AS HOSTAGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 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 efforts by the Maduro regime of Venezuela to detain United States citizens and lawful permanent residents.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include, regarding the arrest, capture, detainment, and imprisonment of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents—

(1) the names, positions, and institutional affiliation of Venezuelan individuals, or those acting on their behalf, who have engaged in such activities;

(2) a description of any role played by transnational criminal organizations, and an identification of such organizations; and

(3) where relevant, an assessment of whether and how United States citizens and lawful permanent residents have been lured to Venezuela.

(c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but shall include a classified annex, which shall include a list of the total number of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents detained or imprisoned in Venezuela as of the date on which the report is submitted.

Subtitle H—Asset Seizure for Ukraine Reconstruction Act

SEC. 6281. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Asset Seizure for Ukraine Reconstruction Act''.

SEC. 6282. NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION RELATING TO HARMFUL ACTIVITIES OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION RELATING TO UKRAINE.

The procedures under section 6283 shall apply if the President—

(1) declares a national emergency under section 201 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621) with respect to actions of the Government of the Russian Federation or nationals of the Russian Federation that threaten the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Ukraine; and

(2) declares that the use of the procedures under section 6283 are necessary as a response to the national emergency.

SEC. 6283. PROCEDURES.

(a) NONJUDICIAL FORFEITURE.—Property may be forfeited through nonjudicial civil forfeiture under section 609 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1609), without regard to limitation under section 607(a)(1) of that Act (19 U.S.C. 1607(a)(1)), if—

(1) the President makes the declaration described in section 6282; and

(2) the Attorney General, or a designee, makes the certification described in subsection (b) with respect to the property.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—After seizure of property and prior to forfeiture of the property under subsection (a), the Attorney General, or a designee, shall certify that, upon forfeiture, the property will be covered forfeited property (as defined in section 1708(c) of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (division M of Public Law 117–328; 136 Stat. 5200), as amended by this subtitle).

SEC. 6284. EXPANSION OF FORFEITED PROPERTY AVAILABLE TO REMEDIATE HARMS TO UKRAINE FROM RUSSIAN AGGRESSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1708(c) of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (division M of Public Law 117–328; 136 Stat. 5200) is amended—

(1) 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 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—

''(i) the Russian Federation; or

''(ii) actions or policies that undermine the democratic processes and institutions in Ukraine or threaten the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Ukraine;

''(B) was involved in an act in violation of or a conspiracy or scheme to violate—

''(i) any license, order, regulation, or prohibition described in subparagraph (A); 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 People's Republic' or '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, the Crimea region of Ukraine, or the so-called 'Donetsk People's Republic' or 'Luhansk People's Republic' regions of Ukraine.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) 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).

''(4) 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) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 1708(d) of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 is amended by striking ''May 1, 2025'' and inserting ''the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment of the Asset Seizure for Ukraine Reconstruction Act''.

SEC. 6285. RULEMAKING.

The Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe regulations to carry out this subtitle without regard to the requirements of section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 6286. TERMINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The provisions of this subtitle shall terminate on the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) SAVINGS PROVISION.—The termination of this subtitle under subsection (a) shall not—

(1) terminate the applicability of the procedures under this subtitle to any property seized prior to the date of the termination under subsection (a); or

(2) moot any legal action taken or pending legal proceeding not finally concluded or determined on that date.

Subtitle I—United States Foundation for International Conservation

SEC. 6291. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''United States Foundation for International Conservation Act of 2024''.

SEC. 6292. 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) BOARD.—The term ''Board'' means the Board of Directors established pursuant to section 1294(a).

(3) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY.—The term ''eligible country'' means any country described in section 1297(b).

(4) ELIGIBLE PROJECT.—The term ''eligible project'' means any project described in section 1297(a)(2).

(5) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The term ''Executive Director'' means the Executive Director of the Foundation hired pursuant to section 1294(b).

(6) FOUNDATION.—The term ''Foundation'' means the United States Foundation for International Conservation established pursuant to section 1293(a).

(7) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of State.

SEC. 6293. UNITED STATES FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish the United States Foundation for International Conservation, which shall be operated as a charitable, nonprofit corporation.

(2) INDEPENDENCE.—The Foundation is not an agency or instrumentality of the United States Government.

(3) TAX-EXEMPT STATUS.—The Board shall take all necessary and appropriate steps to ensure that the Foundation is an organization described in subsection (c) of section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, which exempt the organization from taxation under subsection (a) of such section.

(4) TERMINATION OF OPERATIONS.—The Foundation shall terminate operations on the date that is 10 years after the date on which the Foundation becomes operational, in accordance with—

(A) a plan for winding down the activities of the Foundation that the Board shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 180 days before such termination date; and

(B) the bylaws established pursuant to section 6294(b)(13).

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Foundation are—

(1) to provide grants for the responsible management of designated priority primarily protected and conserved areas in eligible countries that have a high degree of

biodiversity or species and ecosystems of significant ecological value;

(2) to promote responsible, long-term management of primarily protected and conserved areas and their contiguous buffer zones;

(3) to incentivize, leverage, accept, and effectively administer governmental and nongovernmental funds, including donations from the private sector, to increase the availability and predictability of financing for responsible, long-term management of primarily protected and conserved areas in eligible countries;

(4) to help close critical gaps in public international conservation efforts in eligible countries by—

(A) increasing private sector investment, including investments from philanthropic entities; and

(B) collaborating with partners providing bilateral and multilateral financing to support enhanced coordination, including public and private funders, partner governments, local protected areas authorities, and private and nongovernmental organization partners;

(5) to identify and financially support viable projects that—

(A) promote responsible, long-term management of primarily protected and conserved areas and their contiguous buffer zones in eligible countries, including support for the management of terrestrial, coastal, freshwater, and marine protected areas, parks, community conservancies, Indigenous reserves, conservation easements, and biological reserves; and

(B) provide effective area-based conservation measures, consistent with best practices and standards for environmental and social safeguards; and

(6) to coordinate with, consult, and otherwise support and assist, governments, private sector entities, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and other stakeholders in eligible countries in undertaking biodiversity conservation activities—

(A) to achieve measurable and enduring biodiversity conservation outcomes; and

(B) to improve local security, governance, food security, and economic opportunities.

(c) PLAN OF ACTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the establishment of the Foundation, the Executive Director shall submit for approval from the Board an initial 3-year Plan of Action to implement the purposes of this subtitle, including—

(A) a description of the priority actions to be undertaken by the Foundation over the proceeding 3-year period, including a timeline for implementation of such priority actions;

(B) descriptions of the processes and criteria by which—

(i) eligible countries, in which eligible projects may be selected to receive assistance under this subtitle, will be identified;

(ii) grant proposals for Foundation activities in eligible countries will be developed, evaluated, and selected; and

(iii) grant implementation will be monitored and evaluated;

(C) the projected staffing and budgetary requirements of the Foundation during the proceeding 3-year period.

(D) a plan to maximize commitments from private sector entities to fund the Foundation.

(2) SUBMISSION.—The Executive Director shall submit the initial Plan of Action to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 5 days after the Plan of Action is approved by the Board.

(3) UPDATES.—The Executive Director shall annually update the Plan of Action and submit each such updated plan to the appropriate congressional committees not later that 5 days after the update plan is approved by the Board.

SEC. 6294. GOVERNANCE OF THE FOUNDATION.

(a) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—There shall be in the Foundation an Executive Director, who shall—

(1) manage the Foundation; and

(2) report to, and be under the direct authority, of the Board.

(b) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—

(1) GOVERNANCE.—The Foundation shall be governed by a Board of Directors, which—

(A) shall perform the functions specified to be carried out by the Board under this subtitle; and

(B) may prescribe, amend, and repeal bylaws, rules, regulations, and procedures governing the manner in which the business of the Foundation may be conducted and in which the powers granted to it by law may be exercised.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Board shall be composed of—

(A) the Secretary, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the Secretary of the Interior, the Chief of the United States Forest Service, and the head of one other relevant Federal department or agency, as determined by the Secretary, or the Senate-confirmed designees of such officials; and

(B) 8 other individuals, who shall be appointed by the Secretary, in consultation with the members of the Board described in subparagraph (A), the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore and Minority Leader of the Senate, of whom—

(i) 4 members shall be private-sector donors making financial contributions to the Foundation; and

(ii) 4 members shall be independent experts who, in addition to meeting the qualification requirements described in paragraph (3), represent diverse points of view and diverse geographies, to the maximum extent practicable.

(3) QUALIFICATIONS.—Each member of the Board appointed pursuant to paragraph (2)(B) shall be knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to—

(A) international development;

(B) protected area management and the conservation of global biodiversity, fish and wildlife, ecosystem restoration, adaptation, and resilience; and

(C) grantmaking in support of international conservation.

(4) POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—Not more than 5 of the members appointed to the Board pursuant to paragraph (2)(B) may be affiliated with the same political party.

(5) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—Any individual with business interests, financial holdings, or controlling interests in any entity that has sought support, or is receiving support, from the Foundation may not be appointed to the Board during the 5-year period immediately preceding such appointment.

(6) CHAIRPERSON.—The Board shall elect, from among its members, a Chairperson, who shall serve for a 2-year term.

(7) TERMS; VACANCIES.—

(A) TERMS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The term of service of each member of the Board appointed pursuant to paragraph (2)(B) shall be not more than 5 years.

(ii) INITIAL APPOINTED DIRECTORS.—Of the initial members of the Board appointed pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)—

(I) 4 members, including at least 2 private-sector donors making financial contributions to the Foundation, shall serve for 4 years; and

(II) 4 members shall serve for 5 years, as determined by the Chairperson of the Board.

(B) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Board—

(i) shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made; and

(ii) shall not affect the power of the remaining appointed members of the Board to execute the duties of the Board.

(8) QUORUM.—A majority of the current membership of the Board, including the Secretary or the Secretary's designee, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of Foundation business.

(9) MEETINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall meet not less frequently than annually at the call of the Chairperson. Such meetings may be in person, virtual, or hybrid.

(B) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 60 days after the Board is established pursuant to section 1293(a), the Secretary of State shall convene a meeting of the ex-officio members of the Board and the appointed members of the Board to incorporate the Foundation.

(C) REMOVAL.—Any member of the Board appointed pursuant to paragraph (2)(B) who misses 3 consecutive regularly scheduled meetings may be removed by a majority vote of the Board.

(10) REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Members of the Board shall serve without pay, but may be reimbursed for the actual and necessary traveling and subsistence expenses incurred in the performance of the duties of the Foundation.

(B) LIMITATION.—Expenses incurred outside the United States may be reimbursed under this paragraph if at least 2 members of the Board concurrently incurred such expenses. Such reimbursements—

(i) shall be available exclusively for actual costs incurred by members of the Board up to the published daily per diem rate for lodging, meals, and incidentals; and

(ii) shall not include first-class, business-class, or travel in any class other than economy class or coach class.

(C) OTHER EXPENSES.—All other expenses, including salaries for officers and staff of the Foundation, shall be established by a majority vote of the Board, as proposed by the Executive Director on no less than an annual basis.

(11) NOT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Appointment as a member of the Board and employment by the Foundation does not constitute employment by, or the holding of an office of, the United States for purposes of any Federal law.

(12) DUTIES.—The Board shall—

(A) establish bylaws for the Foundation in accordance with paragraph (13);

(B) provide overall direction for the activities of the Foundation and establish priority activities;

(C) carry out any other necessary activities of the Foundation;

(D) evaluate the performance of the Executive Director;

(E) take steps to limit the administrative expenses of the Foundation; and

(F) not less frequently than annually, consult and coordinate with stakeholders qualified to provide advice, assistance, and information regarding effective protected and conserved area management.

(13) BYLAWS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The bylaws required to be established under paragraph (12)(A) shall include—

(i) the specific duties of the Executive Director;

(ii) policies and procedures for the selection of members of the Board and officers, employees, agents, and contractors of the Foundation;

(iii) policies, including ethical standards, for—

(I) the acceptance, solicitation, and disposition of donations and grants to the Foundation; and

(II) the disposition of assets of the Foundation upon the dissolution of the Foundation;

(iv) policies that subject all implementing partners, employees, fellows, trainees, and other agents of the Foundation (including ex-officio members of the Board and appointed members of the Board) to stringent ethical and conflict of interest standards;

(v) removal and exclusion procedures for implementing partners, employees, fellows, trainees, and other agents of the Foundation (including ex-officio members of the Board and appointed members of the Board) who fail to uphold the ethical and conflict of interest standards established pursuant to clause (iii);

(vi) policies for winding down the activities of the Foundation upon its dissolution, including a plan—

(I) to return unspent appropriations to the Treasury of the United States; and

(II) to donate unspent private and philanthropic contributions to projects that align with the goals and requirements described in section 6297;

(vii) policies for vetting implementing partners and grantees to ensure the Foundation does not provide grants to for profit entities whose primary objective is activities other than conservation activities; and

(viii) clawback policies and procedures to be incorporated into grant agreements to ensure compliance with the policies referred to in clause (vii).

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The Board shall ensure that the bylaws of the Foundation and the activities carried out under such bylaws do not—

(i) reflect unfavorably on the ability of the Foundation to carry out activities in a fair and objective manner; or

(ii) compromise, or appear to compromise, the integrity of any governmental agency or program, or any officer or employee employed by, or involved in, a governmental agency or program.

(c) FOUNDATION STAFF.—Officers and employees of the Foundation—

(1) may not be employees of, or hold any office in, the United States Government;

(2) may not serve in the employ of any nongovernmental organization, project, or person related to or affiliated with any grantee of the Foundation while employed by the Foundation;

(3) may not receive compensation from any other source for work performed in carrying out the duties of the Foundation while employed by the Foundation; and

(4) should not receive a salary at a rate that is greater than the maximum rate of basic pay authorized for positions at level I of the Executive Schedule under section 5312 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) LIMITATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS.—

(1) POLITICAL PARTICIPATION.—The Foundation may not—

(A) lobby for political or policy issues; or

(B) participate or intervene in any political campaign in any country.

(2) FINANCIAL INTERESTS.—As determined by the Board and set forth in the bylaws established pursuant to subsection (b)(13), and consistent with best practices, any member of the Board or officer or employee of the Foundation shall be prohibited from participating, directly or indirectly, in the consideration or determination of any question before the Foundation affecting—

(A) the financial interests of such member of the Board, or officer or employee of the Foundation, not including such member's Foundation expenses and compensation; and

(B) the interests of any corporation, partnership, entity, or organization in which such member of the Board, officer, or employee has any fiduciary obligation or direct or indirect financial interest.

(3) RECUSALS.—Any member of the Board that has a business, financial, or familial interest in an organization or community seeking support from the Foundation shall recuse himself or herself from all deliberations, meetings, and decisions concerning the consideration and decision relating to such support.

(4) PROJECT INELIGIBILITY.—The Foundation may not provide support to individuals or entities with business, financial, or familial ties to—

(A) a current member of the Board; or

(B) a former member of the Board during the 5-year period immediately following the last day of the former member's term on the Board.

SEC. 6295. CORPORATE POWERS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE FOUNDATION.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation—

(A) may conduct business in foreign countries;

(B) shall have its principal offices in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area; and

(C) shall continuously maintain a designated agent in Washington, D.C. who is authorized to accept notice or service of process on behalf of the Foundation.

(2) NOTICE AND SERVICE OF PROCESS.—The serving of notice to, or service of process upon, the agent referred to in paragraph (1)(C), or mailed to the business address of such agent, shall be deemed as service upon, or notice to, the Foundation.

(3) AUDITS.—The Foundation shall be subject to the general audit authority of the Comptroller General of the United States under section 3523 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) AUTHORITIES.—In addition to powers explicitly authorized under this subtitle, the Foundation, in order to carry out the purposes described in section 6293(b), shall have the usual powers of a corporation headquartered in Washington, D.C., including the authority—

(1) to accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer, and use any gift, devise, or bequest, either absolutely or in trust, or real or personal property or any income derived from such gift or property, or other interest in such gift or property located in the United States;

(2) to acquire by donation, gift, devise, purchase, or exchange any real or personal property or interest in such property located in the United States;

(3) unless otherwise required by the instrument of transfer, to sell, donate, lease, invest, reinvest, retain, or otherwise dispose of any property or income derived from such property located in the United States;

(4) to complain and defend itself in any court of competent jurisdiction (except that the members of the Board shall not be personally liable, except for gross negligence);

(5) to enter into contracts or other arrangements with public agencies, private organizations, and persons and to make such payments as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of such contracts or arrangements; and

(6) to award grants for eligible projects, in accordance with section 6297.

(c) LIMITATION OF PUBLIC LIABILITY.—The United States shall not be liable for any debts, defaults, acts, or omissions of the Foundation. The Federal Government shall be held harmless from any damages or awards ordered by a court against the Foundation.

SEC. 6296. SAFEGUARDS AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) SAFEGUARDS.—The Foundation shall develop, and incorporate into any agreement for support provided by the Foundation, appropriate safeguards, policies, and guidelines, consistent with United States law and best practices and standards for environmental and social safeguards.

(b) INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, or the Secretary's designee, shall establish a transparent and independent accountability mechanism, consistent with best practices, which shall provide—

(A) a compliance review function that assesses whether Foundation-supported projects adhere to the requirements developed pursuant to subsection (a);

(B) a dispute resolution function for resolving and remedying concerns between complainants and project implementers regarding the impacts of specific Foundation-supported projects with respect to such standards; and

(C) an advisory function that reports to the Board on projects, policies, and practices.

(2) DUTIES.—The accountability mechanism shall—

(A) report annually to the Board and the appropriate congressional committees regarding the Foundation's compliance with best practices and standards in accordance with paragraph (1)(A) and the nature and resolution of any complaint;

(B)(i) have permanent staff, led by an independent accountability official, to conduct compliance reviews and dispute resolutions and perform advisory functions; and

(ii) maintain a roster of experts to serve such roles, to the extent needed; and

(C) hold a public comment period lasting not fewer than 60 days regarding the initial design of the accountability mechanism.

(c) INTERNAL ACCOUNTABILITY.—The Foundation shall establish an ombudsman position at a senior level of executive staff as a confidential, neutral source of information and assistance to anyone affected by the activities of the Foundation.

(d) ANNUAL REVIEW.—The Secretary shall, periodically, but not less frequent than annually, review assistance provided by the Foundation for the purpose of implementing section 6293(b) to ensure consistency with the provisions under section 620M of Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d).

SEC. 6297. PROJECTS AND GRANTS.

(a) PROJECT FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall—

(A) provide grants to support eligible projects described in paragraph (3) that advance its mission to enable effective management of primarily protected and conserved areas and their contiguous buffer zones in eligible countries;

(B) advance effective landscape or seascape approaches to conservation that include buffer zones, wildlife dispersal and corridor areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures; and

(C) not purchase, own, or lease land, including conservation easements, in eligible countries.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Eligible entities shall include—

(A) not-for-profit organizations with demonstrated expertise in protected and conserved area management and economic development;

(B) governments of eligible partner countries, as determined by subsection (b), with the exception of governments and government entities that are prohibited from receiving grants from the Foundation pursuant to section 6298; and

(C) Indigenous and local communities in such eligible countries.

(3) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—Eligible projects shall include projects that—

(A) focus on supporting—

(i) transparent and effective long-term management of primarily protected or conserved areas and their contiguous buffer zones in countries described in subsection (b), including terrestrial, coastal, and marine protected or conserved areas, parks, community conservancies, Indigenous reserves, conservation easements, and biological reserves; and

(ii) other effective area-based conservation measures;

(B) are cost-matched at a ratio of not less than $2 from sources other than the United States for every $1 made available under this subtitle;

(C) are subject to long-term binding memoranda of understanding with the governments of eligible countries and local communities—

(i) to ensure that local populations have access, resource management responsibilities, and the ability to pursue permissible, sustainable economic activity on affected lands; and

(ii) that may be signed by governments in such eligible countries to ensure free, prior, and informed consent of affected communities;

(D) incorporate a set of key performance and impact indicators;

(E) demonstrate robust local community engagement, with the completion of appropriate environmental and social due diligence, including—

(i) free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples and relevant local communities;

(ii) inclusive governance structures; and

(iii) effective grievance mechanisms;

(F) create economic opportunities for local communities, including through—

(i) equity and profit-sharing;

(ii) cooperative management of natural resources;

(iii) employment activities; and

(iv) other related economic growth activities;

(G) leverage stable baseline funding for the effective management of the primarily protected or conserved area project; and

(H) to the extent possible—

(i) are viable and prepared for implementation; and

(ii) demonstrate a plan to strengthen the capacity of, and transfer skills to, local institutions to manage the primarily protected or conserved area before or after grant funding is exhausted.

(b) ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to the Plan of Action required under section 6293(c), and before awarding any grants or entering into any project agreements for any fiscal year, the Board shall conduct a review to identify eligible countries in which the Foundation may fund projects. Such review shall consider countries that—

(A) are low-income, lower middle-income, or upper-middle-income economies (as defined by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association);

(B) have—

(i) a high degree of threatened or at-risk biological diversity; or

(ii) species or ecosystems of significant importance, including threatened or endangered species or ecosystems at risk of degradation or destruction;

(C) have demonstrated a commitment to conservation through verifiable actions, such as protecting lands and waters through the gazettement of national parks, community conservancies, marine reserves and protected areas, forest reserves, or other legally recognized forms of place-based conservation; and

(D) are not ineligible to receive United States foreign assistance pursuant to any other provision of law, including laws identified in section 6298.

(2) IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.—Not later than 5 days after the date on which the Board determines which countries are eligible to receive assistance under this subtitle for a fiscal year, the Executive Director shall—

(A) submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(i) a list of all such eligible countries, as determined through the review process described in paragraph (1); and

(ii) a detailed justification for each such eligibility determination, including—

(I) an analysis of why the eligible country would be suitable for partnership;

(II) an evaluation of the eligible partner country's interest in and ability to participate meaningfully in proposed Foundation activities, including an evaluation of such eligible country's prospects to substantially benefit from Foundation assistance;

(III) an estimation of each such eligible partner country's commitment to conservation; and

(IV) an assessment of the capacity and willingness of the eligible country to enact or implement reforms that might be necessary to maximize the impact and effectiveness of Foundation support; and

(B) publish the information contained in the report described in subparagraph (A) in the Federal Register.

(c) GRANTMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to maximize program effectiveness, the Foundation shall—

(A) coordinate with other international public and private donors to the greatest extent practicable and appropriate;

(B) seek additional financial and nonfinancial contributions and commitments for its projects from governments in eligible countries;

(C) strive to generate a partnership mentality among all participants, including public and private funders, host governments, local protected areas authorities, and private and nongovernmental organization partners;

(D) prioritize investments in communities with low levels of economic development to the greatest extent practicable and appropriate; and

(E) consider the eligible partner country's planned and dedicated resources to the proposed project and the eligible entity's ability to successfully implement the project.

(2) GRANT CRITERIA.—Foundation grants—

(A) shall fund eligible projects that enhance the management of well-defined primarily protected or conserved areas and the systems of such conservation areas in eligible countries;

(B) should support adequate baseline funding for eligible projects in eligible countries to be sustained for not less than 10 years;

(C) should, during the grant period, demonstrate progress in achieving clearly defined key performance indicators (as defined in the grant agreement), which may include—

(i) the protection of biological diversity;

(ii) the protection of native flora and habitats, such as trees, forests, wetlands, grasslands, mangroves, coral reefs, and sea grass;

(iii) community-based economic growth indicators, such as improved land tenure, increases in beneficiaries participating in related economic growth activities, and sufficient income from conservation activities being directed to communities in project areas;

(iv) improved management of the primarily protected or conserved area covered by the project, as documented through the submission of strategic plans or annual reports to the Foundation; and

(v) the identification of additional revenue sources or sustainable financing mechanisms to meet the recurring costs of management of the primarily protected or conserved areas; and

(D) shall be terminated if the Board determines that the project is not—

(i) meeting applicable requirements under this subtitle; or

(ii) making progress in achieving the key performance indicators defined in the grant agreement.

SEC. 6298. PROHIBITION OF SUPPORT FOR CERTAIN GOVERNMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation may not provide support for any government, or any entity owned or controlled by a government, if the Secretary has determined that such government—

(1) has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism, as determined under—

(A) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 4813(c)(1)(A)(i));

(B) section 620A(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371(a));

(C) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)); or

(D) any other relevant provision of law;

(2) has been identified pursuant to section 116(a) or 502B(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151n(a) and 2304(a)(2)) or any other relevant provision of law; or

(3) has failed the ''control of corruption'' indicator, as determined by the Millennium Challenge Corporation, within any of the preceding 3 years of the intended grant;

(b) PROHIBITION OF SUPPORT FOR SANCTIONED PERSONS.—The Foundation may not engage in any dealing prohibited under United States sanctions laws or regulations, including dealings with persons on the list of specially designated persons and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury, except to the extent otherwise authorized by the Secretary or by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(c) PROHIBITION OF SUPPORT FOR ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO SANCTIONS.—The Foundation shall require any person receiving support to certify that such person, and any entity owned or controlled by such person, is in compliance with all United States sanctions laws and regulations.

SEC. 6299. ANNUAL REPORT.

Not later than 360 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter while the Foundation continues to operate, the Executive Director of the Foundation shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes—

(1) the goals of the Foundation;

(2) the programs, projects, and activities supported by the Foundation;

(3) private and governmental contributions to the Foundation; and

(4) the standardized criteria utilized to determine the programs and activities supported by the Foundation, including baselines, targets, desired outcomes, measurable goals, and extent to which those goals are being achieved for each project.

SEC. 6299A. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—In addition to amounts authorized to be appropriated to carry out international conservation and biodiversity programs under part I and chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act

of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), and subject to the limitations set forth in subsections (b) and (c), there is authorized to be appropriated to the Foundation to carry out the purposes of this subtitle—

(1) $1,000,000 for fiscal year 2025; and

(2) not more than $100,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2026 through 2034.

(b) COST MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) may only be made available to grantees to the extent the Foundation or such grantees secure funding for an eligible project from sources other than the United States Government in an amount that is not less than twice the amount received in grants for such project pursuant to section 6297.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The administrative costs of the Foundation shall come from sources other than the United States Government.

(d) PROHIBITION ON USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS FOR LOBBYING EXPENSES.—Amounts provided as a grant by the Foundation pursuant to section 6297 may not be used for any activity intended to influence legislation pending before the Congress of the United States.

Subtitle J—Coordinating AUKUS Engagement With Japan

SEC. 6299D. 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) 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)).

(5) 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)).

(6) 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)).

(7) 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. 6299E. 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. 6299F. 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; and

(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.

(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. 6299G. 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) Areas of potential cooperation with Japan on advanced defense capabilities within and outside the scope of Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

(3) 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.

(4) 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.

(5) Any recommendations regarding the scope and conditions of potential cooperation with Japan under Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

(6) 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.

(7) 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.

TITLE LXV—SPACE ACTIVITIES, STRATEGIC PROGRAMS, AND INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

Subtitle A—Space Activities

SEC. 6501. NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENTS WITH PRIVATE AND COMMERCIAL ENTITIES AND STATE GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE CERTAIN SUPPLIES, SUPPORT, AND SERVICES.

Section 20113 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(o) AGREEMENTS WITH COMMERCIAL ENTITIES AND STATE GOVERNMENTS.—The Administration—

''(1) may enter into an agreement with a private or commercial entity or a State government to provide the entity or State government with supplies, support, and services related to private, commercial, or State government space activities carried on at a property owned or operated by the Administration; and

''(2) on request by such an entity or State government, may include such supplies, support, and services in the requirements of the Administration if—

''(A) the Administrator determines that the inclusion of such supplies, support, or services in such requirements—

''(i) is in the best interest of the Federal Government;

''(ii) does not interfere with the requirements of the Administration; and

''(iii) does not compete with the commercial space activities of other such entities or State governments; and

''(B) the Administration has full reimbursable funding from the entity or State government that requested such supplies, support, and services before making any obligation for the delivery of the supplies, support, or services under an Administration procurement contract or any other agreement.''.

SEC. 6502. EXTENSION OF LEARNING PERIOD FOR CERTAIN SAFETY REGULATIONS RELATING TO SPACE FLIGHT PARTICIPANTS.

Title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 50905(c)(9), by striking ''January 1, 2025'' and inserting ''January 1, 2028'';

(2) in section 50914—

(A) in subsection (a)(5), by striking ''September 30, 2025'' and inserting ''September 30, 2028''; and

(B) in subsection (b)(1)(C), by striking ''September 30, 2025'' and inserting ''September 30, 2028''; and

(3) in section 50915—

(A) in subsection (a)(3)(B), by striking ''September 30, 2025'' and inserting ''September 30, 2028''; and

(B) in subsection (f), in the first sentence, by striking ''September 30, 2025'' and inserting ''September 30, 2028''.

Subtitle D—Other Matters

SEC. 6541. AUTHORITY OF ARMY COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AGENTS.

(a) AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE WARRANTS AND MAKE ARRESTS.—Section 7377 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting ''**and Army Counterintelligence Command**'' before the colon; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''who is a special agent'' and inserting the following: ''who is—

''(1) a special agent'';

(B) in paragraph (1) (as so designated) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) a special agent of the Army Counterintelligence Command (or a successor to that command) whose duties include conducting, supervising, or coordinating counterintelligence investigations in programs and operations of the Department of the Army.''.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT AND BRIEFING.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and not less frequently than once each year thereafter until the date that is four years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives an annual report and provide to such committees an annual briefing on the administration of section 7377 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a).

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 747 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 7377 and inserting the following new item:

''7377. Civilian special agents of the Criminal Investigation Command and Army Counterintelligence Command: authority to execute warrants and make arrests.''.

(d) SUNSET AND SNAPBACK.—On the date that is four years after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) subsection (b) of section 7377 of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as it read on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act;

(2) the section heading for such section is amended to read as it read on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(3) the item for such section in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 747 of such title is amended to read as it read on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE LXXVIII—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subtitle B—Military Housing

SEC. 7823. MODIFICATION OF ANNUAL REPORT ON PRIVATIZED MILITARY HOUSING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 2884 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(15) An overview of the housing data being used by the Department and the housing data being sought from management companies.

''(16) An assessment of how the Secretary of each military department is using such data to inform the on-base housing decisions for such military department.

''(17) An explanation of the limitations of any customer satisfaction data collected, including with respect to available survey data, the process for determining resident satisfaction, and reasons for missing data.''.

(b) PUBLIC REPORTING.—Such subsection is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (14), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (D) as clauses (i) through (iv), respectively;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (17) as subparagraphs (A) through (Q), respectively;

(3) in subparagraph (E), as redesignated by paragraph (2), by striking ''paragraphs (1) through (4)'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (A) through (D)'';

(4) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), as so redesignated, by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting ''(1) The Secretary''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) Not later than 30 days after submitting a report under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense shall publish the report on a publicly available website of the Department of Defense.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (d)(1) of such section is amended by striking ''paragraphs (1) through (14) of subsection (c)'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (A) through (Q) of subsection (c)(1)''.

TITLE LXXXI—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS

Subtitle B—Program Authorizations, Restrictions, and Limitations

SEC. 8111. APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND FOR COOPERATION ON THE USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY FOR MUTUAL DEFENSE PURPOSES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States and the United Kingdom share a special relationship;

(2) the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Cooperation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defense Purposes, done at Washington July 3, 1958 (in this section referred to as the ''Agreement'') provides one of the bases for such special relationship;

(3) the Agreement has served the national security interest of the United States for more than 65 years; and

(4) Congress expects to receive transmittal of proposed amendments to the Agreement.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the provisions for congressional consideration of a proposed agreement for cooperation in subsection d. of section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2153), any amendment to the Agreement (in this section referred to as the ''Amendment''), transmitted to Congress before January 3, 2025, may be brought into effect on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, as if all the requirements in such section 123 for consideration of the Amendment had been satisfied, subject to subsection (c) of this section.

(c) APPLICABILITY OF ATOMIC ENERGY ACT OF 1954 AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW.—Upon coming into effect, the Amendment shall be subject to applicable provisions of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) and any other applicable United States law as if the Amendment had come into effect in accordance with the requirements of section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.

(d) ADHERENCE IN THE EVENT OF TIMELY SUBMISSION.—If the Amendment is completed and transmitted to Congress before October 1, 2024, thereby allowing for adherence to the provisions for congressional consideration of the Amendment as outlined in subsection d. of section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2153), subsection (b) of this section shall not take effect.

SEC. 8112. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON GROUND-BASED LEG OF NUCLEAR TRIAD.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the modernization of the ground-based leg of the nuclear triad of the United States is vital to the security of the homeland and a core component of the homeland defense mission;

(2) extending the lifecycle of the current Minuteman III platform is both costly and an unsustainable long-term option for maintaining a ready and capable ground-based leg of the nuclear triad;

(3) the breach of chapter 325 of title 10, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Nunn-McCurdy Act'') by the program to modernize the ground-based leg of the nuclear triad should be addressed in a way that balances the national security need with fiscally responsible modifications to the program that prevent future unanticipated cost overruns;

(4) that breach does not alter the fundamental national security need for the modernization program; and

(5) the modernization program should remain funded and active.

DIVISION F—ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

SEC. 5001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024''.

TITLE LI—PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 5101. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.

Section 2 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.

''(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

''(1) there continue to be areas of the United States—

''(A) experiencing chronic high unemployment, underemployment, outmigration, and low per capita incomes; and

''(B) facing sudden and severe economic dislocations because of structural economic changes, changing trade patterns, certain Federal actions (including environmental requirements that result in the removal of economic activities from a locality), impacts from natural disasters, and transitioning industries, including energy generation, steel production, and mining;

''(2) economic growth in the States, cities, and rural areas of the United States is produced by expanding economic opportunities,

expanding free enterprise through trade, promoting resilience in public infrastructure, creating conditions for job creation, job retention, and business development, and by capturing the opportunities to lead the industries of the future, including advanced technologies, clean energy production, and advanced manufacturing technologies;

''(3) the goal of Federal economic development programs is to raise the standard of living for all citizens and increase the wealth and overall rate of growth of the economy by encouraging communities to develop a more competitive and diversified economic base by—

''(A) creating an environment that promotes economic activity by improving and expanding modern public infrastructure;

''(B) promoting job creation, retention, and workforce readiness through increased innovation, productivity, and entrepreneurship; and

''(C) empowering local and regional communities experiencing chronic high unemployment, underemployment, low labor force participation, and low per capita income to develop private sector business and attract increased private sector capital investment;

''(4) while economic development is an inherently local process, the Federal Government should work in partnership with public and private State, regional, Tribal, and local organizations to maximize the impact of existing resources and enable regions, communities, and citizens to participate more fully in the American dream and national prosperity;

''(5) in order to avoid duplication of effort and achieve meaningful, long-lasting results, Federal, State, Tribal, and local economic development activities should have a clear focus, improved coordination, a comprehensive approach, and simplified and consistent requirements;

''(6) Federal economic development efforts will be more effective if the efforts are coordinated with, and build on, the trade, workforce investment, scientific research, environmental protection, transportation, and technology programs of the United States, including through the consolidation and alignment of plans and strategies to promote effective economic development;

''(7) rural communities face unique challenges in addressing infrastructure needs, sometimes lacking the necessary tax base for required upgrades, and often encounter limited financing options and capacity, which can impede new development and long-term economic growth; and

''(8) assisting communities and regions in becoming more resilient to the effects of extreme weather threats and events will promote economic development and job creation.

''(b) DECLARATIONS.—In order to promote a strong, growing, resilient, competitive, and secure economy throughout the United States, the opportunity to pursue, and be employed in, high-quality jobs with family-sustaining wages, and to live in communities that enable business creation and wealth, Congress declares that—

''(1) assistance under this Act should be made available to both rural- and urban-distressed communities;

''(2) local communities should work in partnership with neighboring communities, States, Indian tribes, and the Federal Government to increase the capacity of the local communities to develop and implement comprehensive economic development strategies to alleviate economic distress and enhance competitiveness in the global economy;

''(3) whether suffering from long-term distress or a sudden dislocation, distressed communities should be encouraged to support entrepreneurship to take advantage of the development opportunities afforded by technological innovation and expanding newly opened global markets; and

''(4) assistance under this Act should be made available to modernize and promote recycling, promote the productive reuse of abandoned industrial facilities and the redevelopment of brownfields, and invest in public assets that support travel and tourism and outdoor recreation.''.

SEC. 5102. DEFINITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3122) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (12) as paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (12), (13), (14), (16), and (17), respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (3) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(1) BLUE ECONOMY.—The term 'blue economy' means the sustainable use of marine, lake, or other aquatic resources in support of economic development objectives.

''(2) CAPACITY BUILDING.—The term 'capacity building' includes all activities associated with early stage community-based project formation and conceptualization, prior to project predevelopment activity, including grants to local community organizations for planning participation, community outreach and engagement activities, research, and mentorship support to move projects from formation and conceptualization to project predevelopment.'';

(3) in paragraph (5) (as so redesignated), in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking ''to the extent appropriate'' and inserting ''to the extent determined appropriate by the Secretary'';

(4) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated), in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (v), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in clause (vi), by striking the period at end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(vii) an economic development organization; or

''(viii) a public-private partnership for public infrastructure.'';

(5) by inserting after paragraph (9) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(10) OUTDOOR RECREATION.—The term 'outdoor recreation' means all recreational activities, and the economic drivers of those activities, that occur in nature-based environments outdoors.

''(11) PROJECT PREDEVELOPMENT.—The term 'project predevelopment' means a measure required to be completed before the initiation of a project, including—

''(A) planning and community asset mapping;

''(B) training;

''(C) technical assistance and organizational development;

''(D) feasibility and market studies;

''(E) demonstration projects; and

''(F) other predevelopment activities determined by the Secretary to be appropriate.'';

(6) by striking paragraph (12) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

''(12) REGIONAL COMMISSION.—The term 'Regional Commission' means any of the following:

''(A) The Appalachian Regional Commission established by section 14301(a) of title 40, United States Code.

''(B) The Delta Regional Authority established by section 382B(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–1(a)(1)).

''(C) The Denali Commission established by section 303(a) of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 105–277).

''(D) The Great Lakes Authority established by section 15301(a)(4) of title 40, United States Code.

''(E) The Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission established by section 15301(a)(5) of title 40, United States Code.

''(F) The Northern Border Regional Commission established by section 15301(a)(3) of title 40, United States Code.

''(G) The Northern Great Plains Regional Authority established by section 383B(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009bb–1(a)(1)).

''(H) The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission established by section 15301(a)(1) of title 40, United States Code.

''(I) The Southern New England Regional Commission established by section 15301(a)(6) of title 40, United States Code.

''(J) The Southwest Border Regional Commission established by section 15301(a)(2) of title 40, United States Code.'';

(7) by inserting after paragraph (14) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(15) TRAVEL AND TOURISM.—The term 'travel and tourism' means any economic activity that primarily serves to encourage recreational or business travel in or to the United States.''; and

(8) in paragraph (17) (as so redesignated), by striking ''established as a University Center for Economic Development under section 207(a)(2)(D)'' and inserting ''established under section 207(c)(1)''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 207(a)(3) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3147(a)(3)) is amended by striking ''section 3(4)(A)(vi)'' and inserting ''section 3(6)(A)(vi)''.

SEC. 5103. INCREASED COORDINATION.

Section 103 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3133) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) MEETINGS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out subsection (a), or for any other purpose relating to economic development activities, the Secretary may convene meetings with Federal agencies, State and local governments, economic development districts, Indian tribes, and other appropriate planning and development organizations.

''(2) REGIONAL COMMISSIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to meetings described in paragraph (1), not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024, and not less frequently than every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall convene a meeting with the Regional Commissions in furtherance of subsection (a).

''(B) ATTENDEES.—The attendees for a meeting convened under this paragraph shall consist of—

''(i) the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, serving as Chair;

''(ii) the Federal Cochairpersons of the Regional Commissions, or their designees; and

''(iii) the State Cochairpersons of the Regional Commissions, or their designees.

''(C) PURPOSE.—The purposes of a meeting convened under this paragraph shall include—

''(i) to enhance coordination between the Economic Development Administration and the Regional Commissions in carrying out economic development programs;

''(ii) to reduce duplication of efforts by the Economic Development Administration and the Regional Commissions in carrying out economic development programs;

''(iii) to develop best practices and strategies for fostering regional economic development; and

''(iv) any other purposes as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

''(D) REPORT.—Where applicable and pursuant to subparagraph (C), not later than 1 year after a meeting under this paragraph, the Secretary shall prepare and make publicly available a report detailing, at a minimum—

''(i) the planned actions by the Economic Development Administration and the Regional Commissions to enhance coordination or reduce duplication of efforts and a timeline for implementing those actions; and

''(ii) any best practices and strategies developed.''.

SEC. 5104. GRANTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 201 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''or for the improvement of waste management and recycling systems'' after ''development facility''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''increasing the resilience'' after ''expansion,'';

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''successful establishment or expansion'' and inserting ''successful establishment, expansion, or retention,''; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ''and underemployed'' after ''unemployed'';

(3) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—In awarding grants under subsection (a) and subject to the criteria in subsection (b), the Secretary may also consider the extent to which a project would—

''(1) lead to economic diversification in the area, or a part of the area, in which the project is or will be located;

''(2) address and mitigate impacts from extreme weather events, including development of resilient infrastructure, products, and processes;

''(3) benefit highly rural communities without adequate tax revenues to invest in long-term or costly infrastructure;

''(4) increase access to high-speed broadband;

''(5) support outdoor recreation to spur economic development, with a focus on rural communities;

''(6) promote job creation or retention relative to the population of the impacted region with outsized significance;

''(7) promote travel and tourism; or

''(8) promote blue economy activities.''.

SEC. 5105. GRANTS FOR PLANNING AND GRANTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

Section 203 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3143) is amended—

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

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Administrative expenses that may be paid with a grant under this section include—

''(1) expenses related to carrying out the planning process described in subsection (b);

''(2) expenses related to project predevelopment;

''(3) expenses related to updating economic development plans to align with other applicable State, regional, or local planning efforts; and

''(4) expenses related to hiring professional staff to assist communities in—

''(A) project predevelopment and implementing projects and priorities included in—

''(i) a comprehensive economic development strategy; or

''(ii) an economic development planning grant;

''(B) identifying and using other Federal, State, and Tribal economic development programs;

''(C) leveraging private and philanthropic investment;

''(D) preparing disaster coordination and preparation plans; and

''(E) carrying out economic development and predevelopment activities in accordance with professional economic development best practices.''; and

(3) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''; and'' and inserting ''(including broadband);'';

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (G); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

''(F) address and mitigate impacts of extreme weather; and''.

SEC. 5106. COST SHARING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 204 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3144) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''50'' and inserting ''60'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''In determining'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In determining''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) REGIONAL COMMISSION FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds contributed by a Regional Commission for a project under this title may be considered to be part of the non-Federal share of the costs of the project.''; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''or can otherwise document that no local matching funds are reasonably obtainable'' after ''or political subdivision'';

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking ''section 207'' and inserting ''section 203 or 207''; and

(ii) by striking ''project if'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''project.''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—In the case of a grant provided under section 209 for a project for economic recovery in response to a major disaster or emergency declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), the Secretary may increase the Federal share under paragraph (1) up to 100 percent of the total cost of the project.

''(5) SMALL COMMUNITIES.—In the case of a grant to a political subdivision of a State (as described in section 3(6)(A)(iv)) that has a population of fewer than 10,000 residents and meets 1 or more of the eligibility criteria described in section 301(a), the Secretary may increase the Federal share under paragraph (1) up to 100 percent of the total cost of the project.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 703 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3233) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b); and

(2) by striking the section designation and heading and all that follows through ''In addition'' in subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''SEC. 703. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACTIVITIES.

''In addition''.

SEC. 5107. REGULATIONS ON RELATIVE NEEDS AND ALLOCATIONS.

Section 206 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3146) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) the per capita income levels, the labor force participation rate, and the extent of underemployment in eligible areas; and''; and

(2) in paragraph (4), by inserting ''and retention'' after ''creation''.

SEC. 5108. RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; UNIVERSITY CENTERS.

Section 207 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3147) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(A), by inserting '', project predevelopment,'' after ''planning''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) UNIVERSITY CENTERS.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—In accordance with subsection (a)(2)(D), the Secretary may make grants to institutions of higher education to serve as university centers.

''(2) GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE.—The Secretary shall ensure that the network of university centers established under this subsection provides services in each State.

''(3) DUTIES.—To the maximum extent practicable, a university center established under this subsection shall—

''(A) collaborate with other university centers;

''(B) collaborate with economic development districts and other relevant Federal economic development technical assistance and service providers to provide expertise and technical assistance to develop, implement, and support comprehensive economic development strategies and other economic development planning at the local, regional, and State levels, with a focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, workforce development, and regional economic development;

''(C) provide technical assistance, business development, and technology transfer services to businesses in the area served by the university center;

''(D) establish partnerships with 1 or more commercialization intermediaries that are public or nonprofit technology transfer organizations eligible to receive a grant under section 602 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (42 U.S.C. 1862s–9);

''(E) promote local and regional capacity building; and

''(F) provide to communities and regions assistance relating to data collection and analysis and other research relating to economic conditions and vulnerabilities that can inform economic development and adjustment strategies.

''(4) CONSIDERATION.—In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall consider the significant role of regional public universities in supporting economic development in distressed communities through the planning and the implementation of economic development projects and initiatives.''.

SEC. 5109. INVESTMENT PRIORITIES.

Title II of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 is amended by inserting after section 207 (42 U.S.C. 3147) the following:

''SEC. 208. INVESTMENT PRIORITIES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), for a project to be eligible for assistance under this title, the project shall be consistent with 1 or more of the following investment priorities:

''(1) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—Economic development planning or implementation projects that support development of public facilities, including basic public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, or telecommunications infrastructure.

''(2) WORKFORCE.—Economic development planning or implementation projects that—

''(A) support job skills training to meet the hiring needs of the area in which the project is to be carried out and that result in well-paying jobs; or

''(B) otherwise promote labor force participation.

''(3) INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP.—Economic development planning or implementation projects that—

''(A) support the development of innovation and entrepreneurship-related infrastructure;

''(B) promote business development and lending; or

''(C) foster the commercialization of new technologies that are creating technology-driven businesses and high-skilled, well-paying jobs of the future.

''(4) ECONOMIC RECOVERY RESILIENCE.—Economic development planning or implementation projects that enhance the ability of an area to withstand and recover from adverse short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions, including effects from industry contractions or impacts from natural disasters.

''(5) MANUFACTURING.—Economic development planning or implementation projects that encourage job creation, business expansion, technology and capital upgrades, and productivity growth in manufacturing, including efforts that contribute to the competitiveness and growth of domestic suppliers or the domestic production of innovative, high-value products and production technologies.

''(b) CONDITIONS.—If the Secretary plans to use an investment priority that is not described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a written notification that explains the basis for using that investment priority.

''(c) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section waives any other requirement of this Act.''.

SEC. 5110. GRANTS FOR ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT.

Section 209 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3149) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by inserting '', travel and tourism, natural resource-based, blue economy, or agricultural'' after ''manufacturing''; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) economic dislocation in the steel industry due to the closure of a steel plant, primary steel economy contraction events (including temporary layoffs and shifts to part-time work), or job losses in the steel industry or associated with the departure or contraction of the steel industry, for help in economic restructuring of the communities.'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after section (c) the following:

''(d) ASSISTANCE TO COAL COMMUNITIES.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) COAL ECONOMY.—The term 'coal economy' means the complete supply chain of coal-reliant industries, including—

''(i) coal mining;

''(ii) coal-fired power plants;

''(iii) transportation or logistics; and

''(iv) manufacturing.

''(B) CONTRACTION EVENT.—The term 'contraction event' means the closure of a facility or a reduction in activity relating to a coal-reliant industry, including an industry described in any of clauses (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (A).

''(2) AUTHORIZATION.—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants for projects in areas adversely impacted by a contraction event in the coal economy.

''(3) ELIGIBILITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall determine the eligibility of an area based on whether the eligible recipient can reasonably demonstrate that the area—

''(i) has been adversely impacted by a contraction event in the coal economy within the previous 25 years; or

''(ii) will be adversely impacted by a contraction event in the coal economy.

''(B) PROHIBITION.—No regulation or other policy of the Secretary may limit the eligibility of an eligible recipient for a grant under this subsection based on the date of a contraction event except as provided in subparagraph (A)(i).

''(C) DEMONSTRATING ADVERSE IMPACT.—For the purposes of this paragraph, an eligible recipient may demonstrate an adverse impact by demonstrating—

''(i) a loss in employment;

''(ii) a reduction in tax revenue; or

''(iii) any other factor, as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

''(e) ASSISTANCE TO NUCLEAR HOST COMMUNITIES.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) COMMISSION.—The term 'Commission' means the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

''(B) COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD.—The term 'community advisory board' means a community committee or other advisory organization that aims to foster communication and information exchange between a licensee planning for and involved in decommissioning activities and members of the community that decommissioning activities may affect.

''(C) DECOMMISSION.—The term 'decommission' has the meaning given the term in section 50.2 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

''(D) LICENSEE.—The term 'licensee' has the meaning given the term in section 50.2 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

''(E) NUCLEAR HOST COMMUNITY.—The term 'nuclear host community' means an eligible recipient that has been impacted, or reasonably demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary that it will be impacted, by a nuclear power plant licensed by the Commission that—

''(i) is not co-located with an operating nuclear power plant;

''(ii) is at a site with spent nuclear fuel; and

''(iii) as of the date of enactment of the Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024—

''(I) has ceased operations; or

''(II) has provided a written notification to the Commission that it will cease operations.

''(2) AUTHORIZATION.—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants—

''(A) to assist with economic development in nuclear host communities; and

''(B) to fund community advisory boards in nuclear host communities.

''(3) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out this subsection, to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall implement the recommendations described in the report submitted to Congress under section 108 of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (Public Law 115–439; 132 Stat. 5577) entitled 'Best Practices for Establishment and Operation of Local Community Advisory Boards Associated with Decommissioning Activities at Nuclear Power Plants'.

''(4) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall establish a methodology to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, geographic diversity among grant recipients under this subsection.''.

SEC. 5111. RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM.

Section 218 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3154d) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**BRIGHTFIELDS DEMONSTRATION**'' and inserting ''**RENEWABLE ENERGY**'';

(2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) DEFINITION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SITE.—In this section, the term 'renewable energy site' means a brownfield site that is redeveloped through the incorporation of 1 or more renewable energy technologies, including solar, wind, geothermal, ocean, and emerging, but proven, renewable energy technologies.'';

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM'' and inserting ''ESTABLISHMENT'';

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''brightfield'' and inserting ''renewable energy''; and

(C) in paragraph (1), by striking ''solar energy technologies'' and inserting ''renewable energy technologies described in subsection (a),''; and

(4) by striking subsection (d).

SEC. 5112. WORKFORCE TRAINING GRANTS.

Title II of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 219. WORKFORCE TRAINING GRANTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants to support the development and expansion of innovative workforce training programs through sectoral partnerships leading to quality jobs and the acquisition of equipment or construction of facilities to support workforce development activities.

''(b) ELIGIBLE USES.—Funds from a grant under this section may be used for—

''(1) acquisition or development of land and improvements to house workforce training activities;

''(2) acquisition, design and engineering, construction, rehabilitation, alteration, expansion, or improvement of such a facility, including related equipment and machinery;

''(3) acquisition of machinery or equipment to support workforce training activities;

''(4) planning, technical assistance, and training;

''(5) sector partnerships development, program design, and program implementation; and

''(6) in the case of an eligible recipient that is a State, subject to subsection (c), a State program to award career scholarships to train individuals for employment in critical industries with high demand and vacancies necessary for further economic development of the applicable State that—

''(A) requires significant post-secondary training; but

''(B) does not require a post-secondary degree.

''(c) CAREER SCHOLARSHIPS STATE GRANT PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants to States for the purpose described in subsection (b)(6).

''(2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, the Chief Executive of a State shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such

manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, which shall include, at a minimum, the following:

''(A) A method for identifying critical industry sectors driving in-State economic growth that face staffing challenges for in-demand jobs and careers.

''(B) A governance structure for the implementation of the program established by the State, including defined roles for the consortia of agencies of such State, at a minimum, to include the State departments of economic development, labor, and education, or the State departments or agencies with jurisdiction over those matters.

''(C) A strategy for recruiting participants from at least 1 community that meets 1 or more of the criteria described in section 301(a).

''(D) A plan for how the State will develop a tracking system for eligible programs, participant enrollment, participant outcomes, and an application portal for individual participants.

''(3) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall award not more than 1 grant under this subsection to any State.

''(4) ELIGIBLE USES.—A grant under this subsection may be used for—

''(A) necessary costs to carry out the matters described in this subsection, including tuition and stipends for individuals that receive a career scholarship grant, subject to the requirements described in paragraph (6); and

''(B) program implementation, planning, technical assistance, or training.

''(5) FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwithstanding section 204, the Federal share of the cost of any award carried out with a grant made under this subsection shall not exceed 70 percent.

''(6) PARTICIPANT AMOUNTS.—A State shall ensure that grant funds provided under this subsection to each individual that receives a career scholarship grant under the program established by the applicable State is the lesser of the following amounts:

''(A) In a case in which the individual is also eligible for a Federal Pell Grant under section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) for enrollment at the applicable training program for any award year of the training program, $11,000 minus the amount of the awarded Federal Pell Grant.

''(B) For an individual not described in paragraph (1), the lesser of—

''(i) $11,000; and

''(ii) the total cost of the training program in which the individual is enrolled, including tuition, fees, career navigation services, textbook costs, expenses related to assessments and exams for certification or licensure, equipment costs, and wage stipends (in the case of a training program that is an earn-and-learn program).

''(d) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate the development of new workforce development models with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education.''.

SEC. 5113. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

Title II of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.) (as amended by section 5112) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 220. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a project described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives notice, in accordance with subsection (c), of the award of a grant for the project not less than 3 business days before notifying an eligible recipient of their selection for that award.

''(b) PROJECTS DESCRIBED.—A project referred to in subsection (a) is a project that the Secretary has selected to receive a grant administered by the Economic Development Administration in an amount not less than $100,000.

''(c) REQUIREMENTS.—A notification under subsection (a) shall include—

''(1) the name of the project;

''(2) the name of the applicant;

''(3) the region in which the project is to be carried out;

''(4) the State in which the project is to be carried out;

''(5) the amount of the grant awarded;

''(6) a description of the project; and

''(7) any additional information, as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

''(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall make a notification under subsection (a) publicly available not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary provides the notice.''.

SEC. 5114. SPECIFIC FLEXIBILITIES RELATED TO DEPLOYMENT OF HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND.

Title II of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.) (as amended by section 5113) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 221. HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT INITIATIVE.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) BROADBAND PROJECT.—The term 'broadband project' means, for the purposes of providing, extending, expanding, or improving high-speed broadband service to further the goals of this Act—

''(A) planning, technical assistance, or training;

''(B) the acquisition or development of land; or

''(C) the acquisition, design and engineering, construction, rehabilitation, alteration, expansion, or improvement of facilities, including related machinery, equipment, contractual rights, and intangible property.

''(2) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term 'eligible recipient' includes—

''(A) a public-private partnership; and

''(B) a consortium formed for the purpose of providing, extending, expanding, or improving high-speed broadband service between 1 or more eligible recipients and 1 or more for-profit organizations.

''(3) HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND.—The term 'high-speed broadband' means the provision of 2-way data transmission with sufficient downstream and upstream speeds to end users to permit effective participation in the economy and to support economic growth, as determined by the Secretary.

''(b) BROADBAND PROJECTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants under this title for broadband projects, which shall be subject to the provisions of this section.

''(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In reviewing applications submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall take into consideration geographic diversity of grants provided, including consideration of underserved markets, in addition to data requested in paragraph (3).

''(3) DATA REQUESTED.—In reviewing an application submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall request from the Federal Communications Commission, the Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Appalachian Regional Commission data on—

''(A) the level and extent of broadband service that exists in the area proposed to be served; and

''(B) the level and extent of broadband service that will be deployed in the area proposed to be served pursuant to another Federal program.

''(4) INTEREST IN REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY.—For any broadband project carried out by an eligible recipient that is a public-private partnership or consortium, the Secretary shall require that title to any real or personal property acquired or improved with grant funds, or if the recipient will not acquire title, another possessory interest acceptable to the Secretary, be vested in a public partner or eligible nonprofit organization or association for the useful life of the project, after which title may be transferred to any member of the public-private partnership or consortium in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary.

''(5) PROCUREMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person or entity shall be disqualified from competing to provide goods or services related to a broadband project on the basis that the person or entity participated in the development of the broadband project or in the drafting of specifications, requirements, statements of work, or similar documents related to the goods or services to be provided.

''(6) BROADBAND PROJECT PROPERTY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may permit a recipient of a grant for a broadband project to grant an option to acquire real or personal property (including contractual rights and intangible property) related to that project to a third party on such terms as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, subject to the condition that the option may only be exercised after the Secretary releases the Federal interest in the property.

''(B) TREATMENT.—The grant or exercise of an option described in subparagraph (A) shall not constitute a redistribution of grant funds under section 217.

''(c) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—In determining the amount of the non-Federal share of the cost of a broadband project, the Secretary may provide credit toward the non-Federal share for the present value of allowable contributions over the useful life of the broadband project, subject to the condition that the Secretary may require such assurances of the value of the rights and of the commitment of the rights as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.''.

SEC. 5115. CRITICAL SUPPLY CHAIN SITE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.

Title II of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.) (as amended by section 5114) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 222. CRITICAL SUPPLY CHAIN SITE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants under the 'Critical Supply Chain Site Development grant program' (referred to in this section as the 'grant program') to carry out site development or expansion projects for the purpose of making the site ready for manufacturing projects.

''(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In providing a grant to an eligible recipient under the grant program, the Secretary may consider whether—

''(1) the proposed improvements to the site will improve economic conditions for rural areas, Tribal communities, or areas that meet 1 or more of the criteria described in section 301(a);

''(2) the project is consistent with regional economic development plans, which may include a comprehensive economic development strategy;

''(3) the eligible recipient has initiatives to prioritize job training and workforce development; and

''(4) the project supports industries determined by the Secretary to be of strategic importance to the national or economic security of the United States.

''(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants to eligible recipients under the grant program, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible recipients that propose to carry out a project that—

''(1) has State, local, private, or nonprofit funds being contributed to assist with site development efforts; and

''(2) if the site development or expansion project is carried out, will result in a demonstrated interest in the site by commercial entities or other entities.

''(d) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant provided under the grant program may be used for the following activities relating to the development or expansion of a site:

''(1) Investments in site utility readiness, including—

''(A) construction of on-site utility infrastructure;

''(B) construction of last-mile infrastructure, including road infrastructure, water infrastructure, power infrastructure, broadband infrastructure, and other physical last-mile infrastructure;

''(C) site grading; and

''(D) other activities to extend public utilities or services to a site, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

''(2) Investments in site readiness, including—

''(A) land assembly;

''(B) environmental reviews;

''(C) zoning;

''(D) design;

''(E) engineering; and

''(F) permitting.

''(3) Investments in workforce development and sustainability programs, including job training and retraining programs.

''(4) Investments to ensure that disadvantaged communities have access to on-site jobs.

''(e) PROHIBITION.—In awarding grants under the grant program, the Secretary shall not require an eligible recipient to demonstrate that a private company or investment has selected the site for development or expansion.''.

SEC. 5116. UPDATED DISTRESS CRITERIA AND GRANT RATES.

Section 301(a) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT, OR ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT PROBLEMS.—The area is an area that the Secretary determines has experienced or is about to experience a special need arising from actual or threatened severe unemployment, underemployment, or economic adjustment problems resulting from severe short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions.

''(4) LOW MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME.—The area has a median household income of 80 percent or less of the national average.

''(5) WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION.—The area has—

''(A) a labor force participation rate of 90 percent or less of the national average; or

''(B) a prime-age employment gap of 5 percent or more.

''(6) EXPECTED ECONOMIC DISLOCATION AND DISTRESS FROM ENERGY INDUSTRY TRANSITIONS.—The area is an area that is expected to experience actual or threatened severe unemployment or economic adjustment problems resulting from severe short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions from energy industries that are experiencing accelerated contraction.''.

SEC. 5117. COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES.

Section 302 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3162) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)(A), by inserting ''including to mitigate and adapt to extreme weather,'' after ''enhances and protects the environment,''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply to grants awarded under section 207 or grants awarded under section 209(c)(2) that are regional in scope.''.

SEC. 5118. OFFICE OF TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Title V of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3191 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 508. OFFICE OF TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Economic Development Administration an Office of Tribal Economic Development (referred to in this section as the 'Office').

''(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Office shall be—

''(1) to coordinate all Tribal economic development activities carried out by the Secretary;

''(2) to help Tribal communities access economic development assistance programs, including the assistance provided under this Act;

''(3) to coordinate Tribal economic development strategies and efforts with other Federal agencies; and

''(4) to be a participant in any negotiated rulemakings or consultations relating to, or having an impact on, projects, programs, or funding that benefit Tribal communities.

''(c) TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024, the Office shall initiate a Tribal consultation process to develop, and not less frequently than every 3 years thereafter, update, a strategic plan for Tribal economic development for the Economic Development Administration.

''(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024 and not less frequently than every 3 years thereafter, the Office shall submit to Congress the strategic plan for Tribal economic development developed under paragraph (1).

''(d) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall establish a publicly facing website to help provide a comprehensive, single source of information for Indian tribes, Tribal leaders, Tribal businesses, and citizens in Tribal communities to better understand and access programs that support economic development in Tribal communities, including the economic development programs administered by Federal agencies or departments other than the Department.

''(e) DEDICATED STAFF.—The Secretary shall ensure that the Office has sufficient staff to carry out all outreach activities under this section.''.

SEC. 5119. OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE.

Title V of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3191 et seq.) (as amended by section 5118) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 509. OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience—

''(1) to direct and implement the post-disaster economic recovery responsibilities of the Economic Development Administration pursuant to subsections (c)(2) and (e) of section 209 and section 703;

''(2) to direct and implement economic recovery and enhanced resilience support function activities as directed under the National Disaster Recovery Framework; and

''(3) support long-term economic recovery in communities in which a major disaster or emergency has been declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), or otherwise impacted by an event of national significance, as determined by the Secretary, through—

''(A) convening and deploying an economic development assessment team;

''(B) hosting or attending convenings related to identification of additional Federal, State, local, and philanthropic entities and resources;

''(C) exploring potential flexibilities related to existing awards;

''(D) provision of technical assistance through staff or contractual resources; and

''(E) other activities determined by the Secretary to be appropriate.

''(b) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION AUTHORITIES.—

''(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary is authorized to appoint such temporary personnel as may be necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service and compensation of personnel.

''(2) CONVERSION OF EMPLOYEES.—Notwithstanding chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, or any other provision of law relating to the examination, certification, and appointment of individuals in the competitive service, the Secretary is authorized to convert a temporary employee appointed under this subsection to a permanent appointment in the competitive service in the Economic Development Administration under merit promotion procedures if—

''(A) the employee has served continuously for at least 2 years under 1 or more appointments under this subsection; and

''(B) the employee's performance has been at an acceptable level of performance throughout the period or periods referred to in subparagraph (A).

''(3) COMPENSATION.—An individual converted under this subsection shall become a career-conditional employee, unless the employee has already completed the service requirements for career tenure.

''(c) DISASTER TEAM.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish a disaster team (referred to in this section as the 'disaster team') for the deployment of individuals to carry out responsibilities of the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience after a major disaster or emergency has been declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) and the Department has been activated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

''(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(A) DESIGNATION OF STAFF.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall designate to serve on the disaster team—

''(i) employees of the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience;

''(ii) employees of the Department who are not employees of the Economic Development Administration; and

''(iii) in consultation with the heads of other Federal agencies, employees of those agencies, as appropriate.

''(B) CAPABILITIES.—In designating individuals under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall ensure that the disaster team includes a sufficient quantity of—

''(i) individuals who are capable of deploying rapidly and efficiently to respond to major disasters and emergencies; and

''(ii) highly trained full-time employees who will lead and manage the disaster team.

''(3) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall ensure that appropriate and ongoing training is provided to members of the disaster team to ensure that the members are adequately trained regarding the programs and policies of the Economic Development Administration relating to post-disaster economic recovery efforts.

''(4) EXPENSES.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may—

''(A) use, with or without reimbursement, any service, equipment, personnel, or facility of any Federal agency with the explicit support of that agency, to the extent such use does not impair or conflict with the authority of the President or the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) to direct Federal agencies in any major disaster or emergency declared under that Act; and

''(B) provide members of the disaster team with travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of services for, or relating to, the disaster team.''.

SEC. 5120. ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LIAISONS.

Title V of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3191 et seq.) (as amended by section 5119) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 510. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LIAISONS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—A Regional Director of a regional office of the Economic Development Administration may designate a staff member to act as a 'Technical Assistance Liaison' for any State served by the regional office.

''(b) ROLE.—A Technical Assistance Liaison shall—

''(1) work in coordination with an Economic Development Representative to provide technical assistance, in addition to technical assistance under section 207, to eligible recipients that are underresourced communities, as determined by the Technical Assistance Liaison, that submit applications for assistance under title II; and

''(2) at the request of an eligible recipient that submitted an application for assistance under title II, provide technical feedback on unsuccessful grant applications.

''(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with an eligible recipient for the purpose of providing technical assistance to eligible recipients that are underresourced communities that have submitted or may submit an application for assistance under this Act.''.

SEC. 5121. ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Section 603(b) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3213(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''areas'' after ''rural''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4)(A) include a list of all of the grants provided by the Economic Development Administration for projects located in, or that primarily benefit, rural areas;

''(B) an explanation of the process used to determine how each project referred to in subparagraph (A) would benefit a rural area; and

''(C) a certification that each project referred to in subparagraph (A)—

''(i) is located in a rural area; or

''(ii) will primarily benefit a rural area.''.

SEC. 5122. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Economic Development Administration should continue to promote access to economic development assistance programs of that agency through the use of Economic Development Representatives in underresourced communities, particularly coal communities.

(b) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with paragraph (2), the Secretary of Commerce shall maintain, or restore, as necessary, State-level Economic Development Representative positions occupied as of October 1, 2023.

(2) CONTINUATION.—For each State in which there is an Economic Development Representative position as of October 1, 2023, the Secretary of Commerce shall ensure that—

(A) that State continues to have that coverage from an Economic Development Representative who is located within that State; and

(B) the Economic Development Representative position located within that State is dedicated solely to addressing the economic needs of that State.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that describes the implementation of this section by the Economic Development Administration.

SEC. 5123. MODERNIZATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the efforts of the Secretary to facilitate efficient, timely, and predictable environmental reviews of projects funded by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.), including through expanded use of categorical exclusions, environmental assessments, or programmatic environmental impact statements.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In completing the report under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) describe the actions the Secretary will take to implement the amendments to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) made by section 321 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–5; 137 Stat. 38);

(2) describe the existing categorical exclusions most frequently used by the Secretary to streamline the environmental review of projects funded by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.); and

(3) consider—

(A) the adoption of additional categorical exclusions, including those used by other Federal agencies, that would facilitate the environmental review of projects funded by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.);

(B) the adoption of new programmatic environmental impact statements that would facilitate the environmental review of projects funded by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.); and

(C) agreements with other Federal agencies that would facilitate a more efficient process for the environmental review of projects funded by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.).

(c) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 2 years after the submission of the report under subsection (a), the Secretary shall promulgate a final rule implementing, to the maximum extent practicable, measures considered by the Secretary under subsection (b) that are necessary to streamline the environmental review of projects funded by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.).

SEC. 5124. GAO REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The term ''Comptroller General'' means the Comptroller General of the United States.

(2) REGIONAL COMMISSION.—The term ''Regional Commission'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3122).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2026, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that evaluates economic development programs administered by the Economic Development Administration and the Regional Commissions.

(c) CONTENTS.—In carrying out the report under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall—

(1) evaluate the impact of programs described in that subsection on economic outcomes, including job creation and retention, the rate of unemployment and underemployment, labor force participation, and private investment leveraged;

(2) describe efforts by the Economic Development Administration and the Regional Commissions to document the impact of programs described in that subsection on economic outcomes described in paragraph (1);

(3) describe efforts by the Economic Development Administration and the Regional Commissions to carry out coordination activities described in section 103 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3133);

(4) consider other factors, as determined to be appropriate by the Comptroller General of the United States, to assess the effectiveness of programs described in subsection (b); and

(5) make legislative recommendations for improvements to programs described in subsection (b) as applicable.

SEC. 5125. GAO REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS AND POLICIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The term ''Comptroller General'' means the Comptroller General of the United States.

(2) SMALL COMMUNITY.—The term ''small community'' means a community of less than 10,000 year-round residents.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of

the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that evaluates economic development regulations and policies administered by the Economic Development Administration that have hindered the ability of communities to apply for and administer Economic Development Administration grants.

(c) CONTENTS.—In carrying out the report under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall—

(1) review regulations and grant application processes promulgated by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development;

(2) evaluate the technical capacity of eligible recipients (as defined in section 3 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3122)) to apply for Economic Development Administration grants;

(3) provide recommendations for improving the administration and timely disbursement of grants awarded by the Economic Development Administration, including for improving the communication with grantees regarding timelines for disbursement of funds;

(4) identify barriers to small communities applying for Economic Development Administration grants, in consultation with—

(A) State economic development representatives;

(B) secretaries of State departments of economic development;

(C) representatives for small communities that have received Economic Development Administration grants; and

(D) representatives for small communities that have never applied for Economic Development Administration grants; and

(5) provide recommendations for simplifying and easing the ability for grant applicants to navigate the Economic Development Administration grant application process, including through a review of regulations, including environmental regulations, not in the jurisdiction of the Economic Development Administration to identify possible grant application process improvements.

SEC. 5126. GAO STUDY ON RURAL COMMUNITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States (referred to in this section as the ''Comptroller General'') shall conduct a study to evaluate the impacts of funding provided by the Economic Development Administration to distressed communities (as described in section 301(a) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161(a))) located in rural areas.

(b) CONTENTS.—In carrying out the study under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall—

(1) identify not less than 5 geographically diverse distressed communities in rural areas; and

(2) for each distressed community identified under paragraph (1), examine the impacts of funding provided by the Economic Development Administration on—

(A) the local jobs and unemployment of the community; and

(B) the availability of affordable housing in the community.

(c) REPORT.—On completion of the study under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the study and any recommendations that result from the study.

SEC. 5127. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 701 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3231) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (k); and

(2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) GRANTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 201, to remain available until expended—

''(1) $170,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

''(2) $195,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

''(3) $220,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

''(4) $245,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

''(5) $270,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

''(b) GRANTS FOR PLANNING AND GRANTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 203, to remain available until expended—

''(1) $90,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

''(2) $100,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

''(3) $110,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

''(4) $120,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

''(5) $130,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

''(c) GRANTS FOR TRAINING, RESEARCH, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 207, to remain available until expended—

''(1) $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

''(2) $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

''(3) $35,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

''(4) $40,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

''(5) $45,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

''(d) GRANTS FOR ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 209 (other than subsections (d) and (e)), to remain available until expended—

''(1) $65,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

''(2) $75,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

''(3) $85,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

''(4) $95,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

''(5) $105,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

''(e) ASSISTANCE TO COAL COMMUNITIES.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 209(d) $75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended.

''(f) ASSISTANCE TO NUCLEAR HOST COMMUNITIES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 209(e), to remain available until expended—

''(1) to carry out paragraph (2)(A), $35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029; and

''(2) to carry out paragraph (2)(B), $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2027.

''(g) RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 218 $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended.

''(h) WORKFORCE TRAINING GRANTS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 219 $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended, of which $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 shall be used to carry out subsection (c) of that section.

''(i) CRITICAL SUPPLY CHAIN SITE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 222 $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended.

''(j) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LIAISONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 510 $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Title VII of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3231 et seq.) is amended by striking section 704.

SEC. 5128. TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

Section 1 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 89–136) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

TITLE LII—REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 5201. REGIONAL COMMISSION AUTHORIZATIONS.

Section 15751 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to each Commission to carry out this subtitle $40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.''.

SEC. 5202. REGIONAL COMMISSION MODIFICATIONS.

(a) MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSIONS.—Section 15301 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(C)—

(A) by striking ''An alternate member'' and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—An alternate member''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) STATE ALTERNATES.—If the alternate State member is unable to vote in accordance with clause (i), the alternate State member may delegate voting authority to a designee, subject to the condition that the executive director shall be notified, in writing, of the designation not less than 1 week before the applicable vote is to take place.''; and

(2) in subsection (f), by striking ''a Federal employee'' and inserting ''an employee''.

(b) DECISIONS OF COMMISSIONS.—Section 15302 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ''or alternate State members, including designees'' after ''State members''; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) QUORUMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), a Commission shall determine what constitutes a quorum for meetings of the Commission.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Any quorum for meetings of a Commission shall include—

''(A) the Federal Cochairperson or the alternate Federal Cochairperson; and

''(B) a majority of State members or alternate State members, including designees (exclusive of members representing States delinquent under section 15304(c)(3)(C)).''.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS AND EXPENSES OF COMMISSIONS.—Section 15304(a) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by inserting '', which may be done without a requirement for the Commission to reimburse the agency or local government'' after ''status'';

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (8) and (9) as paragraphs (9) and (10), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

''(8) collect fees for services provided and retain and expend such fees;'';

(4) in paragraph (9) (as so redesignated), by inserting ''leases (including the lease of office space for any term),'' after ''cooperative agreements,''; and

(5) in paragraph (10) (as so redesignated), by striking ''maintain a government relations office in the District of Columbia and''.

(d) MEETINGS OF COMMISSIONS.—Section 15305(b) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking ''with the Federal Cochairperson'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: ''with—

''(1) the Federal Cochairperson; and

''(2) at least a majority of the State members or alternate State members (including designees) present in-person or via electronic means.''.

(e) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Section 15308(a) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking ''90'' and inserting ''180''.

SEC. 5203. TRANSFER OF FUNDS AMONG FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 153 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 15308 as section 15309; and

(2) by inserting after section 15307 the following:

''§ 15308. Transfer of funds among Federal agencies

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c), for purposes of this subtitle, each Commission may transfer funds to and accept transfers of funds from other Federal agencies.

''(b) TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Funds made available to a Commission may be transferred to other Federal agencies if the funds are used consistently with the purposes for which the funds were specifically authorized and appropriated.

''(c) TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Funds may be transferred to any Commission under this section if—

''(1) the statutory authority for the funds provided by the Federal agency does not expressly prohibit use of funds for authorities being carried out by a Commission; and

''(2) the Federal agency that provides the funds determines that the activities for which the funds are to be used are otherwise eligible for funding under such a statutory authority.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 153 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 15308 and inserting the following:

''15308. Transfer of funds among Federal agencies.
''15309. Annual reports.''.

SEC. 5204. ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.

Section 15501 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (9) as paragraphs (6) through (11), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) in coordination with relevant Federal agencies, to design, build, implement, or update infrastructure to support resilience to extreme weather events;

''(5) to promote the production of housing to meet economic development and workforce needs;''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''(7)'' and inserting ''(9)''.

SEC. 5205. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 155 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 15507. Payment of non-Federal share for certain Federal grant programs

''Amounts made available to carry out this subtitle shall be available for the payment of the non-Federal share for any project carried out under another Federal grant program—

''(1) for which a Commission is not the sole or primary funding source; and

''(2) that is consistent with the authorities of the applicable Commission.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 155 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''15507. Payment of non-Federal share for certain Federal grant programs.''.

SEC. 5206. NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION AREA.

Section 15733 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''Lincoln,'' after ''Knox,'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''Merrimack,'' after ''Grafton,''; and

(3) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''Wyoming,'' after ''Wayne,''.

SEC. 5207. SOUTHWEST BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION AREA.

Section 15732 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by inserting ''Bernalillo,'' before ''Catron,'';

(B) by inserting ''Cibola, Curry, De Baca,'' after ''Chaves,'';

(C) by inserting ''Guadalupe,'' after ''Grant,'';

(D) by inserting ''Lea,'' after ''Hidalgo,'';

(E) by inserting ''Roosevelt,'' after ''Otero,''; and

(F) by striking ''and Socorro'' and inserting ''Socorro, Torrance, and Valencia''; and

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by inserting ''Guadalupe,'' after ''Glasscock,''; and

(B) by striking ''Tom Green Upton,'' and inserting ''Tom Green, Upton,''.

SEC. 5208. GREAT LAKES AUTHORITY AREA.

Section 15734 of title 40, United States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting ''the counties which contain, in part or in whole, the'' after ''consist of''.

SEC. 5209. ADDITIONAL REGIONAL COMMISSION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''CHAPTER 159—ADDITIONAL REGIONAL COMMISSION PROGRAMS

''§ 15901. State capacity building grant program

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COMMISSION STATE.—The term 'Commission State' means a State that contains 1 or more eligible counties.

''(2) ELIGIBLE COUNTY.—The term 'eligible county' means a county described in subchapter II of chapter 157.

''(3) PROGRAM.—The term 'program' means a State capacity building grant program established by a Commission under subsection (b).

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Each Commission shall establish a State capacity building grant program to provide grants to Commission States in the area served by the Commission for the purposes described in subsection (c).

''(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of a program are to support the efforts of the Commission—

''(1) to better support business retention and expansion in eligible counties;

''(2) to create programs to encourage job creation and workforce development in eligible counties, including projects and activities, in coordination with other relevant Federal agencies, to strengthen the water sector workforce and facilitate the sharing of best practices;

''(3) to partner with universities in distressed counties (as designated under section 15702(a)(1))—

''(A) to strengthen the capacity to train new professionals in fields for which there is a shortage of workers;

''(B) to increase local capacity for project management, project execution, and financial management; and

''(C) to leverage funding sources;

''(4) to prepare economic and infrastructure plans for eligible counties;

''(5) to expand access to high-speed broadband in eligible counties;

''(6) to provide technical assistance that results in Commission investments in transportation, water, wastewater, and other critical infrastructure;

''(7) to promote workforce development to support resilient infrastructure projects;

''(8) to develop initiatives to increase the effectiveness of local development districts in eligible counties;

''(9) to implement new or innovative economic development practices that will better position eligible counties to compete in the global economy; and

''(10) to identify and address important regional impediments to prosperity and to leverage unique regional advantages to create economic opportunities for the region served by the Commission.

''(d) USE OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds from a grant under a program may be used to support a project, program, or related expense of the Commission State in an eligible county.

''(2) LIMITATION.—Funds from a grant under a program shall not be used for—

''(A) the purchase of furniture, fixtures, or equipment;

''(B) the compensation of—

''(i) any State member of the Commission (as described in section 15301(b)(1)(B)); or

''(ii) any State alternate member of the Commission (as described in section 15301(b)(2)(B)); or

''(C) the cost of supplanting existing State programs.

''(e) ANNUAL WORK PLAN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year, before providing a grant under a program, each Commission State shall provide to the Commission an annual work plan that includes the proposed use of the grant.

''(2) APPROVAL.—No grant under a program shall be provided to a Commission State unless the Commission has approved the annual work plan of the State.

''(f) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a grant provided to a Commission State under a program for a fiscal year shall be based on the proportion that—

''(A) the amount paid by the Commission State (including any amounts paid on behalf of the Commission State by a nonprofit organization) for administrative expenses for the applicable fiscal year (as determined under section 15304(c)); bears to

''(B) the amount paid by all Commission States served by the Commission (including any amounts paid on behalf of a Commission State by a nonprofit organization) for administrative expenses for that fiscal year (as determined under that section).

''(2) REQUIREMENT.—To be eligible to receive a grant under a program for a fiscal year, a Commission State (or a nonprofit organization on behalf of the Commission State) shall pay the amount of administrative expenses of the Commission State for the applicable fiscal year (as determined under section 15304(c)).

''(3) APPROVAL.—For each fiscal year, a grant provided under a program shall be approved and made available as part of the approval of the annual budget of the Commission.

''(g) GRANT AVAILABILITY.—Funds from a grant under a program shall be available only during the fiscal year for which the grant is provided.

''(h) REPORT.—Each fiscal year, each Commission State shall submit to the relevant Commission and make publicly available a report that describes the use of the grant funds and the impact of the program in the Commission State.

''(i) CONTINUATION OF PROGRAM AUTHORITY FOR NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION.—With respect to the Northern Border Regional Commission, the program shall be a continuation of the program under section 6304(c) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (40 U.S.C. 15501 note; Public Law 115–334) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this section).

''§ 15902. Demonstration health projects

''(a) PURPOSE.—To demonstrate the value of adequate health facilities and services to the economic development of the region, a Commission may make grants for the planning, construction, equipment, and operation of demonstration health, nutrition, and child care projects (referred to in this section as a 'demonstration health project'), including hospitals, regional health diagnostic and treatment centers, and other facilities and services necessary for the purposes of this section.

''(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to receive a grant under this section is—

''(1) an entity described in section 15501(a);

''(2) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)));

''(3) a hospital (as defined in section 1861 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x)); or

''(4) a critical access hospital (as defined in that section).

''(c) PLANNING GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A Commission may make grants for planning expenses necessary for the development and operation of demonstration health projects for the region served by the Commission.

''(2) MAXIMUM COMMISSION CONTRIBUTION.—The maximum Commission contribution for a demonstration health project that receives a grant under paragraph (1) shall be made in accordance with section 15501(d).

''(3) SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE.—A grant under paragraph (1) may be provided entirely from amounts made available to carry out this section or in combination with amounts provided under other Federal grant programs.

''(4) FEDERAL SHARE FOR GRANTS UNDER OTHER FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS.—Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the Federal share in other Federal grant programs, amounts made available to carry out this subsection may be used to increase the Federal share of another Federal grant up to the maximum contribution described in paragraph (2).

''(d) CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section for construction or equipment of a demonstration health project may be used for—

''(A) costs of construction;

''(B) the acquisition of privately owned facilities—

''(i) not operated for profit; or

''(ii) previously operated for profit if the Commission finds that health services would not otherwise be provided in the area served by the facility if the acquisition is not made; and

''(C) the acquisition of initial equipment.

''(2) STANDARDS FOR MAKING GRANTS.—A grant under paragraph (1)—

''(A) shall be approved in accordance with section 15503; and

''(B) shall not be incompatible with the applicable provisions of title VI of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 291 et seq.), the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15001 et seq.), and other laws authorizing grants for the construction of health-related facilities, without regard to any provisions in those laws relating to appropriation authorization ceilings or to allotments among the States.

''(3) MAXIMUM COMMISSION CONTRIBUTION.—The maximum Commission contribution for a demonstration health project that receives a grant under paragraph (1) shall be made in accordance with section 15501(d).

''(4) SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE.—A grant under paragraph (1) may be provided entirely from amounts made available to carry out this section or in combination with amounts provided under other Federal grant programs.

''(5) CONTRIBUTION TO INCREASED FEDERAL SHARE FOR OTHER FEDERAL GRANTS.—Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the Federal share in another Federal grant program for the construction or equipment of a demonstration health project, amounts made available to carry out this subsection may be used to increase Federal grants for component facilities of a demonstration health project to a maximum of 90 percent of the cost of the facilities.

''(e) OPERATION GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section for the operation of a demonstration health project may be used for—

''(A) the costs of operation of the facility; and

''(B) initial operating costs, including the costs of attracting, training, and retaining qualified personnel.

''(2) STANDARDS FOR MAKING GRANTS.—A grant for the operation of a demonstration health project shall not be made unless the facility funded by the grant is—

''(A) publicly owned;

''(B) owned by a public or private nonprofit organization;

''(C) a private hospital described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code; or

''(D) a private hospital that provides a certain amount of uncompensated care, as determined by the Commission, and applies for the grant in partnership with a State, local government, or Indian Tribe.

''(3) MAXIMUM COMMISSION CONTRIBUTION.—The maximum Commission contribution for a demonstration health project that receives a grant under paragraph (1) shall be made in accordance with section 15501(d).

''(4) SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE.—A grant under paragraph (1) may be provided entirely from amounts made available to carry out

this section or in combination with amounts provided under other Federal grant programs for the operation of health-related facilities or the provision of health and child development services, including parts A and B of title IV and title XX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq., 621 et seq., 1397 et seq.).

''(5) FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the Federal share in the other Federal programs described in paragraph (4), amounts made available to carry out this subsection may be used to increase the Federal share of a grant under those programs up to the maximum contribution described in paragraph (3).

''(f) PRIORITY HEALTH PROGRAMS.—If a Commission elects to make grants under this section, the Commission shall establish specific regional health priorities for such grants that address—

''(1) addiction treatment and access to resources helping individuals in recovery;

''(2) workforce shortages in the healthcare industry; or

''(3) access to services for screening and diagnosing chronic health issues.''.

(b) REPEAL.—Section 6304(c) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (40 U.S.C. 15501 note; Public Law 115–334) is repealed.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters for subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 157 the following:

''159. Additional Regional Commission Programs ..... 15901''.

SEC. 5210. TRIBAL AND COLONIA PARTICIPATION IN SOUTHWEST BORDER REGION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 155 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code (as amended by section 5205(a)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 15508. Waiver of matching requirement for Indian tribes and colonias in Southwest Border Regional Commission programs

''(a) DEFINITION OF COLONIA.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term 'colonia' means a community—

''(A) that is located—

''(i) in the State of Arizona, California, New Mexico, or Texas;

''(ii) not more than 150 miles from the border between the United States and Mexico; and

''(iii) outside a standard metropolitan statistical area that has a population exceeding 1,000,000;

''(B) that—

''(i) lacks a potable water supply;

''(ii) lacks an adequate sewage system; or

''(iii) lacks decent, safe, and sanitary housing; and

''(C) that has been treated or designated as a colonia by a Federal or State program.

''(b) WAIVER.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of assistance provided to a colonia or an Indian tribe under this subtitle by the Southwest Border Regional Commission, the Federal share of the cost of the project carried out with that assistance may be up to 100 percent, as determined by the selection official, the State Cochairperson (or an alternate), and the Federal Cochairperson (or an alternate).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 155 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code (as amended by section 5205(b)), is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 15507 the following:

''15508. Waiver of matching requirement for Indian tribes and colonias in Southwest Border Regional Commission programs.''.

SEC. 5211. ESTABLISHMENT OF MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 15301(a) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) The Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission.''.

(b) DESIGNATION OF REGION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 157 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 15735. Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission.

''The region of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission shall include the following counties:

''(1) DELAWARE.—Each county in the State of Delaware.

''(2) MARYLAND.—Each county in the State of Maryland that is not already served by the Appalachian Regional Commission.

''(3) PENNSYLVANIA.—Each county in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that is not already served by the Appalachian Regional Commission.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for subchapter II of chapter 157 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''15735. Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission.''.

(c) APPLICATION.—Section 15702(c) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) APPLICATION.—Paragraph (2) shall not apply to a county described in paragraph (2) or (3) of section 15735.''.

SEC. 5212. ESTABLISHMENT OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 15301(a) of title 40, United States Code (as amended by section 5211(a)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) The Southern New England Regional Commission.''.

(b) DESIGNATION OF REGION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 157 of title 40, United States Code (as amended by section 5211(b)(1)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 15736. Southern New England Regional Commission

''The region of the Southern New England Regional Commission shall include the following counties:

''(1) RHODE ISLAND.—Each county in the State of Rhode Island.

''(2) CONNECTICUT.—The counties of Hartford, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, Tolland, and Windham in the State of Connecticut.

''(3) MASSACHUSETTS.—Each county in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for subchapter II of chapter 157 of title 40, United States Code (as amended by section 5211(b)(2)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''15736. Southern New England Regional Commission.''.

(c) APPLICATION.—Section 15702(c)(3) of title 40, United States Code (as amended by section 5211(c)), is amended—

(1) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''';

(2) by striking ''to a county'' and inserting the following: ''to—

''(A) a county''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) the Southern New England Regional Commission.''.

SEC. 5213. DENALI COMMISSION REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 312(a) of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 105–277) is amended by striking ''$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021'' and inserting ''$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029''.

(b) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—Section 305 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 105–277) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), in the first sentence, by inserting ''enter into leases (including the lease of office space for any term),'' after ''award grants,''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) USE OF FUNDS TOWARD NON-FEDERAL SHARE OF CERTAIN PROJECTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law regarding payment of a non-Federal share in connection with a grant-in-aid program, the Commission may use amounts made available to the Commission for the payment of such a non-Federal share for programs undertaken to carry out the purposes of the Commission.''.

(c) SPECIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION.—Section 307 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 4321 note; Public Law 105–277) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a);

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (e) as subsections (a) through (d), respectively; and

(3) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), by inserting '', including interagency transfers,'' after ''payments''.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 309(c)(1) of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 4321 note; Public Law 105–277) is amended by inserting ''of Transportation'' after ''Secretary''.

SEC. 5214. DENALI HOUSING FUND.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means—

(A) a nonprofit organization;

(B) a limited dividend organization;

(C) a cooperative organization;

(D) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)); and

(E) a public entity, such as a municipality, county, district, authority, or other political subdivision of a State.

(2) FEDERAL COCHAIR.—The term ''Federal Cochair'' means the Federal Cochairperson of the Denali Commission.

(3) FUND.—The term ''Fund'' means the Denali Housing Fund established under subsection (b)(1).

(4) LOW-INCOME.—The term ''low-income'', with respect to a household means that the household income is less than 150 percent of the Federal poverty level for the State of Alaska.

(5) MODERATE-INCOME.—The term ''moderate-income'', with respect to a household, means that the household income is less than 250 percent of the Federal poverty level for the State of Alaska.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) DENALI HOUSING FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be established in the Treasury of the United States the Denali Housing Fund, to be administered by the Federal Cochair.

(2) SOURCE AND USE OF AMOUNTS IN FUND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts allocated to the Federal Cochair for the purpose of carrying out this section shall be deposited in the Fund.

(B) USES.—The Federal Cochair shall use the Fund as a revolving fund to carry out the purposes of this section.

(C) INVESTMENT.—The Federal Cochair may invest amounts in the Fund that are not necessary for operational expenses in bonds or other obligations, the principal and interest

of which are guaranteed by the Federal Government.

(D) GENERAL EXPENSES.—The Federal Cochair may charge the general expenses of carrying out this section to the Fund.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to encourage and facilitate the construction or rehabilitation of housing to meet the needs of low-income households and moderate-income households; and

(2) to provide housing for public employees.

(d) LOANS AND GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Cochair may provide grants and loans from the Fund to eligible entities under such terms and conditions the Federal Cochair may prescribe.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of a grant or loan under paragraph (1) shall be for planning and obtaining federally insured mortgage financing or other financial assistance for housing construction or rehabilitation projects for low-income and moderate-income households in rural Alaska villages.

(e) PROVIDING AMOUNTS TO STATES FOR GRANTS AND LOANS.—The Federal Cochair may provide amounts to the State of Alaska, or political subdivisions thereof, for making the grants and loans described in subsection (d).

(f) LOANS.—

(1) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—A loan under subsection (d) for the cost of planning and obtaining financing (including the cost of preliminary surveys and analyses of market needs, preliminary site engineering and architectural fees, site options, application and mortgage commitment fees, legal fees, and construction loan fees and discounts) of a project described in that subsection may be for not more than 90 percent of that cost.

(2) INTEREST.—A loan under subsection (d) shall be made without interest, except that a loan made to an eligible entity established for profit shall bear interest at the prevailing market rate authorized for an insured or guaranteed loan for that type of project.

(3) PAYMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Cochair shall require payment of a loan made under this section under terms and conditions the Secretary may require by not later than the date of completion of the project.

(B) CANCELLATION.—For a loan other than a loan to an eligible entity established for profit, the Secretary may cancel any part of the debt with respect to a loan made under subsection (d) if the Secretary determines that a permanent loan to finance the project cannot be obtained in an amount adequate for repayment of a loan made under subsection (d).

(g) GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section for expenses incidental to planning and obtaining financing for a project described in this section that the Federal Cochair considers unrecoverable from the proceeds of a permanent loan made to finance the project—

(A) may not be made to an eligible entity established for profit; and

(B) may not exceed 90 percent of those expenses.

(2) SITE DEVELOPMENT COSTS AND OFFSITE IMPROVEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Cochair may make grants and commitments for grants under terms and conditions the Federal Cochair may require to eligible entities for reasonable site development costs and necessary offsite improvements, such as sewer and water line extensions, if the grant or commitment—

(i) is essential to ensuring that housing is constructed on the site in the future; and

(ii) otherwise meets the requirements for assistance under this section.

(B) MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.—The amount of a grant under this paragraph may not—

(i) with respect to the construction of housing, exceed 40 percent of the cost of the construction; and

(ii) with respect to the rehabilitation of housing, exceed 10 percent of the reasonable value of the rehabilitation, as determined by the Federal Cochair.

(h) INFORMATION, ADVICE, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Federal Cochair may provide, or contract with public or private organizations to provide, information, advice, and technical assistance with respect to the construction, rehabilitation, and operation by nonprofit organizations of housing for low-income or moderate-income households, or for public employees, in rural Alaska villages under this section.

SEC. 5215. DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 382M(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–12(a)) is amended by striking ''$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029''.

(b) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 382N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–13) is repealed.

(c) FEES.—Section 382B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–1(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9)(C), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (10), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(11) collect fees for the Delta Doctors program of the Authority and retain and expend those fees.''.

(d) SUCCESSION.—Section 382B(h)(5)(B) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–1(h)(5)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(3) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

''(iii) assuming the duties of the Federal cochairperson and the alternate Federal cochairperson for purposes of continuation of normal operations in the event that both positions are vacant; and''.

(e) INDIAN TRIBES.—Section 382C(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–2(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting '', Indian Tribes,'' after ''States''; and

(2) in paragraph (1), by inserting '', Tribal,'' after ''State''.

SEC. 5216. NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGIONAL AUTHORITY REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 383N(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009bb–12(a)) is amended by striking ''$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2018'' and inserting ''$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029''.

(b) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 383O of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009bb–13) is repealed.

DIVISION G—STATE TRADE EXPANSION PROGRAM

SEC. 6001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''State Trade Expansion Program Modernization Act of 2024''.

SEC. 6002. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The State Trade Expansion Program established under section 22(l) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)) (in this section referred to as ''STEP'') was created by Congress in 2010 to grow the number of small business concerns (as defined under section 3 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 632) and in this section referred to as a ''small business concern'') that export, increase the value of goods exported by the small business sector, and help businesses identify new markets.

(2) Helping small firms in the United States begin to export or build upon their existing export capacity generates investment in local economies and spurs employment.

(3) Despite 95 percent of global consumers living outside of the United States, less than 4 percent of small business concerns in the United States export their products or services.

(4) Many small business concerns in the United States that could grow by exporting lack the dedicated staff, required technical skills, and necessary budgetary resources for international expansion.

(5) STEP provides vital assistance to small business concerns, particularly to those that have never had the opportunity to sell their products or services abroad.

(6) According to data of the Bureau of the Census, there were approximately 5,900,000 employer firms in the United States as of 2021, of which more than 1,200,000, or approximately 22 percent, were women-owned. However, according to the data, of the 128,460 exporting small firms, only 21,626, or 17 percent, were women-owned firms, meaning that, of small firms, 5 times as many male-owned firms export as women-owned firms. The data show that the overall disparity in business ownership between men and women is even greater among exporting businesses.

(7) According to research conducted by the Small Business Administration, smaller firms tend to produce fewer outputs and are less likely to export than larger firms. Data of the Bureau of the Census show that women-owned firms employ 33 percent fewer workers on average than male-owned firms and are less likely to enjoy the benefits of international trade.

(8) Exporting is a highly effective way for businesses to expand their markets and increase their productivity. As States expand export-enhancing activities through STEP, additional small firms will benefit from the higher demand for their goods and services and increased profits associated with international trade.

(9) During the first 10 years of operation, STEP enabled more than 12,000 small business concerns to explore export opportunities, helping them reach markets in 141 countries.

(10) Congress recognizes that STEP can be improved to reduce the administrative burden for grantees, streamline reporting and compliance requirements, give grantees more flexibility, make grant awards more transparent and consistent, and set more predictable application deadlines.

(11) Congress also recognizes that making awards under STEP more consistent and transparent will simplify the program and incentivize more States to participate so that small business concerns are supported in all States.

SEC. 6003. STREAMLINING APPLICATION, REPORTING, AND COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR FUNDING INFORMATION TO BE KEPT CURRENT.—Section 22(l)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(E) REQUIREMENT FOR FUNDING INFORMATION TO BE KEPT CURRENT.—The Associate Administrator shall—

''(i) maintain on the website of the Administration a publicly accessible list of links to documents containing the most up-to-date information about program requirements and application procedures, including the latest notice of funding opportunity, all active Director's Memos, and any determination made related to eligible expenditures or the classification of expenditures as direct or indirect; and

''(ii) update the list described in clause (i) before any new clarification, instruction, directive, requirement, determination, or classification relating to the program takes effect.''.

(b) TIMING OF FUNDING INFORMATION RELEASE.—Section 22(l)(3)(D) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)(3)(D)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) TIMING.—The Associate Administrator shall—

''(I) publish information on how to apply for a grant under this subsection, including specific calculations and other determinations used to award such a grant, not later than March 31 of each year;

''(II) establish a deadline for the submission of applications that is—

''(aa) not earlier than 60 days after the date on which the information is published under subclause (I); and

''(bb) not later than—

''(AA) May 31 of each year; or

''(BB) in the event that full-year appropriations for the program for a fiscal year have not been enacted as of February 1 of such fiscal year, 120 days after full-year appropriations are enacted; and

''(III) announce grant recipients not later than—

''(aa) September 30 of each year; or

''(bb) in the event that full-year appropriations for the program for a fiscal year have not been enacted as of February 1 of such fiscal year, 210 days after full-year appropriations are enacted.''.

(c) APPLICATION STREAMLINING.—Section 22(l)(3)(D) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)(3)(D)), as amended by subsection (b) of this section, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) APPLICATION STREAMLINING.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Administrator shall establish a concise application for grants under the program that shall encompass all necessary information, including—

''(aa) the proposal of the State, territory, or commonwealth to manage the program;

''(bb) an overview of the trade office and staff of the State, territory, or commonwealth;

''(cc) a description of the key mission and objective, key activities planned, and estimated key performance indicators;

''(dd) a detailed budget, which, for a State, shall include a description of the cash, indirect costs, and in-kind contributions the State has committed to provide for the non-Federal share of the cost of the trade expansion program of the State to be carried out using a grant under the program; and

''(ee) for a State, whether the State is requesting to receive additional funds allocated under paragraph (5)(F), if applicable.

''(II) SCOPE.—The application established under subclause (I) shall—

''(aa) include all the information required for the technical proposal;

''(bb) eliminate any unnecessary or duplicative materials, except to the extent the duplication is due to the use of standard forms or documents that are not specific to the Administration and are used by other Federal grant programs; and

''(cc) to the extent feasible, use forms common to other Federal trade and export programs.''.

(d) ABILITY TO REVIEW APPLICATIONS AFTER AWARD.—Section 22(l)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)(3)), as amended by subsection (a) of this section, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(F) APPLICATION INFORMATION.—The Associate Administrator shall clearly communicate to applicants and grant recipients information about award decisions under this subsection, including—

''(i) for each unsuccessful applicant for a grant awarded under this subsection, providing recommendations to improve a subsequent application for such a grant;

''(ii) for each successful applicant for such a grant, providing an explanation for the amount awarded, if different from the amount requested in the application; and

''(iii) upon request, offering to have the program manager who reviewed the application discuss with the applicant how to improve a subsequent application for such a grant.''.

(e) BUDGET PLAN SUBMISSION AND REVISIONS.—Section 22(l)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)(3)), as amended by subsection (d) of this section, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D)(i), by inserting '', including a budget plan for use of funds awarded under this subsection'' before the period at the end; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) BUDGET PLAN REVISIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A State, territory, or commonwealth receiving a grant under this subsection may revise the budget plan of the State, territory, or commonwealth submitted under subparagraph (D) after the disbursal of grant funds if—

''(I) the revision complies with allowable uses of grant funds under this subsection; and

''(II) such State, territory, or commonwealth submits notification of the revision to the Associate Administrator.

''(ii) EXCEPTION.—If a revision under clause (i) reallocates 10 percent or more of the amounts described in the budget plan of the State, territory, or commonwealth submitted under subparagraph (D), the State, territory, or commonwealth may not implement the revised budget plan without the approval of the Associate Administrator, unless the Associate Administrator fails to approve or deny the revised plan within 20 days after receipt of such revised plan.''.

(f) REPORTING BY RECIPIENTS; PROCESSING OF REIMBURSEMENTS.—Section 22(l)(7) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)(7)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(C) REPORTING BY RECIPIENTS; PROCESSING OF REIMBURSEMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Administrator shall establish for recipients of grants under the program a streamlined reporting process, template, or spreadsheet format to report information regarding the program and key performance indicators required by an Act of Congress that—

''(I) a State, territory, or commonwealth may use to upload required compliance reports relating to the grants;

''(II) minimizes the manual entry of specific data regarding eligible small business concerns, including performance data;

''(III) eliminates any duplicative or unnecessary reporting requirements that are not required for the Associate Administrator to—

''(aa) report the information specified in subparagraph (B);

''(bb) make allocations under paragraph (5)(B); or

''(cc) conduct necessary oversight of the program;

''(IV) to the extent feasible, accommodates the use and uploading of spreadsheets or templates generated from customer relationship management or spreadsheet software; and

''(V) may not require a State, territory, or commonwealth to submit information more frequently than twice per year.

''(ii) PROCESSING OF REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS.—The Associate Administrator shall—

''(I) process information submitted by a State, territory, or commonwealth for purposes of obtaining reimbursement for eligible activities in a timely manner, without regard to whether the information is submitted semiannually, as described in clause (i)(V), or quarterly, if the State, territory, or commonwealth elects to submit information quarterly;

''(II) notify a State, territory, or commonwealth if such information is not processed on or before the date that is 21 days after the date such information is submitted; and

''(III) provide an estimated completion timeline with any notification under subclause (II).

''(iii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in clause (i) shall be construed to prohibit a State, territory, or commonwealth from submitting information for purposes of obtaining reimbursement for eligible activities on a quarterly basis, at the election of the State, territory, or commonwealth, respectively.''.

(g) REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO STATE EMPLOYEES.—Section 22(l)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)(3)), as amended by subsection (e) of this section, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(H) LIMITATION ON COLLECTION OF STATE OFFICIAL AND EMPLOYEE INFORMATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the Associate Administrator—

''(I) may only require that a State, territory, or commonwealth include with an application for a grant under the program detailed information, such as a position description and resume, for the State, territory, or commonwealth official or employee that would manage the grant;

''(II) may only require that a State, territory, or commonwealth receiving a grant under the program report the salary of a State, territory, or commonwealth official or employee to the extent that the State, territory, or commonwealth—

''(aa) includes such salary as part of the non-Federal share of the cost of the trade expansion program; or

''(bb) uses amounts received under the grant for the cost of such salary, in whole or in part; and

''(III) with respect to a State, territory, or commonwealth official or employee who is not directly managing a grant under the program, may only require the State, territory, or commonwealth to report the name, position, and contact information of the official or employee.

''(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—The Associate Administrator may require a State, territory, or commonwealth to provide information about a State, territory, or commonwealth official or employee that is relevant to any investigation into suspected mismanagement, fraud, or malfeasance or that is necessary to comply with Federal grant requirements.''.

(h) LIMITATION ON COMPLIANCE AUDITS.—Section 22(l) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (7), (8), and (9) as paragraphs (10), (11), and (12), respectively;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (6) and (7), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (7), as so redesignated, the following:

''(8) COMPLIANCE AUDITS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Associate Administrator may not conduct an audit of a State, territory, or commonwealth to evaluate compliance with this subsection more than once every 3 years.

''(B) EXCEPTIONS.—The Associate Administrator may conduct an audit of a State, territory, or commonwealth to evaluate compliance with this subsection more than once every 3 years if—

''(i) the amount allocated to the State, territory, or commonwealth under a grant under this subsection for a fiscal year is an increase of not less than 15 percent from the allocation for the State, territory, or commonwealth for the prior fiscal year;

''(ii) the Associate Administrator believes that amounts received by the State, territory, or commonwealth under a grant under this subsection are being used for ineligible activities or as part of fraudulent activity; or

''(iii) the most recent audit report shows evidence of material noncompliance with program requirements, in which case the Associate Administrator may conduct an audit annually until compliance is reestablished.''.

SEC. 6004. FUNDING TRANSPARENCY AND PREDICTABILITY.

(a) CAP ON REDUCTIONS IN GRANTS.—Section 22(l) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)) is amended by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

''(4) LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

''(i) the term 'current fiscal year' means the fiscal year for which the Administrator is determining the amount of a grant to be awarded to a State, territory, or commonwealth under the program; and

''(ii) the term 'prior fiscal year' means the most recent fiscal year before the current fiscal year for which a State, territory, or commonwealth received a grant under the program.

''(B) GENERAL LIMITATION ON REDUCTIONS IN GRANTS.—Subject to subparagraphs (C) and (D), the Administrator may not award a grant to a State, territory, or commonwealth under the program for the current fiscal year in an amount that is less than 80 percent of the amount received by the State, territory, or commonwealth under a grant under the program for the prior fiscal year.

''(C) POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL ADJUSTMENTS.—

''(i) EXCEPTION FOR REDUCTION IN APPROPRIATIONS.—Subject to subparagraph (D), if the total amount appropriated for the program for the current fiscal year is less than the amount appropriated for the program for the prior fiscal year, for purposes of applying subparagraph (B), the Administrator shall substitute for 'the amount received by the State, territory, or commonwealth under a grant under the program for the prior fiscal year' the product obtained by multiplying—

''(I) subject to clause (ii) of this subparagraph, the amount received by the State, territory, or commonwealth under a grant under the program for the prior fiscal year; by

''(II) the ratio of the appropriation for the current fiscal year to the appropriation for the prior fiscal year.

''(ii) EXCEPTION FOR GRANTEES THAT USE LESS THAN 80 PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT OF A GRANT.—Subject to subparagraph (D), if a State, territory, or commonwealth expends less than 80 percent of the amount of a grant under the program for the prior fiscal year before the end of the period of the grant for the prior fiscal year established under paragraph (3)(C)(iii)(I), for purposes of applying subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, if appropriations are not reduced, or applying clause (i) of this subparagraph, if appropriations are reduced, the Administrator shall substitute for 'the amount received by the State, territory, or commonwealth under a grant under the program for the prior fiscal year' the difference obtained by subtracting—

''(I) the amount equal to 50 percent of the amount remaining available under the grant under the program to the State, territory, or commonwealth for the prior fiscal year, as of the last day of such period; from

''(II) the amount of the grant under the program to the State, territory, or commonwealth for the prior fiscal year.

''(iii) EXCEPTION FOR INCREASE IN GRANTEES RESULTING IN INSUFFICIENT FUNDING.—If the number of States, territories, or commonwealths participating in the program has increased from the prior fiscal year to such an extent that funding is not sufficient to provide each grantee the minimum amount required under this paragraph (including any reductions under clause (i) or (ii) of this subparagraph, if applicable) the Administrator may make pro rata reductions to the minimum grant amount otherwise required under this paragraph on a one-time basis to ensure that all qualified applicants may receive grants.

''(D) VIOLATIONS.—The amount of a grant to a State, territory, or commonwealth may be less than the minimum amount determined under subparagraph (B) (including any substitution of amounts under clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (C), as applicable), if the State, territory, or commonwealth has been found to have committed a significant violation of the rules or policies of the program.''.

(b) PERMITTING CARRYOVER OF UNUSED GRANT FUNDS.—Section 22(l)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)(3)(C)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking ''40 percent'' and inserting ''30 percent''; and

(2) in clause (iii)—

(A) by striking ''The Associate Administrator'' and inserting the following:

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Administrator''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(II) GRANTEES THAT USE LESS THAN THE FULL AMOUNT OF A GRANT.—

''(aa) IN GENERAL.—Subject to item (bb), for a State, territory, or commonwealth that does not expend the entire amount of a grant under the program before the end of the period of the grant established under subclause (I), the State, territory, or commonwealth may expend amounts remaining available under the grant as of the last day of such period during the first fiscal year after such period, in an amount not to exceed 20 percent of the amount originally made available under such grant.

''(bb) FORFEITED GRANTS.—Item (aa) shall not apply to a grant under the program to a State, territory, or commonwealth that was forfeited due to a significant program violation by the State, territory, or commonwealth.

''(cc) RETURN OF GRANT FUNDS.—A State, territory, or commonwealth shall return to the Treasury—

''(AA) any amounts remaining available under a grant under the program at the end of the period of the grant established under subclause (I) that are not available for expenditure under item (aa) of this subclause; and

''(BB) any amounts that are available for expenditure under item (aa) and are not expended on or before the date that is 1 year after the last day of the original period of the grant established under subclause (I).''.

(c) FUNDING FORMULA.—Section 22(l) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (4), as amended by subsection (a) of this section, the following:

''(5) FUNDING FORMULA.—

''(A) MINIMUM ALLOCATION.—Subject to paragraph (4), and except as provided otherwise in this paragraph, the minimum amount of a grant under the program for a fiscal year—

''(i) for a territory or commonwealth, shall be the amount equal to 0.5 percent of the total amount appropriated for the program for the fiscal year; and

''(ii) for a State, shall be the amount equal to 0.75 percent of the total amount appropriated for the program for the fiscal year.

''(B) ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), amounts remaining for grants under the program for a fiscal year after the minimum allocation under subparagraph (A) shall be allocated among States receiving a grant under the program in accordance with the following metrics:

''(I) 20 percent of amounts remaining shall be proportionally allocated based on the ratio, for the most recently completed grant cycle for which complete reporting data is available, of the dollar value of export sales reported by a State that were initiated as a result of program activities undertaken by eligible small business concerns that are located in the State to the amount of the grant received by the State.

''(II) 20 percent of amounts remaining shall be proportionally allocated based on the ratio, for the most recently completed grant cycle for which complete reporting data is available, of the total number of activities described in paragraph (2) undertaken by eligible small business concerns participating in the program that are located in the State to the amount of the grant received by the State.

''(III) 15 percent of amounts remaining shall be proportionally allocated based on the ratio, for the most recently completed grant cycle for which complete reporting data is available, of the number of eligible small business concerns participating in the program for the first time that are located in the State to the amount of the grant received by the State.

''(IV) 15 percent of amounts remaining shall be proportionally allocated based on the ratio, for the most recently completed grant cycle for which complete reporting data is available, of the number of eligible small business concerns participating in the program that are located in the State and that engaged in trade outside the United States for the first time to the amount of the grant received by the State.

''(V) 15 percent of amounts remaining shall be proportionally allocated based on the ratio, for the most recently completed grant cycle for which complete reporting data is available, of the total number of new markets reached by eligible small business concerns participating in the program that are located in the State to the amount of the grant received by the State.

''(VI) 15 percent of amounts remaining shall be proportionally allocated based on the ratio, for the most recently completed grant cycle, of the total number of eligible small business concerns participating in the program that are located in the State to the number of eligible small business concerns

participating in the program that are located in the State and that meet 1 or more of the following criteria:

''(aa) Located in a low-income or moderate-income area.

''(bb) Located in a rural area.

''(cc) Located in an HUBZone, as that term is defined in section 31(b).

''(dd) Located in a community that has been designated as an empowerment zone or enterprise community under section 1391 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

''(ee) Located in a community that has been designated as a promise zone by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

''(ff) Located in a community that has been designated as a qualified opportunity zone under section 1400Z–1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

''(gg) Being owned by women.

''(ii) LIMITATION.—In allocating funds under each of subclauses (I) through (VI) of clause (i), the amount of funds allocated under such subclause to the State with the highest ratio for a metric may not be more than 10 times the amount of funds allocated under such subclause to the State with the lowest ratio that is greater than zero for that metric.

''(C) LIMIT ON REDUCTION BELOW GRANT BEFORE ENACTMENT.—In addition to the limitations under paragraph (4), and except to the extent a State elects to return funds under subparagraph (E), the amount of a grant to the State under the program for any fiscal year may not be less than the amount of the grant to the State under the program for the most recent full fiscal year before the date of enactment of the State Trade Expansion Program Modernization Act of 2024 for which the State received such a grant.

''(D) MATCHING REQUIREMENT FOR FORMULA FUNDS.—The Associate Administrator shall provide to each State receiving a grant under the program an award in the amount calculated in accordance with the funding formula under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) if the State has committed to provide the necessary cash, indirect costs, and in-kind contributions for the non-Federal share of the cost of the trade expansion program of the State, as required under paragraph (6).

''(E) RETURN OF GRANTS.—Not later than 15 days after the date on which the Associate Administrator notifies a State of the amount to be awarded to the State under a grant under the program for a fiscal year, the State may decline or return to the Associate Administrator, in whole or in part, such amounts.

''(F) DISTRIBUTION OF RETURNED AND REMAINING AMOUNTS.—

''(i) REMAINING AMOUNTS.—In this subparagraph, the term 'remaining amounts' means—

''(I) amounts declined or returned under subparagraph (E) for a fiscal year; or

''(II) amounts remaining for grants under the program for a fiscal year after allocating funds in accordance with subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) due to reductions in the amount of grants because of the amount committed by States for the non-Federal share of the cost of the trade expansion program of the States.

''(ii) DISTRIBUTION.—The Associate Administrator shall distribute any remaining amounts for a fiscal year among the States receiving a grant under the program that requested to receive such remaining amounts, in an amount that is proportional to the allocations under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C).

''(G) LIMITATION ON BASIS FOR REDUCING AMOUNTS.—The Associate Administrator may not reduce the amount determined to be allocated or distributed to a State under any subparagraph of this paragraph based on the proposed use of such amount by the State, except to the extent that such use is not an eligible use of funds for a grant under the program.

''(H) ROUNDING.—The total amount of a grant to a State, territory, or commonwealth under the program, as determined under this paragraph, shall be rounded to the nearest increment of $1,000.

''(I) APPLICATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Administrator shall award grants under this subsection based on the formula described in this paragraph, and without regard to paragraph (3)(B)—

''(I) for the second consecutive fiscal year for which the amount made available for the program is not less than $30,000,000; and

''(II) for each fiscal year after the fiscal year described in subclause (I) for which the amount made available for the program is not less than $30,000,000.

''(ii) AWARD WHEN NOT BASED ON FORMULA.—For any fiscal year for which grants are not awarded based on the formula described in this paragraph, the Associate Administrator shall award grants under this subsection on a competitive basis, taking into account the considerations described in paragraph (3)(B).

''(J) TRANSITION PLAN.—

''(i) INITIAL PLAN.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—If the amount made available for the program for a fiscal year is not less than $30,000,000, the Associate Administrator shall develop a transition plan describing how the Administration intends to begin awarding grants based on the formula described in this paragraph, to ensure the Administration is prepared to award grants based on the formula described in this paragraph if the amount made available for the program for the next fiscal year is not less than $30,000,000.

''(II) ONE-TIME REQUIREMENT.—Subclause (I) shall not apply on and after the first day of the first fiscal year for which the Associate Administrator awards grants based on the formula described in this paragraph.

''(III) REQUIREMENT TO USE FORMULA.—The Associate Administrator shall award grants based on the formula described in this paragraph in accordance with the requirements under subparagraph (I), without regard to whether the Associate Administrator develops the transition plan required under subclause (I) of this clause.

''(ii) UPDATES.—If, for any fiscal year after the first fiscal year for which the Associate Administrator awards grants based on the formula described in this paragraph, the amount made available for the program for the fiscal year is less than $30,000,000, the Associate Administrator shall update the plan to award grants based on the formula described in this paragraph, to ensure the Administration is prepared to award grants based on the formula described in this paragraph if the amount made available for the program for the next fiscal year is not less than $30,000,000.

''(K) REPORTING.—Not later than 180 days after the end of each fiscal year for which the amount of grants under this subsection is determined under the formula described in this paragraph, the Associate Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report that provides the information used by the Associate Administrator to determine the amounts of grants under the formula, which shall include for the applicable fiscal year—

''(i) the number of States that applied for a grant under the program;

''(ii) the number of States that received a grant under the program;

''(iii) the raw data for each factor used to calculate award amounts in accordance with subparagraph (B), broken out by State;

''(iv) the utilization rates of each grantee, broken out by grantee;

''(v) the amount carried over by a grantee under paragraph (3)(C)(iii)(II)(aa), broken out by grantee;

''(vi) the amount returned to Treasury due to a failure to use the amounts under paragraph (3)(C)(iii)(II)(cc), broken out by grantee; and

''(vii) the amount returned to the Associate Administrator during the period described in subparagraph (E).''.

SEC. 6005. EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN; CHANGE TO SET ASIDE; CONFORMING CHANGES.

(a) EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 22(l)(1)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)(1)(A)) is amended—

(A) in clause (iii)(II), by adding ''and'' at the end;

(B) by striking clause (iv); and

(C) by redesignating clause (v) as clause (iv).

(2) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR PARTICIPATION IN FOREIGN TRADE MISSIONS.—Section 22(l)(2)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)(2)(A)) is amended by inserting ''by eligible small business concerns that have been in operation for not less than 1 year'' after ''trade missions''.

(b) CHANGE TO DEFINITIONS AND FEDERAL SHARE REQUIREMENTS.—Section 22(l) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (E) as subparagraphs (B) through (F), respectively;

(B) by inserting before subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, the following:

''(A) the term 'commonwealth' means the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;'';

(C) in subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, by striking ''and'' at the end;

(D) in subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, by striking ''States, the District'' and all that follows and inserting ''States and the District of Columbia; and''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) the term 'territory' means the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa.'';

(2) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting '', territories, and commonwealths'' after ''States'';

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by inserting '', territory, or commonwealth'' after ''State'' each place it appears, except in—

(i) subclause (II) of subparagraph (C)(iii), as added by section 6004(b) of this division;

(ii) clause (iv) of subparagraph (D), as added by section 6003(c) of this division;

(iii) subparagraph (G), as added by section 6003(e) of this division; and

(iv) subparagraph (H), as added by section 6003(g) of this division; and

(B) by inserting '', territories, or commonwealths'' after ''States'' each place it appears;

(4) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated by section 6003(h) of this division—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) for a territory or commonwealth, 100 percent.''; and

(5) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated by section 6003(h) of this division—

(A) by inserting '', territory, or commonwealth'' after ''State'' each place it appears, except in subparagraph (C), as added by section 6003(f) of this division; and

(B) by inserting '', territories, or commonwealths'' after ''States'' each place it appears.

SEC. 6006. SURVEY AND ANNUAL REPORT.

(a) SURVEY.—Section 22(l) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (8), as added by section 6003(h) of this division, the following:

''(9) SURVEY.—The Associate Administrator shall conduct an annual survey of each State, territory, or commonwealth that received a grant under this subsection during the preceding year to solicit feedback on the program and develop best practices for grantees.''.

(b) REPORT.—Paragraph (10)(B) of section 22(l) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)), as so redesignated by section 6003(h) of this division, is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) in subclause (III), by inserting '', including the total number of eligible small business concerns assisted by the program (disaggregated by small business concerns located in a low-income or moderate-income community, small business concerns owned and controlled by women, and rural small business concerns)'' before the semicolon at the end;

(B) in subclause (IV), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) in subclause (V)—

(i) by striking ''description of best practices'' and inserting ''detailed description of best practices''; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(VI) an analysis of the performance metrics described in clause (iii), including a determination of whether or not any goals relating to such performance metrics were met, and an analysis of the survey described in paragraph (9); and

''(VII) a description of lessons learned by grant recipients under this subsection that may apply to other assistance provided by the Administration.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) PERFORMANCE METRICS.—Annually, the Associate Administrator shall collect data on eligible small business concerns assisted by the program for the following performance metrics:

''(I) Total number of such concerns, disaggregated by eligible small business concerns that meet 1 or more of the following criteria:

''(aa) Located in a low-income or moderate-income area.

''(bb) Located in a rural area.

''(cc) Located in an HUBZone, as that term is defined in section 31(b).

''(dd) Located in a community that has been designated as an empowerment zone or enterprise community under section 1391 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

''(ee) Located in a community that has been designated as a promise zone by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

''(ff) Located in a community that has been designated as a qualified opportunity zone under section 1400Z–1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

''(gg) Being owned by women.

''(II) Total dollar amount of export sales by eligible small business concerns assisted by the program.

''(III) Number of such concerns that have not previously participated in an activity described in paragraph (2).

''(IV) Number of such concerns that, because of participation in the program, have become a first-time exporter.

''(V) Number of such concerns that, because of participation in the program, have accessed a new market.

''(VI) Number of such concerns that have begun exporting to each new market.''.

SEC. 6007. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Paragraph (12) of section 22(l) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)), as so redesignated by section 6003(h) of this division, is amended by striking ''fiscal years 2016 through 2020'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2025 through 2029''.

SEC. 6008. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Associate Administrator for International Trade of the Small Business Administration shall submit to Congress a report on the State Trade Expansion Program established under section 22(l) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)), as amended by this division, that includes a description of—

(1) the process developed for review of revised budget plans submitted under subparagraph (G) of section 22(l)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)(3)), as added by section 6003(e) of this division;

(2) any changes made to streamline the application process under the State Trade Expansion Program to remove duplicative requirements and create a more transparent process;

(3) the process developed to share best practices by States, territories, and commonwealths described in paragraph (10)(B)(i)(V) of section 22(l) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)), as so redesignated by section 6003(h) of this division, particularly for first-time grant recipients under the State Trade Expansion Program or grant recipients that are facing problems using grant funds; and

(4) the process developed to communicate, both verbally and in writing, relevant information about the State Trade Expansion Program to all grant recipients in a timely manner.

SEC. 6009. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this division, an amendment made by this division, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this division and the amendments made by this division, and the application of the provision or amendment to any other person or circumstance, shall not be affected.

DIVISION H—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

SEC. 9001. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This division may be cited as the ''Department of State Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this division is as follows:

SEC. 9002. DEFINITIONS.

In this division:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of State.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of State.

(5) USAID.—The term ''USAID'' means the United States Agency for International Development.

TITLE I—WORKFORCE MATTERS

SEC. 9101. COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROGERS ACT; CREATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Congress recognizes and honors those who have served, or are presently serving, in the diplomatic corps of the United States, in commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Act entitled, ''An Act for the reorganization and improvement of the Foreign Service of the United States, and for other purposes'' (43 stat. 140, chapter 182), commonly known as the ''Rogers Act of 1924'', which on May 24, 1924, established what has come to be known as the Foreign Service. Today, the Department of State includes more than 13,000 Foreign Service personnel working alongside more than 11,000 civil service personnel and 45,000 locally engaged staff at more than 270 embassies and consulates.

SEC. 9102. WORKFORCE MODERNIZATION EFFORTS.

The Secretary should prioritize efforts to further modernize the Department, including—

(1) making workforce investments, including increasing wages for locally employed staff and providing other non-cash benefits, and hiring up to 100 new members of the Foreign Service above projected attrition to reduce overseas vacancies and mid-level staffing gaps;

(2) utilizing authorities that allow the Department to acquire or build and open new embassy compounds quicker and at significantly less cost to get diplomats on the front lines of strategic competition; and

(3) modernizing legacy systems and human resource processes.

SEC. 9103. TRAINING FLOAT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR CIVIL AND FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a strategy to establish and maintain a ''training float'' by January 1, 2027, to allow for a minimum of 8 percent and up to 10 percent of members of the Civil and Foreign Service to participate in long-term training at any given time. The strategy shall include—

(1) a proposal to ensure that personnel in the training float remain dedicated to training or professional development activities;

(2) recommendations to maintain, and an assessment of the feasibility of maintaining, a minimum of 8 percent of personnel in the float at any given time; and

(3) any additional resources and authorities needed to maintain a training float contemplated by this section.

(b) MONITORING.—For any established training float, not later than 120 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall ensure that personnel in such training float remain dedicated to training or professional development activities.

SEC. 9104. COMPETITIVE LOCAL COMPENSATION PLAN.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the effectiveness and stability of United States foreign missions are linked to the dedication and expertise of locally employed staff; and

(2) ensuring competitive compensation packages benchmarked against the local market is essential not only to retain valuable talent but also to reflect a commitment to employment practices abroad.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $47,500,000 for fiscal year 2025 to support implementation of a global baseline for prevailing wage rate goal for Local Compensation Plan positions at the 75th percentile.

SEC. 9105. LANGUAGE INCENTIVE PAY FOR CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES.

The Secretary and Administrator may provide special monetary incentives to acquire or retain proficiency in foreign languages to civil service employees who serve in domestic positions that require critical language skills. The amounts of such incentives should be similar to the language incentive pay provided to members of the Foreign Service under the Foreign Service pursuant to section 704(b)(3) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4024(b)(3)).

SEC. 9106. STRATEGY FOR TARGETED RECRUITMENT OF CIVIL SERVANTS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a strategy for targeted and proactive recruitment to fill open civil service positions, focusing on recruiting from schools or organizations, and on platforms targeting those with relevant expertise related to such positions.

SEC. 9107. ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Foreign Service personnel at the Department serve with distinction in austere places and under challenging conditions around the world with limited healthcare availability;

(2) the use of paper medical records, which require Foreign Service personnel to carry files containing protected health information from post to post, limits the availability of their health information to Department medical personnel during critical health incidents;

(3) electronic medical records are necessary, particularly as the Department opens new embassies in the South Pacific, thousands of miles from the nearest Department medical officer, who may not have access to up-to-date personnel medical files;

(4) the lack of electronic medical records is even more important for mental health records, as the Department only has a small number of regional medical officer psychiatrists and relies heavily on telehealth for most Foreign Service personnel; and

(5) due to the critical need for electronic medical records, it is imperative that the Department address the situation quickly and focus on secure commercially available or other successful systems utilized by public and private sector organizations with a track record of successfully implementing large-scale projects of this type.

(b) ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS REQUIREMENT.—Not later than December 31, 2027, the Secretary shall have fully implemented an electronic medical records process or system for all Foreign Service personnel and their Eligible Family Members that eliminates reliance on paper medical records and includes appropriate safeguards to protect personal privacy.

(c) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of

Representatives a report on the progress made towards meeting the requirement under subsection (b).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) An updated timeline for implementation.

(B) An estimated completion date.

(C) The amounts expended to date on the required electronic medical records system.

(D) The estimated amount needed to complete the system.

(3) TERMINATION OF REQUIREMENT.—The reporting requirement under paragraph (1) shall cease upon notification to the appropriate congressional committees that electronic medical records have been completely implemented for all Foreign Service personnel.

SEC. 9108. OPTIONS FOR COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on options for integrating 360-degree reviews in personnel files for promotion panel consideration.

(b) EVALUATION SYSTEMS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) one or more options to integrate confidential 360-degree reviews, references, or evaluations by superiors, peers, and subordinates, including consideration of automated reference requests; and

(2) other modifications or systems the Secretary considers relevant.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall describe, with respect to each evaluation system included in the report—

(1) any legal constraints or considerations;

(2) the timeline required for implementation;

(3) any starting and recurring costs in comparison to current processes;

(4) the likely or potential implications for promotion decisions and trends; and

(5) the impact on meeting the personnel needs of the Foreign Service.

SEC. 9109. PORTABILITY OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 9 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4081 et seq.) is amended by adding after section 908 (22 U.S.C. 4088) the following new section:

''SEC. 909. PORTABILITY OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which a member of the Foreign Service or the spouse of a member of the Foreign Service has a covered United States license and such member of the Foreign Service or spouse relocates his or her residency because of an assignment or detail to a location that is not in the jurisdiction of the licensing authority that issued the covered license, such covered license shall be considered valid at a similar scope of practice and in the discipline applied for in the jurisdiction of such new residency for the duration of such an assignment or detail if such member of the Foreign Service or spouse—

''(1) provides a copy of the member's notification of assignment to the licensing authority in the jurisdiction in which the new residency is located;

''(2) remains in good standing with—

''(A) the licensing authority that issued the covered license; and

''(B) every other licensing authority that has issued to the member of the Foreign Service or spouse a license valid at a similar scope of practice and in the discipline applied in the jurisdiction of such licensing authority; and

''(3) submits to the authority of the licensing authority in the new jurisdiction for the purposes of standards of practice, discipline, and fulfillment of any continuing education requirements.

''(b) INTERSTATE LICENSURE COMPACTS.—If a member of the Foreign Service or spouse of a member of the Foreign Service is licensed and able to operate in multiple jurisdictions through an interstate licensure compact, with respect to services provided in the jurisdiction of the interstate licensure compact by a licensee covered by such compact, the member of the Foreign Service or spouse of a member of the Foreign Service shall be subject to the requirements of the compact or the applicable provisions of law of the applicable State and not this section.

''(c) COVERED LICENSE DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'covered license' means a professional license or certificate—

''(1) that is in good standing with the licensing authority that issued such professional license or certificate;

''(2) that the member of the Foreign Service or spouse of a member of the Foreign Service has actively used during the two years immediately preceding the relocation described in subsection (a); and

''(3) that is not a license to practice law.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 2 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 908 the following new item:

''Sec. 909. Portability of professional licenses.''.

SEC. 9110. EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEPARTMENT-PAID STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9201 of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2022 (22 U.S. 2737) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(A), by inserting ''or have graduated from such an institution within the six months preceding application to the Program'' after ''paragraph (1)'';

(2) in subsection (c), by inserting ''and gives preference to individuals who have not previously completed internships within the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development'' after ''career in foreign affairs''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following subsections:

''(k) WORK HOURS FLEXIBILITY.—Students participating in the Program may work fewer than 40 hours per week and a minimum of 24 hours per week to accommodate their academic schedules, provided that the total duration of the internship remains consistent with program requirements.

''(l) MENTORSHIP PROGRAM.—The Secretary and Administrator are authorized to establish a mentoring and coaching program that pairs Foreign Service or Civil Service employees with interns who choose to participate throughout the duration of their internship.''.

SEC. 9111. CAREER INTERMISSION PROGRAM ADJUSTMENT TO ENHANCE RETENTION.

(a) AUTHORITY TO EXTEND FEDERAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFIT COVERAGE.—The Secretary and Administrator are authorized to offer employees the option of extending Federal Employee Health Benefit coverage during pre-approved leave without pay for up to 3 years.

(b) RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREMIUM PAYMENTS.—If an employee elects to continue coverage pursuant to subsection (a) for longer than 365 days, the employee shall be responsible for 100 percent of the premium (employee share and government share) during such longer period.

SEC. 9112. PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall seek to increase the number of professional counselors, including licensed clinical social workers, providing services for employees under chief of mission authority. These positions may be filled under Limited Non-Career Appointment terms.

(b) EMPLOYMENT TARGETS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this division, the Secretary shall seek to employ not fewer than 4 additional professional counselors, including licensed clinical social workers, in the Bureau of Medical Services to work out of regional medical centers abroad.

SEC. 9113. ASSIGNMENT PROCESS MODERNIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall modernize the Foreign Service bidding process, and specifically implement the following elements:

(1) A stable-pair matching, preference-ranking system for non-directed Foreign Service employees and hiring bureaus, allowing for a more strategic alignment of workforce and resources.

(2) Incorporation of lessons learned from the previous stable-pair matching bidding pilot framework referred to as ''iMatch'', but applied more expansively to include non-directed assignments up through FS–01 positions, taking advantage of efficiency benefits such as tandem assignment functionalities.

(3) Mechanisms to ensure transparency, efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, and flexibility in the assignment process, while maintaining equal opportunities for all officers.

(4) An independent auditing process to ensure adherence to established rules, effectiveness in meeting the Department's needs, and prevention of bias or manipulation, including through the use of protected categories in making assignment decisions.

(b) CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN PROMOTION ISSUES.—In parallel with assignment process modernization efforts, the Secretary shall—

(1) assess whether any point systems tied to promotion incentives should consider service in hard-to-fill or critical positions; and

(2) assess whether the practice of dividing the assignment process into winter and summer cycles is necessary or efficient compared to stable matching processes.

(c) REPORTING AND OVERSIGHT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of the assignment process under this section, including—

(1) data on match rates, including in filling critical or priority positions, officer and hiring office satisfaction, and the impact on tandem placements;

(2) recommendations for further modifications to the bidding process;

(3) an overview of the strategy used to communicate any changes to the workforce; and

(4) results of analysis into additional transparency efforts, including those described in subsection (a)(3).

SEC. 9114. REPORT ON MODIFYING CONSULAR TOUR AND FIRST TOURS REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that evaluates the feasibility of—

(1) reducing, removing, and adding flexibility to the directed consular tours requirements for non-consular-coned generalist members of the Foreign Service; and

(2) requiring that first tours for members of the Foreign Service be assigned in the National Capital Region.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include a description of resources required to implement the changes described in such subsection, a timeline for implementation, and an assessment of the benefits and consequences of such changes, including any obstacles.

SEC. 9115. COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON VETTING AND TRANSPARENCY.

(a) COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON VETTING AND TRANSPARENCY.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a consistent and enhanced vetting process to ensure that individuals with substantiated claims of discrimination or harassment against them, to include when administrative or disciplinary actions are taken, are not considered for assignments to senior positions or promotions to senior grades within the Foreign Service.

(b) ELEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE VETTING POLICY.—Following the conclusion of any investigation into an allegation of discrimination or harassment, the Office of Civil Rights, Office of Global Talent Management, and other offices with responsibilities related to the investigation reporting directly to the Secretary shall jointly or individually submit a written summary of any findings of substantiated allegations, along with a summary of findings to the committee responsible for assignments to senior positions prior to such committee rendering a recommendation for assignment.

(c) RESPONSE.—The Secretary shall develop a process for candidates to respond to any allegations that are substantiated and presented to the committee responsible for assignments to senior positions.

(d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary shall submit to the Department workforce and the appropriate congressional committees a report on the number of candidates confirmed for senior diplomatic posts against whom there were substantiated allegations described in subsection (a).

(e) SENIOR POSITIONS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''senior positions'' means Chief of Mission, Under Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Deputy Chief of Mission, and Principal Officer (i.e., Consuls General) positions.

SEC. 9116. EFFICIENCY IN EMPLOYEE SURVEY CREATION AND CONSOLIDATION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that employee surveys are crucial for understanding the needs and concerns of the workforce, and are most effective when they are strategically designed, collected, and the results transparent where possible.

(b) CONSOLIDATED RESOURCE REQUIREMENT.—The Department shall provide a consolidated resource of survey methods, best practices, and a repository of survey data to avoid survey fatigue, minimize duplicating surveys, increase confidence in survey data, and facilitate data-informed decision-making.

(c) TIMING.—The Secretary should determine the overall timing and administration of mandated surveys to ensure maximum participation and robust data sets.

SEC. 9117. PER DIEM ALLOWANCE FOR NEWLY HIRED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

(a) PER DIEM ALLOWANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), any newly hired Foreign Service employee who is in initial orientation training, or any other training expected to last less than 6 months in the Washington, D.C. area before transferring to the employee's first assignment overseas or domestically outside the Washington, D.C. area shall, for the duration of such training, receive a per diem allowance at the levels prescribed under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) LIMITATION ON LODGING EXPENSES.—A newly hired Foreign Service employee may not receive any lodging expenses under the applicable per diem allowance pursuant to paragraph (1) if that employee—

(A) has a permanent residence in the Washington, D.C., area (not including government-supplied housing during such orientation training or other training); and

(B) does not vacate such residence during such orientation training or other training.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''per diem allowance'' has the meaning given such term in section 5701 of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) the term ''Washington, D.C., area'' means the geographic area within a 50-mile radius of the Washington Monument.

SEC. 9118. TERMINATION OF RESIDENTIAL OR MOTOR VEHICLE LEASES AND TELEPHONE SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

Section 907 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4087) is amended by striking ''Service who are posted abroad at a Foreign Service post'' and inserting ''Foreign Service who are posted in the United States or posted abroad''.

SEC. 9119. NEEDS-BASED CHILDCARE SUBSIDIES ENROLLMENT PERIOD.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Department and USAID shall—

(1) issue and maintain guidance on how to apply for any program authorized under section 630 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2002 (Public Law 107–67; 115 Stat. 552); and

(2) consider using maximum flexibilities to accept applications throughout the year or in accordance with Qualifying Life Event changes (as defined by the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHB)).

SEC. 9120. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON DEPARTMENT TRAVELER EXPERIENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the effect of section 40118 of title 49, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ''Fly America Act'') on Department travelers.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include an analysis of the extent to which the Fly America Act—

(1) disproportionately impacts Department personnel;

(2) impacts travelers, including their ability to find suitable flights and the ability to complete their travel in a timely and effective manner;

(3) increases or decreases costs to the United States Government;

(4) produces overly burdensome restrictions in times of urgent travel such as Emergency Visitation Travel and Ordered/Authorized Departure; and

(5) a description of other relevant issues the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

SEC. 9121. QUARTERLY REPORT ON GLOBAL FOOTPRINT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the global footprint of the Department.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include, for each diplomatic post—

(1) the number and type of Department employees assigned to the post; and

(2) the number of allocated positions that remain unfilled.

(c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in classified form.

SEC. 9122. REPORT ON FORMER FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ADVISING FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees, the Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report that identifies former United States Government senior officials who have been approved by the Secretary to advise foreign governments.

(b) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 9123. JOB SHARE AND PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and publish a Department policy on job share and part-time employment opportunities. The policy shall include a template for job sharing arrangements, a database of job share and part-time employment opportunities, and a point of contact in the Bureau of Global Talent Management.

(b) WORKPLACE FLEXIBILITY TRAINING.—The Secretary shall incorporate training on workplace flexibility, including the availability of job share and part-time employment opportunities, into employee onboarding and every level of supervisory training.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the following 5 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on workplace flexibility at the Department, including data on the number of employees utilizing job share or part-time employment arrangements.

SEC. 9124. EXPANSION OF SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN MONTHLY WORKERS' COMPENSATION PAYMENTS AND OTHER PAYMENTS FOR PERSONNEL UNDER CHIEF OF MISSION AUTHORITY.

Section 901 of title IX of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2680b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''of a'' and inserting ''of an''; and

(ii) by striking ''January 1, 2016'' and inserting ''September 11, 2001'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''January 1, 2016'' and inserting ''September 11, 2001''; and

(C) in paragraph (3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''January 1, 2016'' and inserting ''September 11, 2001''; and

(2) in subsection (h)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''January 1, 2016'' and inserting ''September 11, 2001''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''January 1, 2016'' and inserting ''September 11, 2001''.

SEC. 9125. AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE OR REIMBURSE FOR CERTAIN SECURITY SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Administrator are authorized to provide or reimburse for appropriate security services to mitigate risks to certain employees or members of their households resulting from or related to the employee's official duties or affiliation with the Department or USAID. These security equipment or services may include security cameras and services to deprioritize or remove internet search results revealing personally identifiable information.

(b) REQUIRED POLICY.—Prior to providing or reimbursing services pursuant to subsection (a), the Department shall establish a policy that—

(1) outlines the requirements for qualifying for provision or reimbursement of services;

(2) identifies the office responsible for vetting requests for provision or reimbursement of services; and

(3) mandates expeditious consideration of such requests.

(c) PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION.—The Secretary and the Administrator shall not collect personally identifiable information on any United States citizens while undertaking the activities described in subsection (a) unless the collection is authorized by a court as part of a criminal investigation.

TITLE II—ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS

SEC. 9201. STATE-OF-THE-ART BUILDING FACILITIES.

The Secretary should use existing waiver authorities to expedite upgrades and critical maintenance for the Harry S. Truman Federal Building, with the goal of having at least 85 percent of construction and upgrades completed by December 31, 2027.

SEC. 9202. PRESENCE OF CHIEFS OF MISSION AT DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR ARRIVAL AT DIPLOMATIC POST WITHIN 60 DAYS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require that to be eligible for payment of travel expenses for initial arrival at the assigned post, a chief of mission must arrive at the post not later than 60 days after the date on which the chief of mission was confirmed by the Senate.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The restriction under paragraph (1) shall not apply to a chief of mission who arrives later than 60 days after confirmation by the Senate if the delay was caused by one or more of the following:

(A) A flight delay that was outside of the control of the chief of mission or the Department.

(B) A natural disaster, global health emergency, or other naturally occurring event that prevented the chief of mission from entering the country of the assigned post.

(C) Delay or refusal by the government of the host country to accept diplomatic accreditation.

(D) Family or medical emergency.

(E) Extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the chief of mission.

(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirement under paragraph (1) upon a determination that extenuating circumstances warrant such a waiver and upon submission of a brief description of the determination to the appropriate congressional committees.

(4) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and in each case that a chief of mission arrives at an assigned post more than 60 days after confirmation, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report identifying any chief of mission who arrived at the assigned post more than 60 days after confirmation by the Senate, and includes a description of the justification.

(b) NOTIFICATIONS ON DEPARTURES OF CHIEFS OF MISSION.—Beginning on April 1, 2025, for 5 years, the Secretary shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of any chief of mission who has permanently departed from the assigned post within 90 days of the departure.

SEC. 9203. PERIODIC INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEWS OF CHIEFS OF MISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on April 1, 2025, and for a 3-year period thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of State shall conduct management reviews of chiefs of mission, charge d'affaires, and other principal officers assigned overseas during inspection visits, when those officers have been at post more than 180 days.

(b) DISPOSITION.—Reviews conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall be provided to the rating officer for formal discussion as part of the performance evaluation process. The management review shall remain in the employee's personnel file unless otherwise required by law. The subject of a review conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall have the opportunity to respond to and comment on the review, and the response shall be included in the employee's file for promotion panel review.

(c) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT IN CASE OF SERIOUS MANAGEMENT CONCERNS.—The Inspector General of the Department of State shall notify the Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, and the appropriate congressional committees within 30 days of any review in which serious management concerns are raised and substantiated, and which is not otherwise submitted as part of the periodic inspection or report.

SEC. 9204. SPECIAL ENVOY FOR SUDAN.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint a Special Envoy for Sudan at the Department (in this section referred to as the ''Special Envoy''). The Special Envoy shall report directly to the Secretary and should not hold another position in the Department while holding the position of Special Envoy.

(b) DUTIES.—The Special Envoy shall—

(1) lead United States diplomatic efforts to support negotiations and humanitarian response efforts related to alleviating the crisis in Sudan;

(2) be responsible for coordinating policy development and execution related to ending the conflict and a future path to national recovery and democratic transition in Sudan across all bureaus in the Department and coordinating with interagency partners; and

(3) consult regularly with the appropriate congressional committees, and keep such committees fully and currently informed on the status of diplomatic efforts and negotiations.

(c) STAFFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that the Special Envoy is staffed with personnel approved by the envoy, including through reassignment of positions responsible for issues related to Sudan that currently exist within the Department, encouraging details or assignment of employees of the Department from regional and functional bureaus with expertise relevant to Sudan, or through request for interagency details of individuals with relevant experience from other United States Government departments or agencies, including the Department of Treasury.

(2) BRIEFING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Department should brief the appropriate congressional committees on the number of full-time equivalent positions supporting the Special Envoy and the relevant expertise and duties of any employees of the Department serving as detailees.

(d) SUNSET.—The position of the Special Envoy for Sudan shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 9205. SPECIAL ENVOY FOR BELARUS.

Section 6406(d) of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2023 (division F of Public Law 118–31; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amended to read as follows:

''(d) ROLE.—The position of Special Envoy—

''(1) shall only exist while United States diplomatic operations in Belarus at the United States Embassy in Minsk, Belarus are suspended; and

''(2) shall oversee the operations and personnel of the Belarus Affairs Unit.''.

SEC. 9206. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY.

Title I of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 is amended by adding after section 64 (22 U.S.C. 2735a) the following:

''SEC. 65. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY.

''(a) ACTIVITIES.—

''(1) SUPPORT AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary is authorized to provide, by contract, grant, or otherwise, for the performance of appropriate museum visitor and educational outreach services and related events, including—

''(A) organizing programs and conference activities;

''(B) creating, designing, and installing exhibits; and

''(C) conducting museum shop services and food services in the public exhibition and related physical and virtual space utilized by the National Museum of American Diplomacy.

''(2) RECOVERY OF COSTS.—The Secretary of State is authorized to retain the proceeds obtained from customary and appropriate fees charged for the use of facilities, including venue rental for events consistent with the activities described in subsection (a)(1) and museum shop services and food services at the National Museum of American Diplomacy. Such proceeds shall be retained as a recovery of the costs of operating the Museum, credited to a designated Department account that exists for the purpose of funding the Museum and its programs and activities, and shall remain available until expended.

''(b) DISPOSITION OF DOCUMENTS, ARTIFACTS, AND OTHER ARTICLES.—

''(1) PROPERTY.—All historic documents, artifacts, or other articles acquired by the Department of State for the permanent museum collection and determined by the Secretary of State to be suitable for display by the National Museum of American Diplomacy shall be considered to be the property of the United States Government and shall be subject to disposition solely in accordance with this subsection.

''(2) SALE, TRADE, OR TRANSFER.—Whenever the Secretary of State makes a determination described in paragraph (3) with respect to a document, artifact, or other article described in paragraph (1), taking into account considerations such as the Museum's collections management policy and best professional museum practice, the Secretary may sell at fair market value, trade, or transfer such document, artifact, or other article without regard to the requirements of subtitle I of title 40, United States Code. The proceeds of any such sale may be used solely for the advancement of the activities described in subsection (a)(1) of the National Museum of American Diplomacy and may

not be used for any purpose other than the acquisition and direct care of the collections of the Museum.

''(3) DETERMINATIONS PRIOR TO SALE, TRADE, OR TRANSFER.—The determination described in this paragraph with respect to a document, artifact, or other article described in paragraph (1) is a determination that—

''(A) the document, artifact, or other article no longer serves to further the mission of the National Museum of American Diplomacy as set forth in the collections management policy of the Museum;

''(B) the sale at a fair market price based on an independent appraisal or trade or transfer of the document, artifact, or other article would serve to maintain or enhance the Museum collection; and

''(C) the sale, trade, or transfer of the document, artifact, or other article would be in the best interests of the United States.

''(4) LOANS.—In addition to the authorization under paragraph (2) relating to the sale, trade, or transfer of documents, artifacts, or other articles described in paragraph (1), the Secretary of State may—

''(A) loan the documents, artifacts, or other articles to other institutions, both foreign and domestic, for repair, study, or exhibition when not needed for use or display by the National Museum of American Diplomacy; and

''(B) borrow documents, artifacts, or other articles from other institutions or individuals, both foreign and domestic, for activities consistent with subsection (a)(1).''.

SEC. 9207. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH NEGOTIATIONS SUPPORT UNIT WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) there is a need for the United States Government to maintain a permanent institutional hub for technical expertise, strategic advice, and knowledge management in negotiations, mediation, and peace processes in order to prioritize and invest in diplomacy;

(2) the United States plays a role in enabling and supporting peace processes and complex political negotiations, the success of which is essential to stability and democracy around the world;

(3) the meaningful engagement of conflict-affected communities, particularly women, youth, and other impacted populations, is vital to durable, implementable, and sustainable peace;

(4) negotiation requires a specific technical and functional skillset, and thus institutional expertise in this practice area should include trained practitioners and subject matter experts;

(5) such skills should continue to be employed as the United States Government advises and contributes to peace processes, including those where the United States plays a supporting role or is led by multilateral and international partners; and

(6) training programs for United States diplomats should draw upon this expertise and United States lessons learned to help equip diplomats with skills to respond to peace processes and complex political negotiations, and how to request support.

(b) NEGOTIATIONS SUPPORT UNIT.—Section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act (22 U.S.C. 2651a) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(p) NEGOTIATIONS SUPPORT UNIT.—

''(1) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH.—The Secretary of State may establish within the Department of State a unit to be known as the 'Negotiations Support Unit' responsible for carrying out the functions described in paragraph (2), as appropriate.

''(2) FUNCTIONS.—The functions described in this paragraph are the following:

''(A) Serving as a permanent institutional hub and resource for negotiations and peace process expertise and knowledge management.

''(B) Advising the Secretary of State, other relevant senior officials, members of the Foreign Service, and employees of the Department of State on the substance, process, and strategy of negotiations, mediation, peace processes, and other complex political negotiations from strategy and planning to implementation.

''(C) Supporting the development and implementation of United States policy related to complex political negotiations and peace processes, including those led by multilateral and international partners.

''(D) Advising on mediation and negotiations programs to implement United States policy.

''(E) Supporting training for Foreign Services Officers and civil servants on tailored negotiation and mediation skills.

''(F) Working with other governments, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations, as appropriate, to support the development and implementation of United States policy on peace processes and complex political negotiations.

''(G) Any additional duties the Secretary of State may prescribe.

''(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 for the establishment of the Negotiations Support Unit under paragraph (1).''.

SEC. 9208. RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF FUNDS FOR SOLAR PANELS.

The Department may not use Federal funds to procure any solar energy products that were manufactured in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China or other regions in the country, which are known to be produced with forced labor.

SEC. 9209. RESPONSIVENESS TO CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE INQUIRIES.

(a) FINDINGS.— The Congressional Research Service is charged with rendering effective and efficient service to Congress and responding expeditiously, effectively, and efficiently to the needs of Congress.

(b) RESPONSES.—The Secretary and Administrator shall ensure that for any inquiry or request from the Congressional Research Service related to its support of Members of Congress and congressional staff—

(1) an initial answer responsive to the request is sent within 14 days of receipt of the inquiry;

(2) a complete answer responsive to the request is sent within 90 days of receipt of the inquiry, together with an explanation as to why the request was delayed; and

(3) Congressional Research Service staff shall be treated as congressional staff for any informal discussions or briefings.

SEC. 9210. MISSION IN A BOX.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Increasing the United States' global diplomatic footprint is imperative to advance United States' national security interests, particularly in the face of a massive diplomatic expansion of our strategic competitors.

(2) Opening or re-opening diplomatic missions, often in small island nations where there is no United States Government presence, but one is needed to advance United States strategic objectives.

(3) Diplomatic missions should be resourced and equipped for success upon opening to allow diplomats to focus on advancing United States national interests in-country.

(4) The United States can and should move more swiftly to open new diplomatic missions and provide United States diplomats and locally employed staff with a workplace that meets locally appropriate quality, safety, and security standards.

(5) To do this, the Department must streamline and support the process of opening new posts to identify efficiencies and removing obstacles that are unduly complicating the opening of new diplomatic missions, particularly in small island states and similarly situated locations.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on how the Department is creating a ''mission in a box'' concept to provide new such diplomatic missions the needed resources and authorities to quickly and efficiently stand up and operate a mission from the moment United States personnel arrive, or even before the opening of a new mission, particularly in small island nations.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a list of authorities and processes related to the opening of new diplomatic missions;

(B) a list of authorities and processes related to the opening of new diplomatic missions that the Department can waive to expediently stand up new diplomatic missions;

(C) essential functions that each new diplomatic mission should be able to carry out independently upon opening;

(D) a description of functions that another post or support center will need to carry out to support the new mission;

(E) a list of essential equipment and access to facilities, including to support secure communications, that should be provided to each new diplomatic mission, the approval of which should be handled prior to or shortly after the opening of the new diplomatic mission, including arrangements for basic office equipment, vehicles, and housing;

(F) the number of recommended locally engaged staff and United States direct hires resident in-country;

(G) the number of non-resident support staff who are assigned to the new diplomatic mission, such as from another post or regional support center;

(H) a description of how medical and consular support services could be provided;

(I) procedures for requesting an expansion of the post's functions or physical platform after opening, should that be needed;

(J) any other authorities or processes that may be required to successfully and quickly stand up a new diplomatic mission, including any new authorities the Department may need;

(K) a list of incentives, in addition to pay differentials, being considered for such posts; and

(L) a description of any specialized training, including for management and security personnel supporting the establishment of such new embassies that may be required.

(c) SENIOR OFFICIAL TO LEAD NEW EMBASSY EXPANSION.—

(1) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary shall designate an assistant secretary-level senior official to expedite and make recommendations for the reform of procedures for opening new diplomatic missions abroad, particularly in small island states.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The senior official designated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be responsible for proposing policy and procedural changes to the Secretary to—

(A) expediting the resourcing of new diplomatic missions by waiving or reducing when possible mandatory processes required to open new diplomatic missions, taking into

account the threat environment and circumstances in the host country;

(B) when necessary, quickly adjudicating within the Department any decision points that arise during the planning and execution phases of the establishment of a new mission;

(C) ensuring new missions receive the management and operational support needed, including by designating such support be undertaken by another post, regional support center, or Department entities based in the United States; and

(D) ensuring that the authorities provided in the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 1999 (title VI of division A of appendix G of Public Law 106–113), as amended by the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 2022 (section 9301 of Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 3879), are fully utilized in the planning for all new diplomatic missions.

(d) NEW DIPLOMATIC MISSION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''new diplomatic mission'' means any bilateral diplomatic mission opened since January 1, 2020, in a country where there had not been a bilateral diplomatic mission since the date that is 20 years before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) SUNSET.—The authorities and requirements of this section shall terminate 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 9211. REPORT ON UNITED STATES CONSULATE IN CHENGDU, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the effect of the suspension of operations at of the United States Consulate General in Chengdu, People's Republic of China, on July 27, 2020, on diplomatic and consular activities of the United States in Southwestern China, including the provision of consular services to United States citizens, and on relations with the people of Southwestern China, including in areas designated by the Government of the People's Republic of China as autonomous.

SEC. 9212. PERSONNEL REPORTING.

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and at least every 120 days thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report—

(1) describing the on-board personnel levels, hiring, and attrition of the Civil Service, Foreign Service, eligible family members, locally employed staff, and contractor workforce of the Department, on an operating unit-by-operating unit basis; and

(2) including a status update on progress toward fiscal year hiring plans for Foreign Service and Civil Service.

SEC. 9213. SUPPORT CO-LOCATION WITH ALLIED PARTNER NATIONS.

The Secretary, following consultation with the appropriate congressional committees, may alter, repair, and furnish United States Government-owned and leased space for use by the government of a foreign country to facilitate co-location of such government in such space, on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may determine, including with respect to reimbursement of all or part of the costs of such alteration, repair, or furnishing. Reimbursements or advances of funds pursuant to this section may be credited to the currently applicable appropriation and shall be available for the purposes for which such appropriation is authorized.

SEC. 9214. STREAMLINE QUALIFICATION OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT BIDDERS.

Section 402 of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4852) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting ''be awarded'' after ''joint venture persons may'';

(B) by striking ''bid on'' both places it appears; and

(C) in paragraph (1), by striking ''$10,000,000'' and inserting ''$25,000,000''; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph 1, by striking ''two'' and inserting ''three''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''at a United States diplomatic or consular establishment abroad'' and inserting ''on a Federal contract abroad'';

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (E) and (G);

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (E); and

(iv) in subparagraph (E), as redesignated by clause (iii), by striking ''80'' ⟦both places it appears⟧ and inserting ''65''.

TITLE III—INFORMATION SECURITY AND CYBER DIPLOMACY

SEC. 9301. SUPPORTING DEPARTMENT OF STATE DATA ANALYTICS.

There is authorized to be appropriated for the Department of State for fiscal year 2025 $3,000,000 for bureaus to hire Chief Data Officers through the ''Bureau Chief Data Officer Program'', consistent with section 6302 of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2023 (division F of Public Law 118–31; 22 U.S.C. 2651a note).

SEC. 9302. REALIGNING THE REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY OFFICER PROGRAM.

Section 9508(a)(1) of the Department of State Authorizations Act of 2022 (division I of Public Law 117–263; 22 U.S.C. 10305(a)(1)) is amended by inserting '', and shall be administered by the Bureau for Cyberspace and Digital Policy'' before the period at the end.

SEC. 9303. MEASURES TO PROTECT DEPARTMENT DEVICES FROM THE PROLIFERATION AND USE OF FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SPYWARE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

(1) COVERED DEVICE.—The term ''covered device'' means any electronic mobile device, including smartphones, tablet computing devices, or laptop computing device, that is issued by the Department for official use.

(2) FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SPYWARE; SPYWARE.—The terms ''foreign commercial spyware'' and ''spyware'' have the meanings given those terms in section 1102A of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3232a).

(b) PROTECTION OF COVERED DEVICES.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the relevant agencies—

(A) issue standards, guidance, best practices, and policies for Department and USAID personnel to protect covered devices from being compromised by foreign commercial spyware;

(B) survey the processes used by the Department and USAID to identify and catalog instances where a covered device was compromised by foreign commercial spyware over the prior 2 years and it is reasonably expected to have resulted in an unauthorized disclosure of sensitive information; and

(C) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the measures in place to identify and catalog instances of such compromises for covered devices by foreign commercial spyware, which may be submitted in classified form.

(2) NOTIFICATIONS.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Department becomes aware that a covered device was seriously compromised by foreign commercial spyware, the Secretary, in coordination with relevant agencies, shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress of the facts concerning such targeting or compromise, including—

(A) the location of the personnel whose covered device was compromised;

(B) the number of covered devices compromised;

(C) an assessment by the Secretary of the damage to the national security of the United States resulting from any loss of data or sensitive information; and

(D) an assessment by the Secretary of any foreign government or foreign organization or entity, and, to the extent possible, the foreign individuals, who directed and benefitted from any information acquired from the compromise.

(3) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary, in coordination with relevant agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report regarding any covered device that was compromised by foreign commercial spyware, including the information described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (2).

SEC. 9304. REPORT ON CLOUD COMPUTING IN BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the status of the Bureau of Consular Affairs adoption of cloud-based products and services as well as options to require enterprise-wide adoption of cloud computing, including for all consular operations.

SEC. 9305. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROJECTS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Information Officer of the Department of State should, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Consular Affairs, prioritize information technology systems with high potential to accelerate the passport renewal processes, reduce processing times, and reduce dependency on legacy systems.

SEC. 9306. LEVERAGING APPROVED TECHNOLOGY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCIES.

The Secretary and Administrator shall ensure appropriate and secure technological solutions are authorized and available for employee use, where feasible, to promote technological fluency in the workforce, including the integration of secure tools in the evaluation process to ensure performance management standards while maximizing efficiency.

SEC. 9307. OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY FOR CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an Office of the Special Envoy for Critical and Emerging Technology (referred to in this section as the ''Office''), which may be located within the Bureau for Cyberspace and Digital Policy.

(b) LEADERSHIP.—

(1) SPECIAL ENVOY.—The Office shall be headed by a Special Envoy for Critical and Emerging Technology, who shall—

(A) be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; and

(B) have the rank and status of ambassador; and

(C) report to the Ambassador-at-Large for Cyberspace and Digital Policy.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Office may include representatives or expert detailees from other key Federal agencies or research and technology-focused fellowship programs, as determined by the Special Envoy for Critical and Emerging Technology and with the consent of the Ambassador-at-Large for Cyberspace and Digital Policy, in coordination with appropriate senior officials of the Department and such agencies.

(d) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Office shall include—

(1) establishing, in coordination with relevant bureaus, offices and other Federal agencies, an interagency security review process for proposals regarding United States Government-funded international collaboration on certain critical and emerging technologies and associated research;

(2) establishing and coordinating an interagency strategy to facilitate international cooperation with United States allies and partners regarding the development, use, and deployment of critical and emerging technologies and associated standards and safeguards for research security, intellectual property protection, and illicit knowledge transfer;

(3) facilitating technology partnerships with countries and relevant political and economic unions that are committed to—

(A) the rule of law and respect for human rights, including freedom of speech, and expression;

(B) the safe and responsible development and use of certain critical and emerging technologies and the establishment of related norms and standards, including for research security and the protection of sensitive data and technology;

(C) a secure internet architecture governed by a multi-stakeholder model instead of centralized government control;

(D) robust international cooperation to promote open and interoperable technological products and services that are necessary to freedom, innovation, transparency, and privacy; and

(E) multilateral coordination, including through diplomatic initiatives, information sharing, and other activities, to defend the principles described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) against efforts by state and nonstate actors to undermine them;

(4) supporting efforts to harmonize technology governance regimes with partners, coordinating on basic and pre-competitive research and development initiatives, and collaborating to pursue such opportunities in certain critical and emerging technologies;

(5) coordinating with other technology partners on export control policies for certain critical and emerging technologies, including countering illicit knowledge and data transfer related to certain critical and emerging technology research;

(6) conducting diplomatic engagement, in coordination with other bureaus, offices, and relevant Federal departments and agencies, with allies and partners to develop standards and coordinate policies designed to counter illicit knowledge and data transfer in academia related to certain critical and emerging technology research;

(7) coordinating with allies, partners, and other relevant Federal agencies to prevent the exploitation of research partnerships related to certain critical and emerging technologies;

(8) sharing information regarding the threat posed by the transfer of certain critical and emerging technologies to authoritarian governments, including the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, and the ways in which autocratic regimes are utilizing technology, including for military and security purposes, to erode individual freedoms and other foundations of open, democratic societies; and

(9) collaborating with private companies, trade associations, and think tanks to realize the purposes described in paragraphs (1) through (8).

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the following 5 years, the Secretary, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, as appropriate, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an unclassified report, with a classified index, if necessary, regarding—

(1) the activities of the Office related to paragraphs (1) through (9) of subsection (d), including any cooperative initiatives and partnerships pursued with United States allies and partners, and the results of such activities, initiatives, and partnerships;

(2) the activities of the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese Communist Party, and the Russian Federation in sectors related to certain critical and emerging technologies and the threats they pose to the United States; and

(3) an inventory of all international research and development programs for certain critical and emerging technologies funded by the Department or USAID that include participation by institutions or organizations that are affiliated with, or receive support from, the Government of the People's Republic of China or the Government of the Russian Federation.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) CERTAIN CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.—The term ''certain critical and emerging technologies'' means the technologies determined by the Secretary, in consultation with other Federal agencies, from the critical and emerging technologies list published by the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) at the Office of Science and Technology Policy, as amended by subsequent updates to the list issued by the NSTC.

TITLE IV—PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

SEC. 9401. AFRICA BROADCASTING NETWORKS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the resources and timeline needed to establish within the Agency an organization the mission of which shall be to promote democratic values and institutions in Africa by providing objective, accurate, and relevant news and information to the people of Africa and counter disinformation from malign actors, especially in countries in which a free press is banned by the government or not fully established, about the region, the world, and the United States through uncensored news, responsible discussion, and open debate.

SEC. 9402. UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA.

Section 306 of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6205) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsection (g) and (h), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection:

''(f) SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT OF GRANTEES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), a grantee may not be debarred or suspended without consultation with the Chief Executive Officer and a three-fourths majority vote of the Advisory Board in support of such action.

''(2) SUSPENSION.—

''(A) CRITERIA FOR SUSPENSION.—A grantee may not be suspended unless the Advisory Board determines that the criteria described in section 513.405 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, have been met.

''(B) SUSPENDING OFFICIAL.—The Advisory Board shall collectively serve as the suspending official (as described in section 513.105 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations).

''(3) DEBARMENT.—

''(A) CRITERIA FOR DEBARMENT.—A grantee may not be debarred unless the Advisory Board determines that one or more of the causes described in section 513.305 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, has been established.

''(B) DEBARRING OFFICIAL.—The Advisory Board shall collectively serve as the debarring official (as described in section 513.105 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations).''.

SEC. 9403. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS TO SUPPORT UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FAIRS AND EXPOS.

Section 9601 of the Department of State Authorizations Act of 2022 (division I of Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 3909) is amended in subsection (b), by striking ''fiscal years 2023 and 2024'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027''.

SEC. 9404. RESEARCH AND SCHOLAR EXCHANGE PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) it is in the strategic interest of the United States to strengthen relations with Sub-Saharan African states to promote shared interests in the areas of—

(A) democracy and good governance;

(B) education and human capital;

(C) trade and economic development;

(D) science and technology;

(E) biodiversity, food, and agriculture; and

(F) the preservation and management of natural resources, including critical minerals; and

(2) historically Black colleges and universities (referred to in this section as ''HBCUs'') have a long history of—

(A) cultivating diaspora relations with Sub-Saharan African states; and

(B) developing innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges.

(b) STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary and the Administrator should seek to strengthen and expand partnerships and educational exchange opportunities, including by working with HBCUs, which build the capacity and expertise of students, scholars, and experts from Sub-Saharan Africa in key development sectors.

(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator is authorized to—

(1) provide technical assistance to HBCUs to assist in fulfilling the goals of this section, including in developing contracts, operating agreements, legal documents, and related infrastructure; and

(2) upon request, provide feedback to HBCUs, to the maximum extent practicable, after a grant rejection from relevant Federal programs in order to improve future grant applications, as appropriate.

SEC. 9405. WAIVER OF UNITED STATES RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR CHILDREN OF RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY EMPLOYEES.

Section 320(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1431(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (1)(B), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(2) by adding at the end of the following new paragraph:

''(3) the child residing in the legal and physical custody of a citizen parent who is residing abroad as a result of employment with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.''.

TITLE V—DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

SEC. 9501. SECURE EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION AND COUNTERTERRORISM ACT REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe new guidance and requirements consistent with the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 1999 (title VI of division A of appendix G of Public Law 106–113), as amended by the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 2022 (section 9301 of Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 3879) and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing such guidance and requirements, including the impact of implementation on United States diplomatic facilities and construction projects.

(b) CONSEQUENCE FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Secretary fails to meet the requirement under subsection (a) no Federal funds appropriated to the Department shall be used for official travel by senior staff in the executive office of the Diplomatic Security Service, including the Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security, until such time as the Secretary meets the requirement.

(c) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the restriction in subsection (b) to meet urgent and critical needs if the Secretary provides written notification to the appropriate congressional committees in advance of travel.

SEC. 9502. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION FOR SERIOUS SECURITY INCIDENTS.

Section 301(a) of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4833(a)), is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

''(2) INITIAL CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall notify the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the majority and minority leaders of the Senate, and the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives not later than 8 days after a possible Serious Security Incident has taken place. Such notification shall include a preliminary description of the incident, of an incident described in paragraph (1), including any known individuals involved, when and where the incident took place, and the next steps in the investigation.''; and

(3) in paragraph (4), as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this section, by striking ''paragraph (2)'' and inserting ''paragraph (3)''.

SEC. 9503. NOTIFICATIONS REGARDING SECURITY DECISIONS AT DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

Section 103(c) of section 103 of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4802(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(2) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting ''(1) The Secretary''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) The Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate congressional committees within 10 days of any decision to retain authority over or approve decisions at an overseas post, including the movement of personnel.''.

SEC. 9504. SECURITY CLEARANCE SUSPENSION PAY FLEXIBILITIES.

Section 610(c)(6) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4010(c)(6)) is amended by striking ''paragraph 1(B)'' and inserting ''this subsection''.

SEC. 9505. MODIFICATION TO NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR SECURITY CLEARANCE SUSPENSIONS AND REVOCATIONS.

Section 6710(a) of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2023 (division F of Public Law 118–31; 22 U.S.C. 2651a note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and moving such subparagraphs, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the right;

(2) by striking ''IN GENERAL.—With respect'' and inserting the following: ''NOTIFICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect'';

(3) in subparagraph (B), as redesignated by paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''revocation on'' and all that follows through ''or revocation'' and inserting ''revocation on—

''(A) the present employment status of the covered official and whether the job duties of the covered official have changed since such suspension or revocation;

''(B) the reason for such suspension or revocation;

''(C) the investigation of the covered official and the results of such investigation; and

''(D) any negative fallout or impacts for the Department of State, the United States Government, or national security of the United States as a result of the actions for which the security clearance was suspended or revoked.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) SUBMISSION TO INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITIES.—To the extent the basis for any suspension or revocation of a security clearance is premised on the unauthorized release of intelligence (as defined by section 3(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(1)), the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives shall be an appropriate congressional committee for the purposes of this section.''.

TITLE VI—UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 9601. PERSONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

Section 636(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2396(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(17) employing individuals or organizations, by contract, for services abroad for purposes of this Act and title II of the Food for Peace Act, and individuals employed by contract to perform such services shall not by virtue of such employment be considered to be employees of the United States Government (except that the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development may determine the applicability to such individuals of section 5 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1965 (22 U.S.C. 2672) regarding tort claims when such claims arise in foreign countries in connection with United States operations abroad, and of any other law administered by the Administrator concerning the employment of such individuals abroad), and such contracts are authorized to be negotiated, the terms of the contracts to be prescribed, and the work to be performed, where necessary, without regard to such statutory provisions as relate to the negotiation, making, and performance of contracts and performance of work in the United States.''.

SEC. 9602. CRISIS OPERATIONS AND DISASTER SURGE STAFFING.

Section 625 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2385) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(k) CRISIS OPERATIONS AND DISASTER SURGE STAFFING.—(1) The United States Agency for International Development is authorized to appoint personnel in the excepted service using funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available under the heading 'Transition Initiatives' in an Act making appropriations for the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs to carry out the provisions of part I and chapter 4 of part II of this Act of and section 509(b) of the Global Fragility Act of 2019 (title V of division J of Public Law 116–94) to prevent or respond to foreign crises;

''(2) Funds authorized to carry out such purposes may be made available for the operating expenses and administrative costs of such personnel and may remain attributed to any minimum funding requirement for which they were originally made available.

''(3) The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall coordinate with the Office of Personnel Management on implementation of the appointment authority under paragraph (1).''.

SEC. 9603. EDUCATION ALLOWANCE WHILE ON MILITARY LEAVE.

Section 908 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4088) is amended by inserting ''or United States Agency for International Development'' after ''A Department''.

SEC. 9604. INCLUSION IN THE PET TRANSPORTATION EXCEPTION TO THE FLY AMERICA ACT.

Section 6224(a)(1) of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2023 (division F of Public Law 118–31; 22 U.S.C. 4081a) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(1) by striking ''the Department is'' and inserting ''the Department and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and other United States Government employees under chief of mission authority are''; and

(2) by striking ''Department personnel'' and inserting ''Department and USAID personnel, and other United States Government employees under chief of mission authority''.

TITLE VII—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 9701. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS TO PROMOTE UNITED STATES CITIZEN EMPLOYMENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President should direct United States departments and agencies to, in coordination with the Secretary —

(1) fund and recruit Junior Professional Officers for positions at the United Nations and related specialized and technical organizations; and

(2) facilitate secondments, details, and transfers to agencies and specialized and technical bodies of the United Nations.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated an additional $20,000,000 for each of the fiscal

years 2025 through 2031 for the Secretary to support Junior Professional Officers, details, transfers, and interns that advance United States interests at multilateral institutions and international organizations, including to recruit, train, and host events related to such positions, and to promote United States citizen candidates for employment and leadership positions at multilateral institutions and international organizations.

(c) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

(d) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 15 days prior to the obligation of funds authorized to be appropriated under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a notification outlining the amount and proposed use of such funds.

SEC. 9702. AMENDMENT TO REWARDS FOR JUSTICE PROGRAM.

Section 36(b) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(15) the restraining, seizing, forfeiting, or repatriating of stolen assets linked to foreign government corruption and the proceeds of such corruption.''.

SEC. 9703. PASSPORT AUTOMATION MODERNIZATION.

The Act entitled ''An Act to regulate the issue and validity of passports, and for other purposes'', approved July 3, 1926 (44 Stat. 887, 22 U.S.C. 211a), is amended—

(1) by inserting ''and through the use of Department of State electronic systems,'' after ''the insular possessions of the United States,''; and

(2) by striking ''person'' and inserting ''entity''.

SEC. 9704. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN PAYMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.

Section 7(1) of Public Law 106–178 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended, in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (B), by striking ''December 31, 2025'' and inserting ''December 31, 2030''.

SEC. 9705. SUPPORT FOR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) congressional travel is essential to fostering international relations, understanding global issues first-hand, and jointly advancing United States interests abroad; and

(2) only in close coordination and thanks to the dedication of personnel at United States embassies, consulates, and other missions abroad can the success of these vital trips be possible.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall reaffirm to all diplomatic posts the importance of Congressional travel and shall require all such posts to support congressional travel by members and staff of the appropriate congressional committees fully, by making such support available on any day of the week, including Federal and local holidays and, to the extent practical, requiring the direct involvement of mid-level or senior officers.

(c) EXCEPTION FOR SIMULTANEOUS HIGH-LEVEL VISITS.—The requirement under subsection (a) does not apply in the case of a simultaneous visit from the President, the First Lady or First Gentleman, the Vice President, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Defense.

(d) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall require all designated control officers to have been trained on supporting congressional travel at posts abroad prior to the assigned congressional visit.

SEC. 9706. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION WITH VISA APPLICANTS.

Section 833(a)(5)(A) of the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act of 2005 (8 U.S.C. 1375a(a)(5)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(vi) Mailings under this subsection may be transmitted by electronic means, including electronic mail. The Secretary of State may communicate with visa applicants using personal contact information provided to them or to the Secretary of Homeland Security by the applicant, petitioner, or designated agent or attorney.''.

SEC. 9707. ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF VISA INFORMATION.

Section 222 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1202) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i) ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of the immigration laws (as such term is defined in section 101(a)(17) of this Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)), all requirements in the immigration laws for communications with visa applicants shall be deemed satisfied if electronic communications are sent to the applicant using personal contact information at an address for such communications provided by the applicant, petitioner, or designated agent or attorney. The Secretary of State shall take appropriate actions to allow applicants to update their personal contact information and to ensure that electronic communications can be securely transmitted to applicants.''.

SEC. 9708. INCLUSION OF COST ASSOCIATED WITH PRODUCING REPORTS.

(a) ESTIMATED COST OF REPORTS.—Beginning on October 1, 2026, and for the next three fiscal years, the Secretary shall require that any report produced for external distribution, including for distribution to Congress, include the total estimated cost of producing such report and the estimated number of personnel hours.

(b) ANNUAL TOTAL COST OF REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, beginning with fiscal year 2025, and for the next three fiscal years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives an annual report listing the reports issued for the prior fiscal year, the frequency of each report, the total estimated cost associated with producing such report, and the estimated number of personnel hours.

SEC. 9709. EXTENSIONS.

(a) USAID CIVIL SERVICE ANNUITANT WAIVER.—Section 625(j)(1)(B) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2385(j)(1)(B)) shall be applied by striking ''October 1, 2010'' and inserting ''September 30, 2026''.

(b) OVERSEAS PAY COMPARABILITY AND LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The authority provided under section 1113 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111–32; 123 Stat. 1904) shall remain in effect through September 30, 2026.

(2) LIMITATION.—The authority described in paragraph (1) may not be used to pay an eligible member of the Foreign Service (as defined in section 1113(b) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111–32; 123 Stat. 1904)) a locality-based comparability payment (stated as a percentage) that exceeds two-thirds of the amount of the locality-based comparability payment (stated as a percentage) that would be payable to such member under section 5304 of title 5, United States Code, if such member's official duty station were in the District of Columbia.

(c) INSPECTOR GENERAL ANNUITANT WAIVER.—The authorities provided under section 1015(b) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111–212; 124 Stat. 2332)—

(1) shall remain in effect through September 30, 2026; and

(2) may be used to facilitate the assignment of persons for oversight of programs in Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen.

(d) SECURITY REVIEW COMMITTEES.—The authority provided under section 301(a)(3) of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4831(a)(3)) shall remain in effect for facilities in Afghanistan and shall apply to facilities in Ukraine through September 30, 2026, except that the notification and reporting requirements contained in such section shall include the appropriate congressional committees, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

DIVISION I—INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This division may be cited as the ''Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this division is as follows:

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.—The term ''congressional intelligence committees'' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

(2) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term ''intelligence community'' has the meaning given such term in such section.

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2025 for the conduct of the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the Federal Government.

SEC. 102. CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) SPECIFICATIONS OF AMOUNTS.—The amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 101 for the conduct of the intelligence activities of the Federal Government are those specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations prepared to accompany this division.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.—

(1) AVAILABILITY.—The classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in subsection (a) shall be made available to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and to the President.

(2) DISTRIBUTION BY THE PRESIDENT.—Subject to paragraph (3), the President shall provide for suitable distribution of the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in subsection (a), or of appropriate portions of such Schedule, within the executive branch of the Federal Government.

(3) LIMITS ON DISCLOSURE.—The President shall not publicly disclose the classified Schedule of Authorizations or any portion of such Schedule except—

(A) as provided in section 601(a) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (50 U.S.C. 3306(a));

(B) to the extent necessary to implement the budget; or

(C) as otherwise required by law.

SEC. 103. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account of the Director of National Intelligence for fiscal year 2025 the sum of $656,573,000.

(b) CLASSIFIED AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account by subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account for fiscal year 2025 such additional amounts as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a).

SEC. 104. INCREASE IN EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

Appropriations authorized by this division for salary, pay, retirement, and other benefits for Federal employees may be increased by such additional or supplemental amounts as may be necessary for increases in such compensation or benefits authorized by law.

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated for the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability Fund $514,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.

TITLE III—INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MATTERS

SEC. 301. IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN THE INTELLIGENCE INNOVATION BOARD.

Section 7506(g) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''active and'' before ''potential'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community'' and inserting ''the designated agency ethics official'';

(C) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) Authority for the designated agency ethics official to grant a waiver for a conflict of interest, except that—

''(i) no waiver may be granted for an active conflict of interest identified with respect to the Chair of the Board;

''(ii) every waiver for a potential conflict of interest requires review and approval by the Director of National Intelligence; and

''(iii) for every waiver granted, the designated agency ethics official shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees notice of the waiver.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) DEFINITION OF DESIGNATED AGENCY ETHICS OFFICIAL.—In this subsection, the term 'designated agency ethics official' means the designated agency ethics official (as defined in section 13101 of title 5, United States Code) in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.''.

SEC. 302. NATIONAL THREAT IDENTIFICATION AND PRIORITIZATION ASSESSMENT AND NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE STRATEGY.

Section 904(f)(3) of the Counterintelligence Enhancement Act of 2002 (50 U.S.C. 3383(f)(3)) is amended by striking ''National Counterintelligence Executive'' and inserting ''Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center''.

SEC. 303. OPEN SOURCE INTELLIGENCE DIVISION OF OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS PERSONNEL.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this division for the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security may be obligated or expended by the Office to increase, above the staffing level in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, the number of personnel assigned to the Open Source Intelligence Division who work exclusively or predominantly on domestic terrorism issues.

SEC. 304. IMPROVEMENTS TO ADVISORY BOARD OF NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE.

Section 106A(d) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3041a(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)(A)—

(A) in clause (i)—

(i) by striking ''five members appointed by the Director'' and inserting ''up to 8 members appointed by the Director''; and

(ii) by inserting '', and who do not present any actual or potential conflict of interest'' before the period at the end;

(B) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii); and

(C) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

''(ii) MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE.—The Director shall ensure that no more than 2 concurrently serving members of the Board qualify for membership on the Board based predominantly on a single qualification set forth under clause (i).'';

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (7) as paragraphs (6) through (8), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) CHARTER.—The Director shall establish a charter for the Board that includes the following:

''(A) Mandatory processes for identifying potential conflicts of interest, including the submission of initial and periodic financial disclosures by Board members.

''(B) The vetting of potential conflicts of interest by the designated agency ethics official, except that no individual waiver may be granted for a conflict of interest identified with respect to the Chair of the Board.

''(C) The establishment of a process and associated protections for any whistleblower alleging a violation of applicable conflict of interest law, Federal contracting law, or other provision of law.''; and

(4) in paragraph (8), as redesignated by paragraph (2), by striking ''September 30, 2024'' and inserting ''August 31, 2027''.

SEC. 305. NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCE OF GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title X of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3227 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1035. National Intelligence University acceptance of grants

''(a) AUTHORITY.—The Director of National Intelligence may authorize the President of the National Intelligence University to accept qualifying research grants.

''(b) QUALIFYING GRANTS.—A qualifying research grant under this section is a grant that is awarded on a competitive basis by an entity referred to in subsection (c) for a research project with a scientific, literary, or educational purpose.

''(c) ENTITIES FROM WHICH GRANTS MAY BE ACCEPTED.—A qualifying research grant may be accepted under this section only from a Federal agency or from a corporation, fund, foundation, educational institution, or similar entity that is organized and operated primarily for scientific, literary, or educational purposes.

''(d) ADMINISTRATION OF GRANT FUNDS.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNT.—The Director shall establish an account for administering funds received as qualifying research grants under this section.

''(2) USE OF FUNDS.—The President of the University shall use the funds in the account established pursuant to paragraph (1) in accordance with applicable provisions of the regulations and the terms and conditions of the grants received.

''(e) RELATED EXPENSES.—Subject to such limitations as may be provided in appropriations Acts, appropriations available for the National Intelligence University may be used to pay expenses incurred by the University in applying for, and otherwise pursuing, the award of qualifying research grants.

''(f) REGULATIONS.—The Director of National Intelligence shall prescribe regulations for the administration of this section.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents preceding section 2 of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1034 the following new item:

''Sec. 1035. National Intelligence University acceptance of grants.''.

SEC. 306. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR NEW CONTROLLED ACCESS PROGRAMS.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this division for the National Intelligence Program (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)) may be obligated or expended for any controlled access program (as defined in section 501A(d) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091a(d))), or a compartment or subcompartment therein, that is established on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, until the head of the element of the intelligence community responsible for the establishment of such program, compartment, or subcompartment, submits the notification required by section 501A(b) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091a(b)).

SEC. 307. LIMITATION ON TRANSFERS FROM CONTROLLED ACCESS PROGRAMS.

Section 501A(b) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091a(b)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking ''LIMITATION ON ESTABLISHMENT'' and inserting ''LIMITATIONS'';

(2) by striking ''A head'' and inserting the following:

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—A head''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) TRANSFERS.—A head of an element of the intelligence community may not transfer a capability from a controlled access program, including from a compartment or subcompartment therein to a compartment or subcompartment of another controlled access program, to a special access program (as defined in section 1152(g) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994 (50 U.S.C. 3348(g))), or to anything else outside the controlled access program, until the head submits to the appropriate congressional committees and congressional leadership notice of the intent of the head to make such transfer.''.

SEC. 308. EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES OF THE COAST GUARD.

The Commandant of the Coast Guard may use up to 1 percent of the amounts made available for the National Intelligence Program (as such term is defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)) for each fiscal year for intelligence and counterintelligence activities of the Coast Guard relating to objects of a confidential, extraordinary, or emergency nature, which amounts may be accounted for solely on the certification of the Commandant and each such certification shall be considered to be a sufficient voucher for the amount contained in the certification.

SEC. 309. STRENGTHENING OF OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS.

(a) IMPROVEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 311 of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 311. Office of Economic Intelligence and Security

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms 'counterintelligence', 'foreign intelligence', and 'intelligence community' have the meanings given such terms in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence of the Department of the Treasury, the Office of Economic Intelligence and Security (in this section referred to as the 'Office'), which, subject to the availability of appropriations, shall—

''(1) be responsible for the receipt, analysis, collation, and dissemination of foreign intelligence and foreign counterintelligence information relating to the operation and responsibilities of the Department of the Treasury and other Federal agencies executing economic statecraft tools that do not include any elements that are elements of the intelligence community;

''(2) provide intelligence support and economic analysis to Federal agencies implementing United States economic policy, including for purposes of global strategic competition; and

''(3) have such other related duties and authorities as may be assigned by the Secretary for purposes of the responsibilities described in paragraph (1), subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence.

''(c) ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY.—The Office shall be headed by an Assistant Secretary, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Assistant Secretary shall report directly to the Undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 3 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 311 and inserting the following:

''311. Office of Economic Intelligence and Security.''.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(4)(J) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)(J)) is amended by striking ''Office of Intelligence and Analysis'' and inserting ''Office of Economic Intelligence and Security''.

(4) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of the Treasury shall be deemed a reference to the Office of Economic Intelligence and Security of the Department of the Treasury.

(b) STRATEGIC PLAN AND EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Secretary of the Treasury submits to the appropriate committees of Congress a 3-year strategic plan detailing the resources required by the Department of the Treasury.

(3) CONTENTS.—The strategic plan submitted pursuant to paragraph (2) shall include the following:

(A) Staffing and administrative expenses planned for the Department for the 3-year period beginning on the date of the submittal of the plan, including resourcing requirements for each office and division in the Department during such period.

(B) Stuctural changes and resources, including leadership structure and staffing, required to implement subsection (a) during the period described in subparagraph (A).

(c) LIMITATION.—None of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available before the date of the enactment of this Act for the Office of Foreign Asset Control, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, the Office of International Affairs, the Office of Tax Policy, or the Office of Domestic Finance may be transferred or reprogrammed to support the Office of Economic Intelligence and Security established by section 311 of title 31, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

SEC. 310. REPORT ON COLLECTION OF UNITED STATES LOCATION INFORMATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(2) UNITED STATES LOCATION INFORMATION.—The term ''United States location information'' means information derived or otherwise calculated from the use of technology, including global positioning systems-level latitude and longitude coordinates or other mechanisms, that reveals the past or present approximate or specific location of a customer, subscriber, user, or device in the United States, or, if the customer, subscriber, or user is known to be a United States person, outside the United States.

(3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801).

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the Attorney General, shall issue a report on the collection of United States location information by the intelligence community.

(c) CONTENT.—The report required by subsection (a) shall address the filtering, segregation, use, dissemination, masking, and retention of United States location information by the intelligence community.

(d) FORM; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The report required by subsection (a)—

(1) shall be issued in unclassified form and made available to the public; and

(2) may include a classified annex, which the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing—

(1) any rulemaking; or

(2) the collection or access of United States location information.

TITLE IV—COUNTERING FOREIGN THREATS

Subtitle A—People's Republic of China

SEC. 401. ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT STATUS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall, in consultation with the Director of the National Counterproliferation and Biosecurity Center and such heads of elements of the intelligence community as the Director of National Intelligence considers appropriate, conduct an assessment of the current status of the biotechnology of the People's Republic of China, which shall include an assessment of how the People's Republic of China is supporting the biotechnology sector through both licit and illicit means, such as foreign direct investment, subsidies, talent recruitment, or other efforts.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Direct of National Intelligence completes the assessment required by subsection (a), the Director shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the findings of the Director with respect to the assessment.

(3) FORM.—The report submitted pursuant to paragraph (2) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 402. INTELLIGENCE SHARING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ON SYNTHETIC OPIOID PRECURSOR CHEMICALS ORIGINATING IN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—The Director of National Intelligence shall, in coordination with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the heads of such other departments and agencies as the Director considers appropriate, develop a strategy to ensure robust intelligence sharing relating to the illicit trafficking of synthetic opioid precursor chemicals from the People's Republic of China and other source countries.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy developed pursuant to subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of existing intelligence sharing between the intelligence community, the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, any other relevant Federal departments, and State, local, territorial and tribal law enforcement entities, including any mechanisms that allow subject matter experts with and without security clearances to share and receive information and any gaps identified.

(2) A plan to ensure robust intelligence sharing, including by addressing gaps identified pursuant to subparagraph (1) and identifying additional capabilities and resources needed;

(3) A detailed description of the measures used to ensure the protection of civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy rights in carrying out this strategy.

SEC. 403. REPORT ON EFFORTS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO EVADE UNITED STATES TRANSPARENCY AND NATIONAL SECURITY REGULATIONS.

(a) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security

and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on efforts of the People's Republic of China to evade the following:

(1) Identification under section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 10 U.S.C. 113 note).

(2) Restrictions or limitations imposed by any of the following:

(A) Section 805 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31).

(B) Section 889 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232; 41 U.S.C. 3901 note prec.).

(C) The list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury (commonly known as the ''SDN list'').

(D) The Entity List maintained by the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce and set forth in Supplement No. 4 to part 744 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

(E) Commercial or dual-use export controls under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.) and the Export Administration Regulations.

(F) Executive Order 14105 (88 Fed. Reg. 54867; relating to addressing United States investments in certain national security technologies and products in countries of concern), or successor order.

(G) Import restrictions on products made with forced labor implemented by U.S. Customs and Border Protection pursuant to Public Law 117–78 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note).

(c) FORM.—The report submitted pursuant to subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form.

SEC. 404. PLAN FOR RECRUITMENT OF MANDARIN SPEAKERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive plan to prioritize the recruitment and training of individuals who speak Mandarin Chinese for each element of the intelligence community.

(b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

Subtitle B—The Russian Federation

SEC. 411. REPORT ON RUSSIAN FEDERATION SPONSORSHIP OF ACTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.—The term ''foreign terrorist organization'' means an organization that has been designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the Secretary of State, pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

(3) SPECIALLY DESIGNATED GLOBAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.—The term ''specially designated global terrorist organization'' means an organization that has been designated as a specially designated global terrorist by the Secretary of State or the Secretary, pursuant to Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism).

(4) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—The term ''state sponsor of terrorism'' means a country the government of which the Secretary of State has determined has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism, for purposes of—

(A) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)(1)(A)(i));

(B) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

(C) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)); or

(D) any other provision of law.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall, in concurrence with the Secretary of State, conduct and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the following:

(1) A list of all instances in which the Russian Federation, or an official of the Russian Federation, has provided financial, material, technical, or lethal support to foreign terrorist organizations, specially designated global terrorist organizations, state sponsors of terrorism, or for acts of international terrorism.

(2) A list of all instances in which the Russian Federation, or an official of the Russian Federation, has willfully aided or abetted—

(A) the international proliferation of nuclear explosive devices to persons;

(B) a person in acquiring unsafeguarded special nuclear material; or

(C) the efforts of a person to use, develop, produce, stockpile, or otherwise acquire chemical, biological, or radiological weapons.

(3) An assessment of threats to the homeland as a result of Russian government assistance to the Russian Imperial Movement.

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(d) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 30 days after submittal of the report required by subsection (b), the Director of National Intelligence shall provide a classified briefing to the appropriate congressional committees on the methodology and findings of the report.

SEC. 412. ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY COURSE OF WAR IN UKRAINE.

(a) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in collaboration with the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an assessment of the likely course of the war in Ukraine through December 31, 2025.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required by subsection (b) shall include an assessment of each of the following:

(1) The ability of the military of Ukraine to defend against Russian aggression if the United States does, or does not, continue to provide military and economic assistance to Ukraine and does, or does not, maintain policy restrictions on the use of United States weapons during the period described in such subsection.

(2) The likely course of the war during such period if the United States does, or does not, continue to provide military and economic assistance to Ukraine.

(3) The ability and willingness of countries in Europe and outside of Europe to continue to provide military and economic assistance to Ukraine if the United States does, or does not, do so, including the ability of such countries to make up for any shortfall in United States assistance.

(4) The effects of a potential defeat of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on United States national security and foreign policy interests, including the potential for further aggression from the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

(d) FORM.—The assessment required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

Subtitle C—International Terrorism

SEC. 421. ASSESSMENT AND REPORT ON THE THREAT OF ISIS-KHORASAN TO THE UNITED STATES.

(a) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, in coordination with such elements of the intelligence community as the Director considers relevant, shall—

(1) conduct an assessment of the threats to the United States and United States citizens posed by ISIS-Khorasan; and

(2) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a written report on the findings of the assessment.

(c) REPORT ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (b) shall include the following:

(1) A description of the historical evolution of ISIS-Khorasan, beginning with Al-Qaeda and the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

(2) A description of the ideology and stated intentions of ISIS-Khorasan as related to the United States and the interests of the United States, including the homeland.

(3) A list of all terrorist attacks worldwide attributable to ISIS-Khorasan or for which ISIS-Khorasan claimed credit, beginning on January 1, 2015.

(4) A description of the involvement of ISIS-Khorasan in Afghanistan before, during, and after the withdrawal of United States military and civilian personnel and resources in August 2021.

(5) The recruiting and training strategy of ISIS-Khorasan following the withdrawal described in paragraph (4), including—

(A) the geographic regions in which ISIS-Khorasan is physically present;

(B) regions from which ISIS-Khorasan is recruiting; and

(C) its ambitions for individual actors worldwide and in the United States.

(6) A description of the relationship between ISIS-Khorasan and ISIS core, the Taliban, Al-Qaeda, and other terrorist groups, as appropriate.

(7) A description of the association of members of ISIS-Khorasan with individuals formerly detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

(8) A description of ISIS-Khorasan's development of, and relationships with, travel facilitation networks in Europe, Central Asia, Eurasia, and Latin America.

(9) An assessment of ISIS-Khorasan's understanding of the border and immigration policies of the United States.

(10) An assessment of the known travel of members of ISIS-Khorasan within the Western Hemisphere and specifically across the southern border of the United States.

(11) As assessment of ISIS-Khorasan's intentions and capabilities within the United States.

(d) FORM.—The report required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

Subtitle D—Other Foreign Threats

SEC. 431. ASSESSMENT OF VISA-FREE TRAVEL TO AND WITHIN WESTERN HEMISPHERE BY NATIONALS OF COUNTRIES OF CONCERN.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) COUNTRIES OF CONCERN.—The term ''countries of concern'' means—

(A) the Russian Federation;

(B) the People's Republic of China;

(C) the Islamic Republic of Iran;

(D) the Syrian Arab Republic;

(E) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(F) the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; and

(G) the Republic of Cuba.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a written assessment of the impacts to national security caused by travel without a visa to and within countries in the Western Hemisphere by nationals of countries of concern.

(c) FORM.—The assessment required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 432. ASSESSMENT OF THREAT POSED BY CITIZENSHIP-BY-INVESTMENT PROGRAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term ''Assistant Secretary'' means the Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of the Treasury.

(3) CITIZENSHIP-BY-INVESTMENT PROGRAM.—The term ''citizenship-by-investment program'' means an immigration, investment, or other program of a foreign country that, in exchange for a covered contribution, authorizes the individual making the covered contribution to acquire citizenship in such country, including temporary or permanent residence that may serve as the basis for subsequent naturalization.

(4) COVERED CONTRIBUTION.—The term ''covered contribution'' means—

(A) an investment in, or a monetary donation or any other form of direct or indirect capital transfer to, including through the purchase or rental of real estate—

(i) the government of a foreign country; or

(ii) any person, business, or entity in such a foreign country; and

(B) a donation to, or endowment of, any activity contributing to the public good in such a foreign country.

(5) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of National Intelligence.

(b) ASSESSMENT OF THREAT POSED BY CITIZENSHIP-BY-INVESTMENT PROGRAMS.—

(1) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director and the Assistant Secretary, in coordination with the heads of the other elements of the intelligence community and the head of any appropriate Federal agency, shall complete an assessment of the threat posed to the United States by citizenship-by-investment programs.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An identification of each citizenship-by-investment program, including an identification of the foreign country that operates each such program.

(B) With respect to each citizenship-by-investment program identified under subparagraph (A)—

(i) a description of the types of investments required under the program; and

(ii) an identification of the sectors to which an individual may make a covered contribution under the program.

(C) An assessment of the threats posed to the national security of the United States by malign actors that use citizenship-by-investment programs—

(i) to evade sanctions or taxes;

(ii) to facilitate or finance—

(I) crimes relating to national security, including terrorism, weapons trafficking or proliferation, cybercrime, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and espionage; or

(II) any other activity that furthers the interests of a foreign adversary or undermines the integrity of the immigration laws or security of the United States; or

(iii) to undermine the United States and its interests through any other means identified by the Director and the Assistant Secretary.

(D) An identification of the foreign countries the citizenship-by-investment programs of which pose the greatest threat to the national security of the United States.

(3) REPORT AND BRIEFING.—

(A) REPORT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after completing the assessment required by paragraph (1), the Director and the Assistant Secretary shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the findings of the Director and the Assistant Secretary with respect to the assessment.

(ii) ELEMENTS.—The report required by clause (i) shall include the following:

(I) A detailed description of the threats posed to the national security of the United States by citizenship-by-investment programs.

(II) Recommendations for additional resources or authorities necessary to counter such threats.

(III) A description of opportunities to counter such threats.

(iii) FORM.—The report required by clause (i) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex, as appropriate.

(B) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the report required by subparagraph (A) is submitted, the Director and Assistant Secretary shall provide the appropriate committees of Congress with a briefing on the report.

SEC. 433. OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE REVIEW OF VISITORS AND ASSIGNEES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) COUNTRY OF RISK.—The term ''country of risk'' means a country identified in the report submitted to Congress by the Director of National Intelligence in 2024 pursuant to section 108B of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3043b) (commonly referred to as the ''Annual Threat Assessment'').

(3) COVERED ASSIGNEE; COVERED VISITOR.—The terms ''covered assignee'' and ''covered visitor'' mean a foreign national from a country of risk that is ''engaging in competitive behavior that directly threatens U.S. national security'', who is not an employee of either the Department of Energy or the management and operations contractor operating a National Laboratory on behalf of the

Department of Energy, and has requested access to the premises, information, or technology of a National Laboratory.

(4) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence of the Department of Energy (or their designee).

(5) FOREIGN NATIONAL.—The term ''foreign national'' has the meaning given the term ''alien'' in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)).

(6) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term ''National Laboratory'' has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

(7) NONTRADITIONAL COLLECTION THREAT.—The term ''nontraditional collection threat'' means a threat posed by an individual not employed by a foreign intelligence service, who is seeking access to information about a capability, research, or organizational dynamics of the United States to inform a foreign adversary or non-state actor.

(b) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:

(1) The National Laboratories conduct critical, cutting-edge research across a range of scientific disciplines that provide the United States with a technological edge over other countries.

(2) The technologies developed in the National Laboratories contribute to the national security of the United States, including classified and sensitive military technology and dual-use commercial technology.

(3) International cooperation in the field of science is critical to the United States maintaining its leading technological edge.

(4) The research enterprise of the Department of Energy, including the National Laboratories, is increasingly targeted by adversarial nations to exploit military and dual-use technologies for military or economic gain.

(5) Approximately 40,000 citizens of foreign countries, including more than 8,000 citizens from China and Russia, were granted access to the premises, information, or technology of National Laboratories in fiscal year 2023.

(6) The Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence of the Department of Energy is responsible for identifying counterintelligence risks to the Department, including the National Laboratories, and providing direction for the mitigation of such risks.

(c) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) before being granted access to the premises, information, or technology of a National Laboratory, citizens of foreign countries identified in the 2024 Annual Threat Assessment of the intelligence community as ''engaging in competitive behavior that directly threatens U.S. national security'' should be appropriately screened by the National Laboratory to which they seek access, and by the Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence of the Department, to identify risks associated with granting the requested access to sensitive military, or dual-use technologies; and

(2) identified risks should be mitigated.

(d) REVIEW OF COUNTRY OF RISK COVERED VISITOR AND COVERED ASSIGNEE ACCESS REQUESTS.—The Director shall, in consultation with the applicable Under Secretary of the Department of Energy that oversees the National Laboratory, or their designee, promulgate a policy to assess the counterintelligence risk that covered visitors or covered assignees pose to the research or activities undertaken at a National Laboratory.

(e) ADVICE WITH RESPECT TO COVERED VISITORS OR COVERED ASSIGNEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall provide advice to a National Laboratory on covered visitors and covered assignees when 1 or more of the following conditions are present:

(A) The Director has reason to believe that a covered visitor or covered assignee is a nontraditional intelligence collection threat.

(B) The Director is in receipt of information indicating that a covered visitor or covered assignee constitutes a counterintelligence risk to a National Laboratory.

(2) ADVICE DESCRIBED.—Advice provided to a National Laboratory in accordance with paragraph (1) shall include a description of the assessed risk.

(3) RISK MITIGATION.—When appropriate, the Director shall, in consultation with the applicable Under Secretary of the Department of Energy that oversees the National Laboratory, or their designee, provide recommendations to mitigate the risk as part of the advice provided in accordance with paragraph (1).

(f) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and quarterly thereafter, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report, which shall include—

(1) the number of covered visitors or covered assignees permitted to access the premises, information, or technology of each National Laboratory;

(2) the number of instances in which the Director provided advice to a National Laboratory in accordance with subsection (e); and

(3) the number of instances in which a National Laboratory took action inconsistent with advice provided by the Director in accordance with subsection (e).

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2032.

SEC. 434. ASSESSMENT OF THE LESSONS LEARNED BY THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WITH RESPECT TO THE ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR.

(a) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with such other heads of elements of the intelligence community as the Director considers appropriate, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a written assessment of the lessons learned from the Israel-Hamas war.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required by subsection (b) shall include the following:

(1) Lessons learned from the timing and scope of the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas against Israel, including lessons related to United States intelligence cooperation with Israel and other regional partners.

(2) Lessons learned from advances in warfare, including the use by adversaries of a complex tunnel network.

(3) Lessons learned from attacks by adversaries against maritime shipping routes in the Red Sea.

(4) Lessons learned from the use by adversaries of rockets, missiles, and unmanned aerial systems, including attacks by Iran.

(5) Analysis of the impact of the Israel-Hamas war on the global security environment, including the war in Ukraine.

(d) FORM.—The assessment required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 435. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT ON TREN DE ARAGUA.

(a) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, in consultation with such other heads of elements of the intelligence community as the Director considers appropriate, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an intelligence assessment on the gang known as ''Tren de Aragua''.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The intelligence assessment required by subsection (b) shall include the following:

(1) A description of the key leaders, organizational structure, subgroups, presence in countries in the Western Hemisphere, and cross-border illicit drug smuggling routes of Tren de Aragua.

(2) A description of the practices used by Tren de Aragua to generate revenue.

(3) A description of the level at which Tren de Aragua receives support from the regime of Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela.

(4) A description of the manner in which Tren de Aragua is exploiting heightened migratory flows out of Venezuela and throughout the Western Hemisphere to expand its operations.

(5) A description of the degree to which Tren de Aragua cooperates or competes with other criminal organizations in the Western Hemisphere.

(6) An estimate of the annual revenue received by Tren de Aragua from the sale of illicit drugs, kidnapping, and human trafficking, disaggregated by activity.

(7) Any other information the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency considers relevant.

(d) FORM.—The intelligence assessment required by subsection (b) may be submitted in classified form.

SEC. 436. ASSESSMENT OF MADURO REGIME'S ECONOMIC AND SECURITY RELATIONSHIPS WITH STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM AND FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of

Congress a written assessment of the economic and security relationships of the regime of Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela with the countries and organizations described in subsection (c), including formal and informal support to and from such countries and organizations.

(c) COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS DESCRIBED.—The countries and organizations described in this subsection are the following:

(1) The following countries designated by the United States as state sponsors of terrorism:

(A) The Republic of Cuba.

(B) The Islamic Republic of Iran.

(2) The following organizations designated by the United States as foreign terrorist organizations:

(A) The National Liberation Army (ELN).

(B) The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia–People's Army (FARC-EP).

(C) The Segunda Marquetalia.

(d) FORM.—The assessment required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 437. CONTINUED CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF IRANIAN EXPENDITURES SUPPORTING FOREIGN MILITARY AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.

(a) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(b) UPDATE REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an update to the report submitted under section 6705 of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 (22 U.S.C. 9412) to reflect current occurrences, circumstances, and expenditures.

(c) FORM.—The update submitted pursuant to subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

TITLE V—EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

SEC. 501. STRATEGY TO COUNTER FOREIGN ADVERSARY EFFORTS TO UTILIZE BIOTECHNOLOGIES IN WAYS THAT THREATEN UNITED STATES NATIONAL SECURITY.

(a) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that as biotechnologies become increasingly important with regard to the national security interests of the United States, and with the addition of biotechnologies to the biosecurity mission of the National Counterproliferation and Biosecurity Center, the intelligence community must articulate and implement a strategy to identify and assess threats relating to biotechnologies.

(c) STRATEGY FOR BIOTECHNOLOGIES CRITICAL TO NATIONAL SECURITY.—

(1) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall, acting through the Director of the National Counterproliferation and Biosecurity Center and in coordination with the heads of such other elements of the intelligence community as the Director of National Intelligence considers appropriate, develop and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a whole-of-government strategy to address concerns relating to biotechnologies.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy developed and submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Identification and assessment of threats associated with biotechnologies critical to the national security of the United States, including materials that involve a dependency on foreign adversary nations.

(B) A determination of how best to counter foreign adversary efforts to utilize biotechnologies that threaten the national security of the United States, including threats identified pursuant to paragraph (1).

(C) A plan to support efforts of other Federal departments and agencies to secure United States supply chains of the biotechnologies critical to the national security of the United States, by coordinating—

(i) across the intelligence community;

(ii) the support provided by the intelligence community to other relevant Federal departments and agencies and policymakers;

(iii) the engagement of the intelligence community with private sector entities, in coordination with other relevant Federal departments and agencies, as may be applicable; and

(iv) how the intelligence community, in coordination with other relevant Federal departments and agencies, can support such efforts to secure United States supply chains for and use of biotechnologies.

(D) Proposals for such legislative or administrative action as the Directors consider necessary to support the strategy.

SEC. 502. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ROLES, MISSIONS, AND OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERPROLIFERATION AND BIOSECURITY CENTER.

Section 119A of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3057) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4), by striking ''biosecurity and'' and inserting ''counterproliferation, biosecurity, and''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''analyzing and'';

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''Establishing'' and inserting ''Coordinating the establishment of'';

(iii) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''Disseminating'' and inserting ''Overseeing the dissemination of'';

(iv) in subparagraph (E), by inserting ''and coordinating'' after ''Conducting''; and

(v) in subparagraph (G), by striking ''Conducting'' and inserting ''Coordinating and advancing''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and analysis'';

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (E) as subparagraphs (D) through (F), respectively;

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) Overseeing and coordinating the analysis of intelligence on biosecurity and foreign biological threats in support of the intelligence needs of Federal departments and agencies responsible for public health, including by providing analytic priorities to elements of the intelligence community and by conducting and coordinating net assessments.'';

(iv) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated by clause (ii), by inserting ''on matters relating to biosecurity and foreign biological threats'' after ''public health'';

(v) in subparagraph (F), as redesignated by clause (ii), by inserting ''and authorities'' after ''capabilities''; and

(vi) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) Enhancing coordination between elements of the intelligence community and private sector entities on information relevant to biosecurity, biotechnology, and foreign biological threats, and coordinating such information with relevant Federal departments and agencies, as applicable.''.

SEC. 503. ENHANCING CAPABILITIES TO DETECT FOREIGN ADVERSARY THREATS RELATING TO BIOLOGICAL DATA.

(a) DEFINITION OF BIOLOGICAL DATA.—The term ''biological data'' means information, including associated descriptors, derived from the structure, function, or process of a biological system that is either measured, collected, or aggregated for analysis.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall, in consultation with relevant heads of Federal departments and agencies, take the following steps to standardize the use by the intelligence community of biological data and the ability of the intelligence community to detect foreign adversary threats relating to biological data:

(1) Standardize the processes and procedures for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information relating to foreign adversary use of biological data, particularly in ways that threaten or could threaten the national security of the United States.

(2) Issue policy guidance within the intelligence community—

(A) to standardize the data security practices for biological data maintained by the intelligence community, including security practices for the handling and processing of biological data, including with respect to protecting the civil rights, liberties, and privacy of United States persons;

(B) to standardize intelligence engagements with foreign allies and partners with respect to biological data; and

(C) to standardize the creation of metadata relating to biological data maintained by the intelligence community.

(3) Ensure coordination with such Federal departments and agencies and entities in the private sector as the Director considers appropriate to understand how foreign adversaries are accessing and using biological data stored within the United States.

SEC. 504. NATIONAL SECURITY PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS CERTAIN RISKS AND THREATS RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

(a) DEFINITION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—In this section, the term ''artificial intelligence''—

(1) has the meaning given that term in section 5002 of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 (15 U.S.C. 9401); and

(2) includes the artificial systems and techniques described in paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 238(g) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232; 10 U.S.C. 4061 note prec.)

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Artificial intelligence systems demonstrate increased capabilities in the generation of synthetic media and computer programming code, as well as areas such as object recognition, natural language processing, and workflow orchestration.

(2) The growing capabilities of artificial intelligence systems in the areas described in paragraph (1), as well as the greater accessibility of large-scale artificial intelligence models and advanced computation capabilities to individuals, businesses, and governments, have dramatically increased the adoption of artificial intelligence products in the United States and globally.

(3) The advanced capabilities of the systems described in paragraph (1), and their accessibility to a wide-range of users, have increased the likelihood and effect of foreign misuse or malfunction of these systems, such as to assist foreign actors to generate synthetic media for disinformation campaigns, develop or refine malware for computer network exploitation activity by foreign actors, enhance foreign surveillance capabilities in ways that undermine the privacy of citizens of the United States, and increase the risk of foreign exploitation or malfunction of information technology systems incorporating artificial intelligence systems in mission-critical fields such as health care, critical infrastructure, and transportation.

(c) PROCEDURES REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall develop and issue procedures to facilitate and promote mechanisms by which—

(1) vendors of advanced computation capabilities, vendors and commercial users of artificial intelligence systems, as well as independent researchers and other third parties, may effectively notify appropriate elements of the United States Government of—

(A) information security risks emanating from artificial intelligence systems, such as the use of an artificial intelligence system by foreign actors to develop or refine malicious software;

(B) information security risks such as indications of compromise or other threat information indicating a compromise to the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of an artificial intelligence system, or to the supply chain of an artificial intelligence system, including training or test data, frameworks, computing environments, or other components necessary for the training, management, or maintenance of an artificial intelligence system posed by foreign actors;

(C) biosecurity risks emanating from artificial intelligence systems, such as the use of an artificial intelligence system by foreign actors to design, develop, or acquire dual-use biological entities such as putatively toxic small molecules, proteins, or pathogenic organisms;

(D) suspected foreign malign influence (as defined by section 119C of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3059(f))) activity that appears to be facilitated by an artificial intelligence system;

(E) chemical security risks emanating from artificial intelligence systems, such as the use of an artificial intelligence system to design, develop, or acquire chemical weapons or their analogues, or other hazardous chemical compounds; and

(F) any other unlawful activity by foreign actors facilitated by, or directed at, an artificial intelligence system;

(2) elements of the Federal Government may provide threat briefings to vendors of advanced computation capabilities and vendors of artificial intelligence systems, alerting them, as may be appropriate, to potential or confirmed foreign exploitation of their systems, as well as malign foreign plans and intentions; and

(3) an inter-agency process is convened to identify appropriate Federal agencies to assist in the private sector engagement described in this subsection and to coordinate with respect to risks that implicate multiple sectors and Federal agencies, including leveraging Sector Risk Management Agencies (as defined in section 2200 of the Homeland Security Act of 20002 (6 U.S.C. 650)) where appropriate.

(d) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) IN GENERAL.—The President shall provide the appropriate committees of Congress a briefing on procedures developed and issued pursuant to subsection (c).

(3) ELEMENTS.—The briefing provided pursuant to paragraph (2) shall include the following:

(A) A clear specification of which Federal agencies are responsible for leading outreach to affected industry and the public with respect to the matters described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1) of subsection (c) and paragraph (2) of such subsection.

(B) An outline of a plan for industry outreach and public education regarding risks posed by, and directed at, artificial intelligence systems associated with foreign actors.

(C) Use of research and development, stakeholder outreach, and risk management frameworks established pursuant to—

(i) provisions of law in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(ii) Federal agency guidelines.

SEC. 505. ESTABLISHMENT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SECURITY CENTER.

(a) DEFINITION OF COUNTER-ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—In this section, the term ''counter-artificial intelligence'' means techniques or procedures to extract information about the behavior or characteristics of an artificial intelligence system, or to learn how to manipulate an artificial intelligence system, in order to subvert the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of an artificial intelligence system or adjacent system.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Security Agency shall establish an Artificial Intelligence Security Center within the Cybersecurity Collaboration Center of the National Security Agency.

(c) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Artificial Intelligence Security Center shall be as follows:

(1) Developing guidance to prevent or mitigate counter-artificial intelligence techniques.

(2) Promoting secure artificial intelligence adoption practices for managers of national security systems (as defined in section 3552 of title 44, United States Code) and elements of the defense industrial base.

(3) Such other functions as the Director considers appropriate.

SEC. 506. SENSE OF CONGRESS ENCOURAGING INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY TO INCREASE PRIVATE SECTOR CAPITAL PARTNERSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIP WITH OFFICE OF STRATEGIC CAPITAL OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO SECURE ENDURING TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANTAGES.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) acquisition leaders in the intelligence community should further explore the strategic use of private capital partnerships to secure enduring technological advantages for the intelligence community, including through the identification, development, and transfer of promising technologies to full-scale programs capable of meeting intelligence community requirements; and

(2) the intelligence community should undertake regular consultation with Federal partners, such as the Office of Strategic Capital of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, on best practices and lessons learned from their experiences integrating these resources so as to accelerate attainment of national security objectives.

SEC. 507. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY BRIDGE PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term ''nonprofit organization'' means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and that is exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code.

(2) WORK PROGRAM.—The term ''work program'' means any agreement between In-Q-Tel and a third-party company, where such third-party company furnishes or is furnishing a product or service for use by any of In-Q-Tel's government customers to address those customers' technology needs or requirements.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of National Intelligence shall establish within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence a program to assist in the transitioning of products or services from the research and development phase to the contracting and production phase, subject to the extent and in such amounts as specifically provided in advance in appropriations Acts for such purposes.

(2) DESIGNATION.—The program established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be known as the ''Intelligence Community Technology Bridge Program'' (in this subsection referred to as the ''Program'').

(c) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), the Director shall, in consultation with In-Q-Tel, carry out the Program by providing assistance to businesses or nonprofit organizations that are transitioning products or services.

(2) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance provided under paragraph (1) may be provided in the form of a grant or a payment for a product or service.

(3) REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSISTANCE.—Assistance may be provided under paragraph (1) to a business or nonprofit organization that is transitioning a product or service only if—

(A) the business or nonprofit organization—

(i) has participated or is participating in a work program; or

(ii) is engaged with an element of the intelligence community or Department of Defense for research and development; and

(B) the Director or the head of an element of the intelligence community attests that the product or service will be utilized by an element of the intelligence community for a mission need, such as because it would be valuable in addressing a needed capability,

fill or complement a technology gap, or increase the supplier base or price-competitiveness for the Federal Government.

(4) PRIORITY FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS AND NONTRADITIONAL DEFENSE CONTRACTORS.—In providing assistance under paragraph (1), the Director shall prioritize the provision of assistance to small business concerns (as defined under section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a))) and nontraditional defense contractors (as defined in section 3014 of title 10, United States Code).

(d) ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Program shall be administered by the Director.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In administering the Program, the Director—

(A) shall consult with the heads of the elements of the intelligence community; and

(B) may consult with In-Q-Tel, the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Investment Fund, and the Defense Innovation Unit.

(e) SEMIANNUAL REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2025, and not less frequently than twice each fiscal year thereafter in which amounts are available for the provision of assistance under the Program, the Director shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a semiannual report on the Program.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include, for the period covered by the report, information about the following:

(A) How much was expended or obligated by the Program in the provision of assistance under subsection (c).

(B) For what the amounts were expended or obligated.

(C) The effects of such expenditures and obligations, including a timeline for expected milestones for operational use.

(D) A summary of annual transition activities and outcomes of such activities for the intelligence community.

(E) A description of why products and services were chosen for transition, including a description of milestones achieved.

(3) FORM.—Each report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to carry out the Program $75,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.

SEC. 508. ENHANCEMENT OF AUTHORITY FOR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY PUBLIC-PRIVATE TALENT EXCHANGES.

(a) FOCUS AREAS.—Subsection (a) of section 5306 of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 (50 U.S.C. 3334) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Not later than'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) FOCUS AREAS.—The Director shall ensure that the policies, processes, and procedures developed pursuant to paragraph (1) require exchanges under this section relate to intelligence or counterintelligence with a focus on rotations described in such paragraph with private-sector organizations in the following fields:

''(A) Finance.

''(B) Acquisition.

''(C) Biotechnology.

''(D) Computing.

''(E) Artificial intelligence.

''(F) Business process innovation and entrepreneurship.

''(G) Cybersecurity.

''(H) Materials and manufacturing.

''(I) Any other technology or research field the Director determines relevant to meet evolving national security threats in technology sectors.''.

(b) DURATION OF TEMPORARY DETAILS.—Subsection (e) of section 5306 of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 (50 U.S.C. 3334) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''3 years'' and inserting ''5 years''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''3 years'' and inserting ''5 years''.

(c) TREATMENT OF PRIVATE-SECTOR EMPLOYEES.—Subsection (g) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) shall not be considered to have a conflict of interest with an element of the intelligence community solely because of being detailed to an element of the intelligence community under this section.''.

(d) HIRING AUTHORITY.—Such section is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (k); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (i) the following:

''(j) HIRING AUTHORITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may hire, under section 213.3102(r) of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, or successor regulations, an individual who is an employee of a private-sector organization who is detailed to an element of the intelligence community under this section.

''(2) NO PERSONNEL BILLET REQUIRED.—Hiring an individual under paragraph (1) shall not require a personnel billet.''.

(e) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(1) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for 2 more years, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an annual report on—

(A) the implementation of the policies, processes, and procedures developed pursuant to subsection (a) of such section 5306 (50 U.S.C. 3334) and the administration of such section;

(B) how the heads of the elements of the intelligence community are using or plan to use the authorities provided under such section; and

(C) recommendations for legislative or administrative action to increase use of the authorities provided under such section.

SEC. 509. ENHANCING INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ABILITY TO ACQUIRE EMERGING TECHNOLOGY THAT FULFILLS INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY NEEDS.

(a) DEFINITION OF WORK PROGRAM.—The term ''work program'' means any agreement between In-Q-Tel and a third-party company, where such third-party company furnishes or is furnishing a property, product, or service for use by any of In-Q-Tel's government customers to address those customers' technology needs or requirements.

(b) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the exceptions listed under section 3304(a) of title 41, United States Code, and under section 3204(a) of title 10, United States Code, for the use of competitive procedures, the Director of National Intelligence or the head of an element of the intelligence community may use procedures other than competitive procedures to acquire a property, product, or service if—

(1) the property, product, or service is a work program; and

(2) the Director of National Intelligence or the head of an element of the intelligence community certifies that such property, product, or service has been shown to meet an identified need of the intelligence community.

(c) JUSTIFICATION FOR USE OF PROCEDURES OTHER THAN COMPETITIVE PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A property, product, or service may not be acquired by the Director or the head of an element of the intelligence community under subsection (b) using procedures other than competitive procedures unless the acquiring officer for the acquisition justifies, at the directorate level, the use of such procedures in writing.

(2) CONTENTS.—A justification in writing described in paragraph (1) for an acquisition using procedures other than competitive procedures shall include the following:

(A) A description of the need of the element of the intelligence community that the property, product, or service satisfies.

(B) A certification that the anticipated costs will be fair and reasonable.

(C) A description of the market survey conducted or a statement of the reasons a market survey was not conducted.

(D) Such other matters as the Director or the head, as the case may be, determines appropriate.

SEC. 510. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON HOSTILE FOREIGN CYBER ACTORS.

It is the sense of Congress that foreign ransomware organizations, and foreign affiliates associated with them, constitute hostile foreign cyber actors, that covered nations abet and benefit from the activities of these actors, and that such actors should be treated as hostile foreign cyber actors by the United States. Such actors include the following:

(1) DarkSide.

(2) Conti.

(3) REvil.

(4) BlackCat, also known as ''ALPHV''.

(5) LockBit.

(6) Rhysida, also known as ''Vice Society''.

(7) Royal.

(8) Phobos, also known as ''Eight'' and also known as ''Joanta''.

(9) C10p.

(10) Hackers associated with the SamSam ransomware campaigns.

(11) Play.

(12) BianLian.

(13) Killnet.

(14) Akira.

(15) Ragnar Locker, also known as ''Dark Angels''.

(16) Blacksuit.

(17) INC.

(18) Black Basta.

SEC. 511. DEEMING RANSOMWARE THREATS TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE A NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE PRIORITY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term ''critical infrastructure'' has the meaning given such term in subsection (e) of the Critical Infrastructures Protection Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).

(b) RANSOMWARE THREATS TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AS NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE PRIORITY.—The Director of National Intelligence, pursuant to the provisions of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–458), section 1.3(b)(17) of Executive Order 12333 (50 U.S.C. 3001 note; relating to United States intelligence activities), as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, and National Security Presidential Directive–26 (February 24, 2003; relating to intelligence priorities), as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, shall deem ransomware threats to critical infrastructure a national intelligence priority component to the National Intelligence Priorities Framework.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall, in consultation with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the implications of the ransomware threat to United States national security.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall address the following:

(A) Identification of individuals, groups, and entities who pose the most significant threat, including attribution to individual ransomware attacks whenever possible.

(B) Locations from which individuals, groups, and entities conduct ransomware attacks.

(C) The infrastructure, tactics, and techniques ransomware actors commonly use.

(D) Any relationships between the individuals, groups, and entities that conduct ransomware attacks and their governments or countries of origin that could impede the ability to counter ransomware threats.

(E) Intelligence gaps that have impeded, or currently are impeding, the ability to counter ransomware threats.

(3) FORM.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 512. ENHANCING PUBLIC-PRIVATE SHARING ON MANIPULATIVE ADVERSARY PRACTICES IN CRITICAL MINERAL PROJECTS.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall, in consultation with the heads of such Federal agencies as the Director considers appropriate, develop a strategy to improve the sharing between the Federal Government and private entities of information and intelligence to mitigate the threat that foreign adversary illicit activities and tactics pose to United States persons in foreign jurisdictions on projects relating to energy generation and storage, including with respect to critical minerals inputs.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall cover—

(1) how best to assemble and transmit information to United States persons—

(A) to protect against foreign adversary illicit tactics and activities relating to critical mineral projects abroad, including foreign adversary efforts to undermine such projects abroad;

(B) to mitigate the risk that foreign adversary government involvement in the ownership and control of entities engaging in deceptive or illicit activities targeting critical mineral supply chains pose to the interests of the United States; and

(C) to inform on economic espionage and other threats from foreign adversaries to the rights of owners of intellectual property, including owners of patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets, and other sensitive information, with respect to such property that is dependent on critical mineral inputs; and

(2) how best to receive information from United States persons on threats to United States interests in the critical mineral supply chains, resources, mines, and products, including disinformation campaigns abroad or other suspicious malicious activity.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REQUIRED.—

(1) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Director completes developing the strategy pursuant to subsection (a), the Director shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, or provide such committees a briefing on, a plan for implementing the strategy.

TITLE VI—CLASSIFICATION REFORM

SEC. 601. CLASSIFICATION AND DECLASSIFICATION OF INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President may, in accordance with this section, protect from unauthorized disclosure any information owned by, produced by or for, or under the control of the executive branch of the Federal Government when there is a demonstrable need to do so to protect the national security of the United States.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS, CATEGORIES, AND PROCEDURES FOR CLASSIFICATION AND DECLASSIFICATION.—

(1) GOVERNMENTWIDE PROCEDURES.—

(A) CLASSIFICATION.—The President shall, to the extent necessary, establish categories of information that may be classified and procedures for classifying information under subsection (a).

(B) DECLASSIFICATION.—At the same time the President establishes categories and procedures under subparagraph (A), the President shall establish procedures for declassifying information that was previously classified.

(C) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—The procedures established pursuant to subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall—

(i) be the exclusive means for classifying information on or after the effective date established by subsection (c), except with respect to information classified pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);

(ii) ensure that no information is classified unless there is a demonstrable need to do so to protect the national security and there is a reasonable basis to believe that means other than classification will not provide sufficient protection;

(iii) ensure that no information may remain classified indefinitely;

(iv) ensure that no information shall be classified, continue to be maintained as classified, or fail to be declassified in order—

(I) to conceal violations of law, inefficiency, or administrative error;

(II) to prevent embarrassment to a person, organization, or agency;

(III) to restrain competition; or

(IV) to prevent or delay the release of information that does not require protection in the interest of the national security;

(v) ensure that basic scientific research information not clearly related to the national security shall not be classified;

(vi) ensure that information may not be reclassified after being declassified and released to the public under proper authority unless personally approved by the President based on a determination that such reclassification is required to prevent significant and demonstrable damage to the national security;

(vii) establish standards and criteria for the classification of information;

(viii) establish standards, criteria, and timelines for the declassification of information classified under this section;

(ix) provide for the automatic declassification of classified records with permanent historical value;

(x) provide for the timely review of materials submitted for pre-publication;

(xi) ensure that due regard is given for the public interest in disclosure of information;

(xii) ensure that due regard is given for the interests of departments and agencies in sharing information at the lowest possible level of classification;

(D) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—The President shall submit to Congress the categories and procedures established under subsection (b)(1)(A) and the procedures established under subsection (b)(1)(B) at least 60 days prior to their effective date.

(2) AGENCY STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of each Federal agency shall establish a single set of consolidated standards and procedures to permit such agency to classify and declassify information created by such agency in accordance with the categories and procedures established by the President under this section and otherwise to carry out this section.

(B) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Each agency head shall submit to Congress the standards and procedures established by such agency head under subparagraph (A).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) RELATION TO PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVES.—Presidential directives regarding classifying, safeguarding, and declassifying national security information, including Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, as well as procedures issued pursuant to such Presidential directives, shall remain in effect until superseded by procedures issued pursuant to subsection (b).

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 805(2) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3164(2)) is amended by inserting ''section 603 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025,'' before ''Executive Order''.

SEC. 602. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR EXECUTIVE AGENCY INSIDER THREAT PROGRAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY.—The term ''agency'' means any Executive agency as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, any military department as defined in section 102 of such title, and any other entity in the executive branch of the Federal Government that comes into the possession of classified information.

(2) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—The term ''classified information'' means information

that has been determined to require protection from unauthorized disclosure pursuant to Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), or predecessor or successor order, to protect the national security of the United States.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF INSIDER THREAT PROGRAMS.—Each head of an agency with access to classified information shall establish an insider threat program to protect classified information from unauthorized disclosure.

(c) MINIMUM STANDARDS.—In carrying out an insider threat program established by the head of an agency pursuant to subsection (b), the head of the agency shall—

(1) designate a senior official of the agency who shall be responsible for management of the program;

(2) monitor user activity on all classified networks to detect activity indicative of insider threat behavior;

(3) build and maintain an insider threat analytic and response capability to review, assess, and respond to information obtained pursuant to paragraph (2); and

(4) provide insider threat awareness training to all cleared employees within 30 days of entry-on-duty or granting of access to classified information and annually thereafter.

(d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Director of National Intelligence shall, serving as the Security Executive Agent under section 803 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3162a), submit to Congress an annual report on the compliance of agencies with respect to the requirements of this section.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to revoke or diminish any right of an individual provided by section 2303 or 7211 of title 5, United States Code, or under any other applicable protections for whistleblowers provided by law.

TITLE VII—SECURITY CLEARANCES AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WORKFORCE IMPROVEMENTS

SEC. 701. SECURITY CLEARANCES HELD BY CERTAIN FORMER EMPLOYEES OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) ISSUANCE OF GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS REQUIRED.—Section 803(c) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3162a(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) issue guidelines and instructions to the heads of Federal agencies to ensure that any individual who was appointed by the President to a position in an element of the intelligence community but is no longer employed by the Federal Government shall maintain a security clearance only in accordance with Executive Order 12968 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to access to classified information), or successor order.''.

(b) SUBMITTAL OF GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS TO CONGRESS REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall, in the Director's capacity as the Security Executive Agent pursuant to subsection (a) of section 803 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3162a), submit to the congressional intelligence committees and the congressional defense committees the guidelines and instructions required by subsection (c)(5) of such Act, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the congressional defense committees;

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(D) the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once each year thereafter, the Director of National Intelligence shall, in the Director's capacity as the Security Executive Agent pursuant to section 803(a) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3162a(a)), submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an annual report on the eligibility status of former senior employees of the intelligence community to access classified information.

(3) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted pursuant to paragraph (2) shall include, for the period covered by the report, the following:

(A) A list of individuals who were appointed by the President to a position in an element of the intelligence community who currently hold security clearances.

(B) The number of such former employees who still hold security clearances.

(C) For each former employee described in subparagraph (B)—

(i) the position in the intelligence community held by the former employee;

(ii) the years of service in such position; and

(iii) the individual's current employment position and employer.

(D) The Federal entity authorizing and adjudicating the former employees' need to know classified information.

SEC. 702. POLICY FOR AUTHORIZING INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY PROGRAM OF CONTRACTOR-OWNED AND CONTRACTOR-OPERATED SENSITIVE COMPARTMENTED INFORMATION FACILITIES.

(a) POLICY.—The Director of National Intelligence shall establish a standardized policy for the intelligence community that authorizes a program of contractor-owned and contractor-operated sensitive compartmented information facilities as a service to the national security and intelligence enterprises.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The policy established pursuant to subsection (a) shall—

(1) authorize the head of an element of the intelligence community to approve and accredit contractor-owned and contractor-operated sensitive compartmented information facilities; and

(2) designate an element of the intelligence community as a service of common concern (as defined in Intelligence Community Directive 122, or successor directive) to serve as an accrediting authority (in accordance with Intelligence Community Directive 705, or successor directive) on behalf of other elements of the intelligence community for contractor-owned and contractor-operated sensitive compartmented information facilities.

(c) COST CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the policy required by subsection (a), the Director shall consider existing demonstrated models where a contractor acquires, outfits, and manages a facility pursuant to an agreement with the Federal Government such that no funding from the Federal Government is required to carry out the agreement.

(d) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—

(1) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Director establishes the policy pursuant to subsection (a), the Director shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on—

(A) additional opportunities to leverage contractor-owned and contractor-operated sensitive compartmented information facilities; and

(B) recommendations to address barriers, including resources or authorities needed.

SEC. 703. ENABLING INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY INTEGRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 113B the following new section:

''SEC. 113C. ENABLING INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY INTEGRATION.

''(a) PROVISION OF GOODS OR SERVICES.—Subject to and in accordance with any guidance and requirements developed by the Director of National Intelligence, the head of an element of the intelligence community may provide goods or services to another element of the intelligence community without reimbursement or transfer of funds for hoteling initiatives for intelligence community employees and affiliates defined in any such guidance and requirements issued by the Director of National Intelligence.

''(b) APPROVAL.—Prior to the provision of goods or services pursuant to subsection (a), the head of the element of the intelligence community providing such goods or services and the head of the element of the intelligence community receiving such goods or services shall approve such provision.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 113B the following:

''Sec. 113C. Enabling intelligence community integration.''.

SEC. 704. APPOINTMENT OF SPOUSES OF CERTAIN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3330d of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**military and Department of Defense civilian spouses**'' and inserting ''**military and Department of Defense, Department of State, and intelligence community spouses**'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating the second paragraph (4) (relating to a spouse of an employee of the Department of Defense) as paragraph (7);

(B) by striking paragraph (5);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (4) (relating to the spouse of a disabled or deceased member of the Armed Forces) as paragraph (6);

(D) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) The term 'covered spouse' means an individual who is married to an individual who—

''(A)(i) is an employee of the Department of State or an element of the intelligence community; or

''(ii) is a member of the Armed Forces who is assigned to an element of the intelligence community; and

''(B) is transferred in the interest of the Government from one official station within the applicable agency to another within the agency (that is outside of normal commuting distance) for permanent duty.

''(4) The term 'intelligence community' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

''(5) The term 'remote work' refers to a work flexibility arrangement under which an employee—

''(A) is not expected to physically report to the location from which the employee would

otherwise work, considering the position of the employee; and

''(B) performs the duties and responsibilities of such employee's position, and other authorized activities, from an approved worksite—

''(i) other than the location from which the employee would otherwise work;

''(ii) that may be inside or outside the local commuting area of the location from which the employee would otherwise work; and

''(iii) that is typically the residence of the employee.''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) The term 'telework' has the meaning given the term in section 6501.''; and

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in the first paragraph (3) (relating to a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(C) by redesignating the second paragraph (3) (relating to a spouse of an employee of the Department of Defense) as paragraph (4);

(D) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated—

(i) by inserting '', including to a position in which the spouse will engage in remote work'' after ''Department of Defense''; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) a covered spouse to a position in which the covered spouse will engage in remote work.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 3330d and inserting the following:

''3330d. Appointment of military and Department of Defense, Department of State, and intelligence community civilian spouses.''.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATION COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the use of the authority provided pursuant to the amendments made by subsection (a) and the impacts on recruitment, retention, and job opportunities created by such amendments.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or an amendment made by this section shall be construed to revoke or diminish any right of an individual provided by title 5, United States Code.

(e) SUNSET AND SNAPBACK.—On the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) section 3330d of title 5, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a), is amended to read as it read on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) the item for such section in the table of sections for subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, as amended by subsection (b), is amended to read as it read on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 705. PLAN FOR STAFFING THE INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION POSITIONS OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a plan for ensuring that the Directorate of Operations of the Agency has staffed every civilian full-time equivalent position authorized for that Directorate under the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (division G of Public Law 118–31).

(b) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Specific benchmarks and timelines for accomplishing the goal described in such subsection by September 30, 2025.

(2) An assessment of the appropriate balance of staffing between the Directorate of Operations and the Directorate of Analysis consistent with the responsibilities of the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency under section 104A(d) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3036(d)).

SEC. 706. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL SUPPORT FOR FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

It is the sense of Congress that for the purposes of adjudicating the eligibility of an individual for access to classified information, renewal of a prior determination of eligibility for such access, or continuous vetting of an individual for eligibility for such access, including on form SF–86 or any successor form, each of the following should be considered an action advocating for an act of terrorism:

(1) Advocating for violence by an organization designated as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

(2) Soliciting funds for or contributing funds to an organization described in paragraph (1).

TITLE VIII—WHISTLEBLOWERS

SEC. 801. IMPROVEMENTS REGARDING URGENT CONCERNS SUBMITTED TO INSPECTORS GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—Section 103H(k)(5) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3033(k)(5)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by inserting ''(i)'' before ''An employee of'';

(B) by inserting ''in writing'' before ''to the Inspector General''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) The Inspector General shall provide any support necessary to ensure that an employee can submit a complaint or information under this subparagraph in writing and, if such submission is not feasible, shall create a written record of the employee's verbal complaint or information and treat such written record as a written submission.'';

(2) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B)(i)(I) Not later than the end of the period specified in subclause (II), the Inspector General shall determine whether the written complaint or information submitted under subparagraph (A) appears credible. Upon making such a determination, the Inspector General shall transmit to the Director notice of that determination, together with the complaint or information.

''(II) The period specified in this subclause is the 14-calendar-day period beginning on the date on which an employee who has submitted an initial written complaint or information under subparagraph (A) confirms that the employee has submitted to the Inspector General the material the employee intends to submit to Congress under such subparagraph.

''(ii) The Inspector General may transmit a complaint or information submitted under subparagraph (A) directly to the congressional intelligence committees—

''(I) without transmittal to the Director if the Inspector General determines that transmittal to the Director could compromise the anonymity of the employee or result in the complaint or information being transmitted to a subject of the complaint or information; or

''(II) following transmittal to the Director if the Director does not transmit the complaint or information to the congressional intelligence committees within the time period specified in subparagraph (C).'';

(3) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking ''or does not transmit the complaint or information to the Director in accurate form under subparagraph (B),'' and inserting ''does not transmit the complaint or information to the Director in accurate form under subparagraph (B)(i)(I), or makes a determination pursuant to subparagraph (B)(ii)(I) but does not transmit the complaint or information to the congressional intelligence committees within 21 calendar days of receipt,''; and

(B) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

''(ii) An employee may contact the congressional intelligence committees directly as described in clause (i) only if—

''(I) the employee, before making such a contact—

''(aa) transmits to the Director, through the Inspector General, a statement of the employee's complaint or information and notice of the employee's intent to contact the congressional intelligence committees directly; and

''(bb) obtains and follows from the Director, through the Inspector General, direction on how to contact the congressional intelligence committees in accordance with appropriate security practices; or

''(II) the Inspector General—

''(aa) determines that—

''(AA) a transmittal under subclause (I) could compromise the anonymity of the employee or result in the complaint or information being transmitted to a subject of the complaint or information; or

''(BB) the Director has failed to provide adequate direction pursuant to item (bb) of subclause (I) within 7 calendar days of a transmittal under such subclause; and

''(bb) provides the employee direction on how to contact the congressional intelligence committees in accordance with appropriate security practices.''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(J) In this paragraph, the term 'employee', with respect to an employee of an element of the intelligence community, an employee assigned or detailed to an element of the intelligence community, or an employee of a contractor to the intelligence community who may submit a complaint or information to the Inspector General under subparagraph (A), means—

''(i) a current employee at the time of such submission; or

''(ii) a former employee at the time of such submission, if such complaint or information arises from and relates to the period of employment as such an employee.''.

(b) INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.—Section 17(d)(5) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3517(d)(5)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by inserting (i) before ''An employee'';

(B) by inserting ''in writing'' before ''to the Inspector General''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) The Inspector General shall provide any support necessary to ensure that an employee can submit a complaint or information under this subparagraph in writing and, if such submission is not feasible, shall create a written record of the employee's verbal complaint or information and treat such written record as a written submission.'';

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

''(i)(I) Not later than the end of the period specified in subclause (II), the Inspector General shall determine whether the written complaint or information submitted under subparagraph (A) appears credible. Upon making such a determination, the Inspector General shall transmit to the Director notice of that determination, together with the complaint or information.

''(II) The period specified in this subclause is the 14-calendar-day period beginning on the date on which an employee who has submitted an initial written complaint or information under subparagraph (A) confirms that the employee has submitted to the Inspector General the material the employee intends to submit to Congress under such subparagraph.''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) The Inspector General may transmit a complaint or information submitted under subparagraph (A) directly to the congressional intelligence committees—

''(I) without transmittal to the Director if the Inspector General determines that transmittal to the Director could compromise the anonymity of the employee or result in the complaint or information being transmitted to a subject of the complaint or information;

''(II) following transmittal to the Director if the Director does not transmit the complaint or information to the congressional intelligence committees within the time period specified in subparagraph (C) and has not made a determination regarding a conflict of interest pursuant to clause (ii); or

''(III) following transmittal to the Director and a determination by the Director that a conflict of interest exists pursuant to clause (ii) if the Inspector General determines that—

''(aa) transmittal to the Director of National Intelligence could compromise the anonymity of the employee or result in the complaint or information being transmitted to a subject of the complaint or information; or

''(bb) the Director of National Intelligence has not transmitted the complaint or information to the congressional intelligence committees within the time period specified in subparagraph (C).'';

(3) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking ''or does not transmit the complaint or information to the Director in accurate form under subparagraph (B),'' and inserting ''does not transmit the complaint or information to the Director in accurate form under subparagraph (B)(i)(I), or makes a determination pursuant to subparagraph (B)(iii)(I) but does not transmit the complaint or information to the congressional intelligence committees within 21 calendar days of receipt,''; and

(B) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

''(ii) An employee may contact the congressional intelligence committees directly as described in clause (i) only if—

''(I) the employee, before making such a contact—

''(aa) transmits to the Director, through the Inspector General, a statement of the employee's complaint or information and notice of the employee's intent to contact the congressional intelligence committees directly; and

''(bb) obtains and follows from the Director, through the Inspector General, direction on how to contact the congressional intelligence committees in accordance with appropriate security practices; or

''(II) the Inspector General—

''(aa) determines that—

''(AA) the transmittal under subclause (I) could compromise the anonymity of the employee or result in the complaint or information being transmitted to a subject of the complaint or information; or

''(BB) the Director has failed to provide adequate direction pursuant to item (bb) of subclause (I) within 7 calendar days of a transmittal under such subclause; and

''(bb) provides the employee direction on how to contact the congressional intelligence committees in accordance with appropriate security practices.''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(I) In this paragraph, the term 'employee', with respect to an employee of the Agency, or of a contractor to the Agency, who may submit a complaint or information to the Inspector General under subparagraph (A), means—

''(i) a current employee at the time of such submission; or

''(ii) a former employee at the time of such submission, if such complaint or information arises from and relates to the period of employment as such an employee.''.

(c) OTHER INSPECTORS GENERAL OF ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—Section 416 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as redesignated by paragraph (1), the following:

''(1) EMPLOYEE.—The term 'employee', with respect to an employee of an element of the Federal Government covered by subsection (b), or of a contractor to such an element, who may submit a complaint or information to an Inspector General under such subsection, means—

''(A) a current employee at the time of such submission; or

''(B) a former employee at the time of such submission, if such complaint or information arises from and relates to the period of employment as such an employee.'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by inserting ''; SUPPORT FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSION''; after ''MADE'';

(ii) by inserting ''in writing'' after ''may report the complaint or information'' each place it appears; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''in writing'' after ''such complaint or information''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) SUPPORT FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSION.—The Inspector General shall provide any support necessary to ensure that an employee can submit a complaint or information under this paragraph in writing and, if such submission is not feasible, shall create a written record of the employee's verbal complaint or information and treat such written record as a written submission.'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) CREDIBILITY.—

''(A) DETERMINATION.—Not later than the end of the period specified in subparagraph (B), the Inspector General shall determine whether the written complaint or information submitted under subsection (b) appears credible. Upon making such a determination, the Inspector General shall transmit to the head of the establishment notice of that determination, together with the complaint or information.

''(B) PERIOD SPECIFIED.—The period specified in this subparagraph is the 14-calendar-day period beginning on the date on which an employee who has submitted an initial written complaint or information under subsection (b) confirms that the employee has submitted to the Inspector General the material the employee intends to submit to Congress under such subsection.''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) TRANSMITTAL DIRECTLY TO INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.—The Inspector General may transmit the complaint or information directly to the intelligence committees—

''(A) without transmittal to the head of the establishment if the Inspector General determines that transmittal to the head of the establishment could compromise the anonymity of the employee or result in the complaint or information being transmitted to a subject of the complaint or information;

''(B) following transmittal to the head of the establishment if the head of the establishment does not transmit the complaint or information to the intelligence committees within the time period specified in subsection (d) and has not made a determination regarding a conflict of interest pursuant to paragraph (2); or

''(C) following transmittal to the head of the establishment and a determination by the head of the establishment that a conflict of interest exists pursuant to paragraph (2) if the Inspector General determines that—

''(i) transmittal to the Director of National Intelligence or the Secretary of Defense could compromise the anonymity of the employee or result in the complaint or information being transmitted to a subject of the complaint or information; or

''(ii) the Director of National Intelligence or the Secretary of Defense has not transmitted the complaint or information to the intelligence committees within the time period specified in subsection (d).'';

(4) in subsection (e)(1), by striking ''or does not transmit the complaint or information to the head of the establishment in accurate form under subsection (c),'' and inserting ''does not transmit the complaint or information to the head of the establishment in accurate form under subsection (c)(1)(A), or makes a determination pursuant to subsection (c)(3)(A) but does not transmit the complaint or information to the intelligence committees within 21 calendar days of receipt,''; and

(5) in subsection (e), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) LIMITATION.—An employee may contact the intelligence committees directly as described in paragraph (1) only if—

''(A) the employee, before making such a contact—

''(i) transmits to the head of the establishment, through the Inspector General, a statement of the employee's complaint or information and notice of the employee's intent to contact the intelligence committees directly; and

''(ii) obtains and follows from the head of the establishment, through the Inspector General, direction on how to contact the intelligence committees in accordance with appropriate security practices; or

''(B) the Inspector General—

''(i) determines that the transmittal under subparagraph (A) could compromise the anonymity of the employee or result in the complaint or information being transmitted to a subject of the complaint or information; or

''(ii) determines that the head of the establishment has failed to provide adequate direction pursuant to clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) within 7 calendar days of a transmittal under such subparagraph; and

''(iii) provides the employee direction on how to contact the intelligence committees in accordance with appropriate security practices.''.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or an amendment made by this section shall be construed to revoke or diminish any right of an individual provided by section 2303 or 7211 of title 5, United States Code, to make a protected disclosure to any congressional committee.

SEC. 802. PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCLOSURE OF WHISTLEBLOWER IDENTITY AS ACT OF REPRISAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1104(a) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3234(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (I), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as subparagraph (K); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the following:

''(J) an unauthorized whistleblower identity disclosure;''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) UNAUTHORIZED WHISTLEBLOWER IDENTITY DISCLOSURE.—The term 'unauthorized whistleblower identity disclosure' means, with respect to an employee or a contractor employee described in paragraph (3), a knowing and willful disclosure revealing the identity or other personally identifiable information of the employee or contractor employee so as to identify the employee or contractor employee as an employee or contractor employee who has made a lawful disclosure described in subsection (b) or (c), but does not include such a knowing and willful disclosure that meets any of the following criteria:

''(A) Such disclosure was made with the express consent of the employee or contractor employee.

''(B) Such disclosure was made during the course of reporting or remedying the subject of the lawful disclosure of the whistleblower through management, legal, or oversight processes, including such processes relating to human resources, equal opportunity, security, or an Inspector General.

''(C) An Inspector General with oversight responsibility for the relevant covered intelligence community element determines that such disclosure—

''(i) was unavoidable under section 103H of this Act (50 U.S.C. 3033), section 17 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3517), section 407 of title 5, United States Code, or section 420(b)(2)(B) of such title;

''(ii) was made to an official of the Department of Justice responsible for determining whether a prosecution should be undertaken; or

''(iii) was required by statute or an order from a court of competent jurisdiction.''.

(b) HARMONIZATION OF ENFORCEMENT.—Subsection (f) of such section is amended to read as follows:

''(f) ENFORCEMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the President shall provide for the enforcement of this section.

''(2) HARMONIZATION WITH OTHER ENFORCEMENT.—To the fullest extent possible, the President shall provide for enforcement of this section in a manner that is consistent with the enforcement of section 2302(b)(8) of title 5, United States Code, especially with respect to policies and procedures used to adjudicate alleged violations of such section.''.

SEC. 803. PROTECTION FOR INDIVIDUALS MAKING AUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES TO INSPECTORS GENERAL OF ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—Section 103H(g)(3) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3033(g)(3)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively;

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(B) An individual may disclose classified information to the Inspector General in accordance with the applicable security standards and procedures established under Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), section 102A or section 803, chapter 12 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2161 et seq.), or any applicable provision of law. Such a disclosure of classified information that is made by an individual who at the time of the disclosure does not hold the appropriate clearance or authority to access such classified information, but that is otherwise made in accordance with such security standards and procedures, shall be treated as an authorized disclosure and does not violate—

''(i) any otherwise applicable nondisclosure agreement;

''(ii) any otherwise applicable regulation or order issued under the authority of Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information) or chapter 18 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2271 et seq.); or

''(iii) section 798 of title 18, United States Code, or any other provision of law relating to the unauthorized disclosure of national security information.''; and

(3) in the paragraph enumerator, by striking ''(3) '' and inserting ''(3)(A)''.

(b) INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.—Section 17(e)(3) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3517(e)(3)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively;

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(B) An individual may disclose classified information to the Inspector General in accordance with the applicable security standards and procedures established under Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), section 102A or 803 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024; 3162a), or chapter 12 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2161 et seq.). Such a disclosure of classified information that is made by an individual who at the time of the disclosure does not hold the appropriate clearance or authority to access such classified information, but that is otherwise made in accordance with such security standards and procedures, shall be treated as an authorized disclosure and does not violate—

''(i) any otherwise applicable nondisclosure agreement;

''(ii) any otherwise applicable regulation or order issued under the authority of Executive Order 13526 or chapter 18 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2271 et seq.); or

''(iii) section 798 of title 18, United States Code, or any other provision of law relating to the unauthorized disclosure of national security information.''; and

(3) in the paragraph enumerator, by striking ''(3) '' and inserting ''(3)(A)''.

(c) OTHER INSPECTORS GENERAL OF ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—Section 416 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i) PROTECTION FOR INDIVIDUALS MAKING AUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES.—An individual may disclose classified information to an Inspector General of an element of the intelligence community in accordance with the applicable security standards and procedures established under Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), section 102A or 803 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024; 3162a), or chapter 12 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2161 et seq.). Such a disclosure of classified information that is made by an individual who at the time of the disclosure does not hold the appropriate clearance or authority to access such classified information, but that is otherwise made in accordance with such security standards and procedures, shall be treated as an authorized disclosure and does not violate—

''(1) any otherwise applicable nondisclosure agreement;

''(2) any otherwise applicable regulation or order issued under the authority of Executive Order 13526 or chapter 18 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2271 et seq.); or

''(3) section 798 of title 18, or any other provision of law relating to the unauthorized disclosure of national security information.''.

SEC. 804. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY OF CERTAIN INSPECTORS GENERAL TO RECEIVE PROTECTED DISCLOSURES.

Section 1104 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3234) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting ''or covered intelligence community element'' after ''the appropriate inspector general of the employing agency''; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by inserting ''or covered intelligence community element'' after ''the appropriate inspector general of the employing or contracting agency''.

SEC. 805. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS RELATING TO PSYCHIATRIC TESTING OR EXAMINATION.

(a) PROHIBITED PERSONNEL PRACTICES.—Section 1104(a)(3) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3234(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as subparagraph (K); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the following new subparagraph:

''(J) a decision to order psychiatric testing or examination; or''.

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to matters arising under section 1104 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3234) on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 806. ESTABLISHING PROCESS PARITY FOR ADVERSE SECURITY CLEARANCE AND ACCESS DETERMINATIONS.

Subparagraph (C) of section 3001(j)(4) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341(j)(4)) is amended to read as follows:

''(C) CONTRIBUTING FACTOR.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (iii), in determining whether the adverse security clearance or access determination violated paragraph (1), the agency shall find that paragraph (1) was violated if the individual has demonstrated that a disclosure described in paragraph (1) was a contributing factor in the adverse security clearance or access determination taken against the individual.

''(ii) CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.—An individual under clause (i) may demonstrate that the disclosure was a contributing factor in the adverse security clearance or access determination taken against the individual through circumstantial evidence, such as evidence that—

''(I) the official making the determination knew of the disclosure; and

''(II) the determination occurred within a period such that a reasonable person could conclude that the disclosure was a contributing factor in the determination.

''(iii) DEFENSE.—In determining whether the adverse security clearance or access determination violated paragraph (1), the agency shall not find that paragraph (1) was violated if, after a finding that a disclosure was a contributing factor, the agency demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that it would have made the same security clearance or access determination in the absence of such disclosure.''.

SEC. 807. ELIMINATION OF CAP ON COMPENSATORY DAMAGES FOR RETALIATORY REVOCATION OF SECURITY CLEARANCES AND ACCESS DETERMINATIONS.

Section 3001(j)(4)(B) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341(j)(4)(B)) is amended, in the second sentence, by striking ''not to exceed $300,000''.

TITLE IX—ANOMALOUS HEALTH INCIDENTS

SEC. 901. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY FOR SECRETARY OF STATE AND HEADS OF OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES TO PAY COSTS OF TREATING QUALIFYING INJURIES AND MAKE PAYMENTS FOR QUALIFYING INJURIES TO THE BRAIN.

Section 901(e) of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2680b(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter before subparagraph (A), by striking ''a employee who, on or after January 1, 2016'' and inserting ''an employee who, on or after September 11, 2001''; and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting '', or duty station in the United States'' before the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''January 1, 2016'' and inserting ''September 11, 2001''; and

(B) by inserting '', or duty station in the United States,'' after ''pursuant to subsection (f)'';

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the matter before subparagraph (A), by striking ''January 1, 2016'' and inserting ''September 11, 2001''; and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting '', or duty station in the United States'' before the semicolon; and

(4) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by inserting '', or duty station in the United States'' before the semicolon; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting '', or duty station in the United States'' before the semicolon.

TITLE X—UNIDENTIFIED ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA

SEC. 1001. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES REVIEW OF ALL-DOMAIN ANOMALY RESOLUTION OFFICE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ''congressional defense committees'', ''congressional leadership'', and ''unidentified anomalous phenomena'' have the meanings given such terms in section 1683(n) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (50 U.S.C. 3373(n)).

(b) REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (in this section referred to as the ''Office'').

(c) ELEMENTS.—The review conducted pursuant to subsection (b) shall include the following:

(1) A review of the implementation by the Office of the duties and requirements of the Office under section 1683 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (50 U.S.C. 3373), such as the process for operational unidentified anomalous phenomena reporting and coordination with the Department of Defense, the intelligence community, and other departments and agencies of the Federal Government and non-Government entities.

(2) A review of such other matters relating to the activities of the Office that pertain to unidentified anomalous phenomena as the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

(d) REPORT.—Following the review required by subsection (b), in a timeframe mutually agreed upon by the congressional intelligence committees, the congressional defense committees, congressional leadership, and the Comptroller General, the Comptroller General shall submit to such committees and congressional leadership a report on the findings of the Comptroller General with respect to the review conducted under subsection (b).

SEC. 1002. SUNSET OF REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO AUDITS OF UNIDENTIFIED ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA HISTORICAL RECORD REPORT.

Section 6001 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (50 U.S.C. 3373 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by inserting ''until April 1, 2025'' after ''quarterly basis''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by inserting ''until June 30, 2025'' after ''semiannually thereafter''.

SEC. 1003. FUNDING LIMITATIONS RELATING TO UNIDENTIFIED ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP.—The term ''congressional leadership'' means—

(A) the majority leader of the Senate;

(B) the minority leader of the Senate;

(C) the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(3) NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM.—The term ''National Intelligence Program'' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

(4) UNIDENTIFIED ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA.—The term ''unidentified anomalous phenomena'' has the meaning given such term in section 1683(n) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (50 U.S.C. 3373(n)).

(b) LIMITATIONS.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this division for the National Intelligence Program may be obligated or expended in support of any activity involving unidentified anomalous phenomena protected under any form of special access or restricted access limitation unless the Director of National Intelligence has provided the details of the activity to the appropriate committees of Congress and congressional leadership, including for any activities described in a report released by the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office in fiscal year 2024.

(c) LIMITATION REGARDING INDEPENDENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Independent research and development funding relating to unidentified anomalous phenomena shall not be allowable as indirect expenses for purposes of contracts covered by such instruction, unless such material and information is made available to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership.

TITLE XI—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 1101. LIMITATION ON DIRECTIVES UNDER FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT OF 1978 RELATING TO CERTAIN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDERS.

Section 702(i) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1881a(i)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(7) LIMITATION RELATING TO CERTAIN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDERS.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

''(i) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term 'appropriate committees of Congress' means—

''(I) the congressional intelligence committees;

''(II) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

''(III) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

''(ii) COVERED ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDER.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), the term 'covered electronic communication service provider' means—

''(aa) a service provider described in section 701(b)(4)(E);

''(bb) a custodian of an entity as defined in section 701(b)(4)(F); or

''(cc) an officer, employee, or agent of a service provider described in section 701(b)(4)(E).

''(II) EXCLUSION.—The term 'covered electronic communication service provider' does not include—

''(aa) an electronic communication service provider described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 701(b)(4); or

''(bb) an officer, employee, or agent of an electronic communication service provider described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 701(b)(4).

''(iii) COVERED OPINIONS.—The term 'covered opinions' means the opinions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review authorized for public release on August 23, 2023 (Opinion and Order, In re Petition to Set Aside or Modify Directive Issued to [REDACTED], No. [REDACTED], (FISA Ct. [REDACTED] 2022) (Contreras J.); Opinion, In re Petition to Set Aside or Modify Directive Issued to [REDACTED], No. [REDACTED], (FISA Ct. Rev. [REDACTED] 2023) (Sentelle, J.; Higginson, J.; Miller J.)).

''(B) LIMITATION.—A directive may not be issued under paragraph (1) to a covered electronic communication service provider unless the covered electronic communication service provider is a provider of the type of service at issue in the covered opinions.

''(C) REQUIREMENTS FOR DIRECTIVES TO COVERED ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDERS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), any directive issued under paragraph (1) on or after the date of the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 to a covered electronic communication service provider that is not prohibited by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph shall include a summary description of the services at issue in the covered opinions.

''(ii) DUPLICATE SUMMARIES NOT REQUIRED.—A directive need not include a summary description of the services at issue in the covered opinions if such summary was included in a prior directive issued to the covered electronic communication service provider and the summary has not materially changed.

''(D) FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW.—

''(i) NOTIFICATION.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), on or after the date of the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, each time the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence serve a directive under paragraph (1) to a covered electronic communication service provider that is not prohibited by subparagraph (B) and each time the Attorney General and the Director materially change a directive under paragraph (1) served on a covered electronic communication service provider that is not prohibited by subparagraph (B), the Attorney General shall provide the directive to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court on or before the date that is 7 days after the date on which the Attorney General and the Director served the directive, along with a description of the covered electronic communication service provider to whom the directive is issued and the services at issue.

''(II) DUPLICATION NOT REQUIRED.—The Attorney General does not need to provide a directive or description to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court under subclause (I) if a directive and description concerning the covered electronic communication service provider was previously provided to the Court and the directive or description has not materially changed.

''(ii) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—As soon as feasible and not later than the initiation of collection, the Attorney General shall, for each directive described in subparagraph (i), provide the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court a summary description of the type of equipment to be accessed, the nature of the access, and the form of assistance required pursuant to the directive.

''(iii) REVIEW.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court may review a directive received by the Court under clause (i) to determine whether the directive is consistent with subparagraph (B) and affirm, modify, or set aside the directive.

''(II) NOTICE OF INTENT TO REVIEW.—Not later than 10 days after the date on which the Court receives information under clause (ii) with respect to a directive, the Court shall provide notice to the Attorney General and cleared counsel for the covered electronic communication service provider indicating whether the Court intends to undertake a review under subclause (I) of this clause.

''(III) COMPLETION OF REVIEWS.—In a case in which the Court provides notice under subclause (II) indicating that the Court intends to review a directive under subclause (I), the Court shall, not later than 30 days after the date on which the Court provides notice under subclause (II) with respect to the directive, complete the review.

''(E) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—

''(i) NOTIFICATION.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), on or after the date of the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, each time the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence serve a directive under paragraph (1) on a covered electronic communication service provider that is not prohibited by subparagraph (B) and each time the Attorney General and the Director materially change a directive under paragraph (1) served on a covered electronic communication service provider that is not prohibited by subparagraph (B), the Attorney General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress the directive on or before the date that is 7 days after the date on which the Attorney General and the Director serve the directive, along with a description of the covered electronic communication service provider to whom the directive is issued and the services at issue.

''(II) DUPLICATION NOT REQUIRED.—The Attorney General does not need to submit a directive or description to the appropriate committees of Congress under subclause (I) if a directive and description concerning the covered electronic communication service provider was previously submitted to the appropriate committees of Congress and the directive or description has not materially changed.

''(ii) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—As soon as feasible and not later than the initiation of collection, the Attorney General shall, for each directive described in subparagraph (i), provide the appropriate committees of Congress a summary description of the type of equipment to be accessed, the nature of the access, and the form of assistance required pursuant to the directive.

''(iii) REPORTING.—

''(I) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 and not less frequently than once each quarter thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the number of directives served, during the period covered by the report, under paragraph (1) to a covered electronic communication service provider and the number of directives provided during the same period to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court under subparagraph (D)(i).

''(II) FORM OF REPORTS.—Each report submitted pursuant to subclause (I) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

''(III) SUBMITTAL OF COURT OPINIONS.—Not later than 45 days after the date on which the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court or the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review issues an opinion relating to a directive issued to a covered electronic communication service provider under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a copy of the opinion.''.

SEC. 1102. STRENGTHENING ELECTION CYBERSECURITY TO UPHOLD RESPECT FOR ELECTIONS THROUGH INDEPENDENT TESTING ACT OF 2024.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Strengthening Election Cybersecurity to Uphold Respect for Elections through Independent Testing Act of 2024'' or the ''SECURE IT Act of 2024''.

(b) REQUIRING PENETRATION TESTING AS PART OF THE TESTING AND CERTIFICATION OF VOTING SYSTEMS.—Section 231 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20971) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) REQUIRED PENETRATION TESTING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall provide for the conduct of penetration testing as part of the testing, certification, decertification, and recertification of voting system hardware and software by the Commission based on accredited laboratories under this section.

''(2) ACCREDITATION.—The Commission shall develop a program for the acceptance of the results of penetration testing on election systems. The penetration testing required by this subsection shall be required for Commission certification. The Commission shall vote on the selection of any entity identified. The requirements for such selection shall be based on consideration of an entity's competence to conduct penetration testing under this subsection. The Commission may consult with the National Institute of Standards and Technology or any other appropriate Federal agency on lab selection criteria and other aspects of this program.''.

(c) INDEPENDENT SECURITY TESTING AND COORDINATED CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITY DISCLOSURE PROGRAM FOR ELECTION SYSTEMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title II of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15401 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new part:

''PART 7—INDEPENDENT SECURITY TESTING AND COORDINATED CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITY DISCLOSURE PILOT PROGRAM FOR ELECTION SYSTEMS

''SEC. 297. INDEPENDENT SECURITY TESTING AND COORDINATED CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITY DISCLOSURE PILOT PROGRAM FOR ELECTION SYSTEMS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commission, in consultation with the Secretary, shall establish an Independent Security Testing and Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure Pilot Program for Election Systems (VDP–E) (in this section referred to as the 'program') to test for and disclose cybersecurity vulnerabilities in election systems.

''(2) DURATION.—The program shall be conducted for a period of 5 years.

''(3) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the program, the Commission, in consultation with the Secretary, shall—

''(A) establish a mechanism by which an election systems vendor may make their election system (including voting machines and source code) available to cybersecurity researchers participating in the program;

''(B) provide for the vetting of cybersecurity researchers prior to their participation in the program, including the conduct of background checks;

''(C) establish terms of participation that—

''(i) describe the scope of testing permitted under the program;

''(ii) require researchers to—

''(I) notify the vendor, the Commission, and the Secretary of any cybersecurity vulnerability they identify with respect to an election system; and

''(II) otherwise keep such vulnerability confidential for 180 days after such notification;

''(iii) require the good faith participation of all participants in the program;

''(iv) require an election system vendor, within 180 days after validating notification of a critical or high vulnerability (as defined by the National Institute of Standards and Technology) in an election system of the vendor, to—

''(I) send a patch or propound some other fix or mitigation for such vulnerability to the appropriate State and local election officials, in consultation with the researcher who discovered it; and

''(II) notify the Commission and the Secretary that such patch has been sent to such officials;

''(D) in the case where a patch or fix to address a vulnerability disclosed under subparagraph (C)(ii)(I) is intended to be applied to a system certified by the Commission, provide—

''(i) for the expedited review of such patch or fix within 90 days after receipt by the Commission; and

''(ii) if such review is not completed by the last day of such 90-day period, that such patch or fix shall be deemed to be certified by the Commission, subject to any subsequent review of such determination by the Commission; and

''(E) 180 days after the disclosure of a vulnerability under subparagraph (C)(ii)(I), notify the Director of the Cybersecurity and

Infrastructure Security Agency of the vulnerability for inclusion in the database of Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures.

''(4) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION; SAFE HARBOR.—

''(A) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—Participation in the program shall be voluntary for election systems vendors and researchers.

''(B) SAFE HARBOR.—When conducting research under this program, such research and subsequent publication shall be—

''(i) authorized in accordance with section 1030 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Computer Fraud and Abuse Act'), (and similar State laws), and the election system vendor will not initiate or support legal action against the researcher for accidental, good faith violations of the program; and

''(ii) exempt from the anti-circumvention rule of section 1201 of title 17, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Digital Millennium Copyright Act'), and the election system vendor will not bring a claim against a researcher for circumvention of technology controls.

''(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to limit or otherwise affect any exception to the general prohibition against the circumvention of technological measures under subparagraph (A) of section 1201(a)(1) of title 17, United States Code, including with respect to any use that is excepted from that general prohibition by the Librarian of Congress under subparagraphs (B) through (D) of such section 1201(a)(1).

''(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITY.—The term 'cybersecurity vulnerability' means, with respect to an election system, any security vulnerability that affects the election system.

''(B) ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term 'election infrastructure' means—

''(i) storage facilities, polling places, and centralized vote tabulation locations used to support the administration of elections for public office; and

''(ii) related information and communications technology, including—

''(I) voter registration databases;

''(II) election management systems;

''(III) voting machines;

''(IV) electronic mail and other communications systems (including electronic mail and other systems of vendors who have entered into contracts with election agencies to support the administration of elections, manage the election process, and report and display election results); and

''(V) other systems used to manage the election process and to report and display election results on behalf of an election agency.

''(C) ELECTION SYSTEM.—The term 'election system' means any information system that is part of an election infrastructure, including any related information and communications technology described in subparagraph (B)(ii).

''(D) ELECTION SYSTEM VENDOR.—The term 'election system vendor' means any person providing, supporting, or maintaining an election system on behalf of a State or local election official.

''(E) INFORMATION SYSTEM.—The term 'information system' has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

''(F) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

''(G) SECURITY VULNERABILITY.—The term 'security vulnerability' has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501).''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to subtitle D of title II the following:

''PART 7—INDEPENDENT SECURITY TESTING AND COORDINATED CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITY DISCLOSURE PROGRAM FOR ELECTION SYSTEMS

''Sec. 297. Independent security testing and coordinated cybersecurity vulnerability disclosure program for election systems.''.

SEC. 1103. PARITY IN PAY FOR STAFF OF THE PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD AND THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

Section 1061(j)(1) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 2000ee(j)(1)) is amended by striking ''except that'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''except that no rate of pay fixed under this subsection may exceed the highest amount paid by any element of the intelligence community for a comparable position, based on salary information provided to the chairman of the Board by the Director of National Intelligence.''.

SEC. 1104. MODIFICATION AND REPEAL OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) BRIEFING ON IRANIAN EXPENDITURES SUPPORTING FOREIGN MILITARY AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.—Section 6705(a)(1) of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 (22 U.S.C. 9412(a)(1)) is amended by striking '', and not less frequently than once each year thereafter provide a briefing to Congress,''.

(b) REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS ON NATIONAL SECURITY EFFECTS OF GLOBAL WATER INSECURITY AND EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND PANDEMICS.—Section 6722(b) of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 (50 U.S.C. 3024 note; division E of Public Law 116–92) is amended by—

(1) striking paragraph (2); and

(2) redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

(c) REPEAL OF REPORT ON REMOVAL OF SATELLITES AND RELATED ITEMS FROM THE UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.—Section 1261(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (22 U.S.C. 2778 note; Public Law 112–239) is repealed.

(d) BRIEFING ON REVIEW OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ANALYTIC PRODUCTION.—Section 1019(c) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3364(c)) is amended by striking ''December 1'' and inserting ''February 1''.

(e) REPEAL OF REPORT ON OVERSIGHT OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN ACADEMIA.—Section 5713 of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 (50 U.S.C. 3369b) is repealed.

(f) REPEAL OF BRIEFING ON IRANIAN EXPENDITURES SUPPORTING FOREIGN MILITARY AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.—Section 6705 of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 (22 U.S.C. 9412) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b);

(2) by striking the enumerator and heading for subsection (a);

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively, and moving such subsections, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the left;

(4) in subsection (a), as so redesignated, by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, and moving such paragraphs, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the left; and

(5) in paragraph (1), as so redesignated, by redesignating clauses (i) through (v) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively, and moving such subparagraphs, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the left.

(g) REPEAL OF REPORT ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT RISKS.—Section 6716 of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 (50 U.S.C. 3370a) is repealed.

(h) REPEAL OF REPORT ON INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS.—Section 6725(c) of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 (50 U.S.C. 3334g(c)) is repealed.

(i) REPEAL OF REPORT ON DATA COLLECTION ON ATTRITION IN INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—Section 306(c) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (50 U.S.C. 3334h(c)) is repealed.

SEC. 1105. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES TO BE USED PRIMARILY BY INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—Section 602(a) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1995 (50 U.S.C. 3304(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''$6,000,000'' and inserting ''$9,000,000''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''$2,000,000'' each place it appears and inserting ''$4,000,000''; and

(B) by striking ''$6,000,000'' and inserting ''$9,000,000''.

(b) COPYRIGHT PROTECTION FOR CIVILIAN FACULTY OF CERTAIN ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS.—Section 105 of title 17, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 105. Subject matter of copyright: United States Government works

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Copyright protection under this title is not available for any work of the United States Government, but the United States Government is not precluded from receiving and holding copyrights transferred to it by assignment, bequest, or otherwise.

''(b) COPYRIGHT PROTECTION OF CERTAIN WORKS.—Subject to subsection (c), the covered author of a covered work owns the copyright to that covered work.

''(c) USE BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—

''(1) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AUTHORITY.—With respect to a covered author who produces a covered work in the course of employment at a covered institution described in subparagraphs (A) through (K) of subsection (d)(2), the Secretary of Defense may direct the covered author to provide the Federal Government with an irrevocable, royalty-free, worldwide, nonexclusive license to reproduce, distribute, perform, or display such covered work for purposes of the United States Government.

''(2) SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY AUTHORITY.—With respect to a covered author who produces a covered work in the course of employment at the covered institution described in subsection (d)(2)(L), the Secretary of Homeland Security may direct the covered author to provide the Federal Government with an irrevocable, royalty-free, worldwide, nonexclusive license to reproduce, distribute, perform, or display such covered work for purposes of the United States Government.

''(3) DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITY.—With respect to a covered author who produces a covered work in the course of employment at the covered institution described in subsection (d)(2)(M), the Director of National Intelligence may direct the covered author to provide the Federal Government with an irrevocable, royalty-free, worldwide, nonexclusive license to reproduce, distribute, perform, or display such

covered work for purposes of the United States Government.

''(4) SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY.—With respect to a covered author who produces a covered work in the course of employment at the covered institution described in subsection (d)(2)(N), the Secretary of Transportation may direct the covered author to provide the Federal Government with an irrevocable, royalty-free, worldwide, nonexclusive license to reproduce, distribute, perform, or display such covered work for purposes of the United States Government.

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COVERED AUTHOR.—The term 'covered author' means a civilian member of the faculty of a covered institution.

''(2) COVERED INSTITUTION.—The term 'covered institution' means the following:

''(A) National Defense University.

''(B) United States Military Academy.

''(C) Army War College.

''(D) United States Army Command and General Staff College.

''(E) United States Naval Academy.

''(F) Naval War College.

''(G) Naval Postgraduate School.

''(H) Marine Corps University.

''(I) United States Air Force Academy.

''(J) Air University.

''(K) Defense Language Institute.

''(L) United States Coast Guard Academy.

''(M) National Intelligence University.

''(N) United States Merchant Marine Academy.

''(3) COVERED WORK.—The term 'covered work' means a literary work produced by a covered author in the course of employment at a covered institution for publication by a scholarly press or journal.''.

DIVISION J—JUDICIAL UNDERSTAFFING DELAYS GETTING EMERGENCIES SOLVED

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Judicial Understaffing Delays Getting Emergencies Solved Act of 2024'' or the ''JUDGES Act of 2024''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Article III of the Constitution of the United States gives Congress the power to establish judgeships in the district courts of the United States.

(2) Congress has not created a new district court judgeship since 2003 and has not enacted comprehensive judgeship legislation since 1990.

(3) This represents the longest period of time since district courts of the United States were established in 1789 that Congress has not authorized any new permanent district court judgeships.

(4) By the end of fiscal year 2022, filings in the district courts of the United States had increased by 30 percent since the last comprehensive judgeship legislation.

(5) As of March 31, 2023, there were 686,797 pending cases in the district courts of the United States, with an average of 491 weighted case filings per judgeship over a 12-month period.

(6) To deal with increased filings in the district courts of the United States, the Judicial Conference of the United States requested the creation of 66 new district court judgeships in its 2023 report.

SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGES FOR THE DISTRICT COURTS.

(a) ADDITIONAL JUDGESHIPS.—

(1) 2025.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(i) 1 additional district judge for the central district of California;

(ii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of California;

(iii) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of California;

(iv) 1 additional district judge for the district of Delaware;

(v) 1 additional district judge for the middle district of Florida;

(vi) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Indiana;

(vii) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of Iowa;

(viii) 1 additional district judge for the district of New Jersey;

(ix) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of New York;

(x) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of Texas; and

(xi) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Texas.

(B) TABLES.—The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(i) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

''California:	
Northern	15
Eastern	7
Central	28
Southern	13'';

(ii) by striking the item relating to Delaware and inserting the following:

''Delaware	5'';

(iii) by striking the items relating to Florida and inserting the following:

''Florida:	
Northern	4
Middle	16
Southern	17'';

(iv) by striking the items relating to Indiana and inserting the following:

''Indiana:	
Northern	5
Southern	6'';

(v) by striking the items relating to Iowa and inserting the following:

''Iowa:	
Northern	3
Southern	3'';

(vi) by striking the item relating to New Jersey and inserting the following:

''New Jersey	18'';

(vii) by striking the items relating to New York and inserting the following:

''New York:	
Northern	5
Southern	29
Eastern	15
Western	4'';

and

(viii) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

''Texas:	
Northern	12
Southern	20
Eastern	8
Western	13''.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph shall take effect on January 21, 2025.

(2) 2027.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(i) 1 additional district judge for the district of Arizona;

(ii) 2 additional district judges for the central district of California;

(iii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of California;

(iv) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of California;

(v) 1 additional district judge for the middle district of Florida;

(vi) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Florida;

(vii) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of Georgia;

(viii) 1 additional district judge for the district of Idaho;

(ix) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of Texas; and

(x) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Texas.

(B) TABLES.—The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (1) of this subsection, is amended—

(i) by striking the item relating to Arizona and inserting the following:

''Arizona	13'';

(ii) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

''California:	
Northern	16
Eastern	8
Central	30
Southern	13'';

(iii) by striking the items relating to Florida and inserting the following:

''Florida:	
Northern	4
Middle	17
Southern	18'';

(iv) by striking the items relating to Georgia and inserting the following:

''Georgia:	
Northern	12
Middle	4
Southern	3'';

(v) by striking the item relating to Idaho and inserting the following:

''Idaho	3'';

and

(vi) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

''Texas:	
Northern	13
Southern	21
Eastern	8
Western	13''.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph shall take effect on January 21, 2027.

(3) 2029.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(i) 1 additional district judge for the central district of California;

(ii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of California;

(iii) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of California;

(iv) 1 additional district judge for the district of Colorado;

(v) 1 additional district judge for the district of Delaware;

(vi) 1 additional district judge for the district of Nebraska;

(vii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of New York;

(viii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of Texas;

(ix) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Texas; and

(x) 1 additional district judge for the western district of Texas.

(B) TABLES.—The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (2) of this subsection, is amended—

(i) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

''California:
Northern 17
Eastern 9
Central 31
Southern ..... 13'';

(ii) by striking the item relating to Colorado and inserting the following:

''Colorado ..... 8'';

(iii) by striking the item relating to Delaware and inserting the following:

''Delaware ..... 6'';

(iv) by striking the item relating to Nebraska and inserting the following:

''Nebraska ..... 4'';

(v) by striking the items relating to New York and inserting the following:

''New York:
Northern 5
Southern 29
Eastern 16
Western ..... 4'';
and

(vi) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

''Texas:
Northern 13
Southern 22
Eastern 9
Western ..... 14''.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph shall take effect on January 21, 2029.

(4) 2031.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(i) 1 additional district judge for the district of Arizona;

(ii) 1 additional district judge for the central district of California;

(iii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of California;

(iv) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of California;

(v) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of California;

(vi) 1 additional district judge for the middle district of Florida;

(vii) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Florida;

(viii) 1 additional district judge for the district of New Jersey;

(ix) 1 additional district judge for the western district of New York; and

(x) 2 additional district judges for the western district of Texas.

(B) TABLES.—The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (3) of this subsection, is amended—

(i) by striking the item relating to Arizona and inserting the following:

''Arizona ..... 14'';

(ii) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

''California:
Northern 18
Eastern 10
Central 32
Southern ..... 14'';

(iii) by striking the items relating to Florida and inserting the following:

''Florida:
Northern 4
Middle 18
Southern ..... 19'';

(iv) by striking the item relating to New Jersey and inserting the following:

''New Jersey ..... 19'';

(v) by striking the items relating to New York and inserting the following:

''New York:
Northern 5
Southern 29
Eastern 16
Western ..... 5'';
and

(vi) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

''Texas:
Northern 13
Southern 22
Eastern 9
Western ..... 16''.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph shall take effect on January 21, 2031.

(5) 2033.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(i) 2 additional district judges for the central district of California;

(ii) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of California;

(iii) 1 additional district judge for the district of Colorado;

(iv) 1 additional district judge for the middle district of Florida;

(v) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of Florida;

(vi) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of Georgia;

(vii) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of New York;

(viii) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Texas; and

(ix) 1 additional district judge for the western district of Texas.

(B) TABLES.—The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (4) of this subsection, is amended—

(i) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

''California:
Northern 19
Eastern 10
Central 34
Southern ..... 14'';

(ii) by striking the item relating to Colorado and inserting the following:

''Colorado ..... 9'';

(iii) by striking the items relating to Florida and inserting the following:

''Florida:
Northern 5
Middle 19
Southern ..... 19'';

(iv) by striking the items relating to Georgia and inserting the following:

''Georgia:
Northern 13
Middle 4
Southern ..... 3'';

(v) by striking the items relating to New York and inserting the following:

''New York:
Northern 5
Southern 30
Eastern 16
Western ..... 5'';
and

(vi) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

''Texas:
Northern 13
Southern 23
Eastern 9
Western ..... 17''.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph shall take effect on January 21, 2033.

(6) 2035.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(i) 2 additional district judges for the central district of California;

(ii) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of California;

(iii) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of California;

(iv) 1 additional district judge for the middle district of Florida;

(v) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Florida;

(vi) 1 additional district judge for the district of New Jersey;

(vii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of New York;

(viii) 2 additional district judges for the western district of Texas.

(B) TABLES.—The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (5) of this subsection, is amended—

(i) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

''California:
Northern 20
Eastern 10
Central 36
Southern ..... 15'';

(ii) by striking the items relating to Florida and inserting the following:

''Florida:
Northern 5
Middle 20
Southern ..... 20'';

(iii) by striking the item relating to New Jersey and inserting the following:

''New Jersey ..... 20'';

(iv) by striking the items relating to New York and inserting the following:

''New York:
Northern 5
Southern 30
Eastern 17
Western ..... 5'';
and

(v) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

''Texas:
Northern 13
Southern 23
Eastern 9
Western ..... 19''.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph shall take effect on January 21, 2035.

(b) TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(A) 2 additional district judges for the eastern district of Oklahoma; and

(B) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of Oklahoma.

(2) VACANCIES NOT FILLED.—The first vacancy in the office of district judge in each of the offices of district judge authorized by this subsection, occurring 5 years or more after the confirmation date of the judge named to fill the temporary district judgeship created in the applicable district by this subsection, shall not be filled.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall take effect on January 21, 2025.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section and the amendments made by this section—

(A) for each of fiscal years 2025 and 2026, $12,965,330;

(B) for each of fiscal years 2027 and 2028, $23,152,375;

(C) for each of fiscal years 2029 and 2030, $32,413,325;

(D) for each of fiscal years 2031 and 2032, $42,600,370;

(E) for each of fiscal years 2033 and 2034, $51,861,320; and

(F) for fiscal year 2035 and each fiscal year thereafter, $61,122,270.

(2) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—For each fiscal year described in paragraph (1), the amount authorized to be appropriated for such fiscal year shall be increased by the percentage by which—

(A) the Consumer Price Index for the previous fiscal year, exceeds

(B) the Consumer Price Index for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year described in subparagraph (A).

(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ''Consumer Price Index'' means the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (all items, United States city average), published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

SEC. 4. ORGANIZATION OF UTAH DISTRICT COURTS.

Section 125(2) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking ''and St. George'' and inserting ''St. George, Moab, and Monticello''.

SEC. 5. ORGANIZATION OF TEXAS DISTRICT COURTS.

Section 124(b)(2) of title 28, United States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (3), by inserting ''and College Station'' before the period at the end.

SEC. 6. ORGANIZATION OF CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COURTS.

Section 84(d) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''and El Centro'' after ''at San Diego''.

SEC. 7. GAO REPORTS.

(a) JUDICIAL CASELOADS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and make publicly available reports—

(1) evaluating—

(A) the accuracy and objectiveness of case-related workload measures and methodologies used by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts for district courts of the United States and courts of appeals of the United States;

(B) the impact of non-case-related activities of judges of the district courts of the United States and courts of appeals of the United States on judicial caseloads; and

(C) the effectiveness and efficiency of the policies of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts regarding senior judges; and

(2) providing any recommendations of the Comptroller General with respect to the matters described in paragraph (1).

(b) DETENTION SPACE.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on an assessment of—

(1) a determination of the needs of Federal agencies for detention space;

(2) efforts by Federal agencies to acquire detention space; and

(3) any challenges in determining and acquiring detention space.

SEC. 8. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY OF THE ARTICLE III JUDGESHIP RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrative Office of the United States Courts, in consultation with the Judicial Conference of the United States, shall make publicly available on their website, free of charge, the biennial report entitled ''Article III Judgeship Recommendations of the Judicial Conference of the United States''.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report described in subsection (a) should be released not less frequently than biennially and contain the summaries and all related appendixes supporting the judgeship recommendations of the Judicial Conference of the United States, including—

(1) the process used by the Judicial Conference in developing the recommendations;

(2) any caseload and methodology changes;

(3) judgeship surveys with recommendations; and

(4) specific information about each court for which the Judicial Conference recommends additional judgeships.

(c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives copies of the report described in subsection (a).

DIVISION K—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 (l); 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 (l)(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 (l); 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 (l); 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.

(l) 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.—

(i) 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 agency 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 (l), 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 (l); 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 quality 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); and

(5) 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 maintained as readily available or on deposit.

(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.

DIVISION L—COMBATING CARTELS ON SOCIAL MEDIA ACT OF 2024

SEC. 5001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Combating Cartels on Social Media Act of 2024''.

SEC. 5002. DEFINITIONS.

In this division:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) COVERED OPERATOR.—The term ''covered operator'' means the operator, developer, or publisher of a covered service.

(3) COVERED SERVICE.—The term ''covered service'' means—

(A) a social media platform;

(B) a mobile or desktop service with direct or group messaging capabilities, but not including text messaging services without other substantial social functionalities or electronic mail services, that the Secretary of Homeland Security determines is being or has been used by transnational criminal organizations in connection with matters described in section 5003; and

(C) a digital platform, or an electronic application utilizing the digital platform, involving real-time interactive communication between multiple individuals, including multi-player gaming services and immersive technology platforms or applications, that the Secretary of Homeland Security determines is being or has been used by transnational criminal organizations in connection with matters described in section 5003.

(4) CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE.—The term ''criminal enterprise'' has the meaning given the term ''continuing criminal enterprise'' in section 408 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 848).

(5) ILLICIT ACTIVITIES.—The term ''illicit activities'' means the following criminal activities that transcend national borders:

(A) A violation of section 401 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841).

(B) Narcotics trafficking, as defined in section 808 of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1907).

(C) Trafficking of weapons, as defined in section 922 of title 18, United States Code.

(D) Migrant smuggling, defined as a violation of section 274(a)(1)(A)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii)).

(E) Human trafficking, defined as—

(i) a violation of section 1590, 1591, or 1592 of title 18, United States Code; or

(ii) engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons, as defined in section 103 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

(F) Cyber crime, defined as a violation of section 1030 of title 18, United States Code.

(G) A violation of any provision that is subject to intellectual property enforcement, as defined in section 302 of the Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008 (15 U.S.C. 8112).

(H) Bulk cash smuggling of currency, defined as a violation of section 5332 of title 31, United States Code.

(I) Laundering the proceeds of the criminal activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (H).

(6) TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ''transnational criminal organization'' means a group or network, and associated individuals, that operate transnationally for the purposes of obtaining power, influence, or monetary or commercial gain, wholly or in part by certain illegal means, while advancing their activities through a pattern of crime, corruption, or violence, and while protecting their illegal activities through a transnational organizational structure and the exploitation of public corruption or transnational logistics, financial, or communication mechanisms.

SEC. 5003. ASSESSMENT OF ILLICIT USAGE.

Not later than July 1, 2025, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint assessment describing—

(1) the use of covered services by transnational criminal organizations, or criminal enterprises acting on behalf of transnational criminal organizations, to engage in recruitment efforts, including the recruitment of individuals, including individuals under 18 years of age, located in the United States to engage in or provide support with respect to illicit activities occurring in the United States, Mexico, or otherwise in proximity to an international boundary of the United States;

(2) the use of covered services by transnational criminal organizations to engage in illicit activities or conduct in support of illicit activities, including—

(A) smuggling or trafficking involving narcotics, other controlled substances, precursors thereof, or other items prohibited under the laws of the United States, Mexico, or another relevant jurisdiction, including firearms;

(B) human smuggling or trafficking, including the exploitation of children; and

(C) transportation of bulk currency or monetary instruments in furtherance of smuggling activity; and

(3) the existing efforts of the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and relevant government and law enforcement entities to counter, monitor, or otherwise respond to the usage of covered services described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

SEC. 5004. STRATEGY TO COMBAT CARTEL RECRUITMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE PLATFORMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2026, the Secretary of Homeland Security,

the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint strategy, to be known as the National Strategy to Combat Illicit Recruitment Activity by Transnational Criminal Organizations on Social Media and Online Platforms, to combat the use of covered services by transnational criminal organizations, or criminal enterprises acting on behalf of transnational criminal organizations, to recruit individuals located in the United States to engage in or provide support with respect to illicit activities occurring in the United States, Mexico, or otherwise in proximity to an international boundary of the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall, at a minimum, include the following:

(A) A proposal to improve cooperation and thereafter maintain cooperation between the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and relevant law enforcement entities with respect to the matters described in subsection (a).

(B) Recommendations to implement a process for the voluntary reporting of information regarding the recruitment efforts of transnational criminal organizations in the United States involving covered services.

(C) A proposal to improve intragovernmental coordination with respect to the matters described in subsection (a), including between the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the Department of State, and State, Tribal, and local governments.

(D) A proposal to improve coordination within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Department of State and between the components of those Departments with respect to the matters described in subsection (a).

(E) Activities to facilitate increased intelligence analysis for law enforcement purposes of efforts of transnational criminal organizations to utilize covered services for recruitment to engage in or provide support with respect to illicit activities.

(F) Activities to foster international partnerships and enhance collaboration with foreign governments and, as applicable, multilateral institutions with respect to the matters described in subsection (a).

(G) Activities to specifically increase engagement and outreach with youth in border communities, including regarding the recruitment tactics of transnational criminal organizations and the consequences of participation in illicit activities.

(H) A detailed description of the measures used to ensure—

(i) law enforcement and intelligence activities focus on the recruitment activities of transitional criminal organizations not individuals the transnational criminal organizations attempt to or successfully recruit; and

(ii) the protection of privacy rights, civil rights, and civil liberties in carrying out the activities described in clause (i), with a particular focus on the protections in place to protect minors and constitutionally protected activities.

(2) LIMITATION.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall not include legislative recommendations or elements predicated on the passage of legislation that is not enacted as of the date on which the strategy is submitted under subsection (a).

(c) CONSULTATION.—In drafting and implementing the strategy required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State shall, at a minimum, consult and engage with—

(1) the heads of relevant components of the Department of Homeland Security, including—

(A) the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis;

(B) the Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans;

(C) the Under Secretary for Science and Technology;

(D) the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

(E) the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

(F) the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties;

(G) the Privacy Officer; and

(H) the Assistant Secretary of the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement;

(2) the heads of relevant components of the Department of Justice, including—

(A) the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division;

(B) the Assistant Attorney General for National Security;

(C) the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division;

(D) the Chief Privacy and Civil Liberties Officer;

(E) the Director of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces;

(F) the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

(G) the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives;

(3) the heads of relevant components of the Department of State, including—

(A) the Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs;

(B) the Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs; and

(C) the Coordinator of the Global Engagement Center;

(4) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(5) the Secretary of Education; and

(6) as selected by the Secretary of Homeland Security, or his or her designee in the Office of Public Engagement, representatives of border communities, including representatives of—

(A) State, Tribal, and local governments, including school districts and local law enforcement; and

(B) nongovernmental experts in the fields of—

(i) civil rights and civil liberties;

(ii) online privacy;

(iii) humanitarian assistance for migrants; and

(iv) youth outreach and rehabilitation.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the strategy required under subsection (a) is submitted to the appropriate congressional committees, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State shall commence implementation of the strategy.

(2) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the strategy required under subsection (a) is implemented under paragraph (1), and semiannually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint report describing the efforts of the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State to implement the strategy required under subsection (a) and the progress of those efforts, which shall include a description of—

(i) the recommendations, and corresponding implementation of those recommendations, with respect to the matters described in subsection (b)(1)(B);

(ii) the interagency posture with respect to the matters covered by the strategy required under subsection (a), which shall include a description of collaboration between the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, other Federal entities, State, local, and Tribal entities, and foreign governments; and

(iii) the threat landscape, including new developments related to the United States recruitment efforts of transnational criminal organizations and the use by those organizations of new or emergent covered services and recruitment methods.

(B) FORM.—Each report required under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(3) CIVIL RIGHTS, CIVIL LIBERTIES, AND PRIVACY ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the strategy required under subsection (a) is implemented under paragraph (1), the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the Privacy Office of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint report that includes—

(A) a detailed assessment of the measures used to ensure the protection of civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy rights in carrying out this section; and

(B) recommendations to improve the implementation of the strategy required under subsection (a).

(4) RULEMAKING.—Prior to implementation of the strategy required under subsection (a) at the Department of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall issue rules to carry out this section in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 5005. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this division shall be construed to expand the statutory law enforcement or regulatory authority of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, or the Department of State.

SEC. 5006. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this division.

SA 3291. Mrs. MURRAY (for Mr. CARDIN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 288, to prevent, treat, and cure tuberculosis globally; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''End Tuberculosis Now Act of 2024''.

SEC. 2. UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO COMBAT TUBERCULOSIS.

Section 104B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151b–3) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 104B. ASSISTANCE TO COMBAT TUBERCULOSIS.

''(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

''(1) The international spread of tuberculosis (referred to in this section as 'TB') and the deadly impact of TB's continued existence constitutes a continuing challenge.

''(2) Additional tools and resources are required to effectively diagnose, prevent, and treat TB.

''(3) Effectively resourced TB programs can serve as a critical platform for preventing and responding to future infectious respiratory disease pandemics.

''(b) POLICY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—It is a major objective of the foreign assistance program of the United States to help end the TB public health emergency through accelerated actions—

''(A) to support the diagnosis and treatment of all adults and children with all forms of TB; and

''(B) to prevent new TB infections from occurring.

''(2) SUPPORT FOR GLOBAL PLANS AND OBJECTIVES.—In countries in which the United States Government has established foreign assistance programs under this Act, particularly in countries with the highest burden of TB and other countries with high rates of infection and transmission of TB, it is the policy of the United States—

''(A) to support the objectives of the World Health Organization End TB Strategy, including its goals—

''(i) to reduce TB deaths by 95 percent by 2035;

''(ii) to reduce the TB incidence rate by 90 percent by 2035; and

''(iii) to reduce the number of families facing catastrophic health costs due to TB by 100 percent by 2035;

''(B) to support the Stop TB Partnership's Global Plan to End TB 2023–2030, including by providing support for—

''(i) developing and using innovative new technologies and therapies to increase active case finding and rapidly diagnose and treat children and adults with all forms of TB, alleviate suffering, and ensure TB treatment completion;

''(ii) expanding diagnosis and treatment in line with the goals established by the Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Fight Against Tuberculosis, including—

''(I) successfully treating 40,000,000 people with active TB by 2023, including 3,500,000 children, and 1,500,000 people with drug-resistant TB; and

''(II) diagnosing and treating latent tuberculosis infection, in support of the global goal of providing preventive therapy to at least 30,000,000 people by 2023, including 4,000,000 children younger than 5 years of age, 20,000,000 household contacts of people affected by TB, and 6,000,000 people living with HIV;

''(iii) ensuring high-quality TB care by closing gaps in care cascades, implementing continuous quality improvement at all levels of care, and providing related patient support; and

''(iv) sustainable procurements of TB commodities to avoid interruptions in supply, the procurement of commodities of unknown quality, or payment of excessive commodity costs in countries impacted by TB; and

''(C) to ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, that United States funding supports activities that simultaneously emphasize—

''(i) the development of comprehensive person-centered programs, including diagnosis, treatment, and prevention strategies to ensure that—

''(I) all people sick with TB receive quality diagnosis and treatment through active case finding; and

''(II) people at high risk for TB infection are found and treated with preventive therapies in a timely manner;

''(ii) robust TB infection control practices are implemented in all congregate settings, including hospitals and prisons;

''(iii) the deployment of diagnostic and treatment capacity—

''(I) in areas with the highest TB burdens; and

''(II) for highly at-risk and impoverished populations, including patient support services;

''(iv) program monitoring and evaluation based on critical TB indicators, including indicators relating to infection control, the numbers of patients accessing TB treatment and patient support services, and preventative therapy for those at risk, including all close contacts, and treatment outcomes for all forms of TB;

''(v) training and engagement of health care workers on the use of new diagnostic tools and therapies as they become available, and increased support for training frontline health care workers to support expanded TB active case finding, contact tracing, and patient support services;

''(vi) coordination with domestic agencies and organizations to support an aggressive research agenda to develop vaccines as well as new tools to diagnose, treat, and prevent TB globally;

''(vii) linkages with the private sector on—

''(I) research and development of a vaccine, and on new tools for diagnosis and treatment of TB;

''(II) improving current tools for diagnosis and treatment of TB, including telehealth solutions for prevention and treatment; and

''(III) training healthcare professionals on use of the newest and most effective diagnostic and therapeutic tools;

''(viii) the reduction of barriers to care, including stigma and treatment and diagnosis costs, including through—

''(I) training health workers;

''(II) sensitizing policy makers;

''(III) requiring that all relevant grants and funding agreements include access and affordability provisions;

''(IV) supporting education and empowerment campaigns for TB patients regarding local TB services;

''(V) monitoring barriers to accessing TB services; and

''(VI) increasing support for patient-led and community-led TB outreach efforts;

''(ix) support for country-level, sustainable accountability mechanisms and capacity to measure progress and ensure that commitments made by governments and relevant stakeholders are met; and

''(x) support for the integration of TB diagnosis, treatment, and prevention activities into primary health care, as appropriate.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term 'appropriate congressional committees' means the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

''(2) END TB STRATEGY.—The term 'End TB Strategy' means the strategy to eliminate TB that was approved by the World Health Assembly in May 2014, and is described in 'The End TB Strategy: Global Strategy and Targets for Tuberculosis Prevention, Care and Control After 2015'.

''(3) GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR TUBERCULOSIS DRUG DEVELOPMENT.—The term 'Global Alliance for Tuberculosis Drug Development' means the public-private partnership that bring together leaders in health, science, philanthropy, and private industry to devise new approaches to TB.

''(4) GLOBAL TUBERCULOSIS DRUG FACILITY.—The term 'Global Tuberculosis Drug Facility' means the initiative of the Stop Tuberculosis Partnership to increase access to the most advanced, affordable, quality-assured TB drugs and diagnostics.

''(5) MDR–TB.—The term 'MDR–TB' means multi-drug-resistant TB.

''(6) STOP TUBERCULOSIS PARTNERSHIP.—The term 'Stop Tuberculosis Partnership' means the partnership of 1,600 organizations (including international and technical organizations, government programs, research and funding agencies, foundations, nongovernmental organizations, civil society and community groups, and the private sector), donors, including the United States, high TB burden countries, multilateral agencies, and nongovernmental and technical agencies, which is governed by the Stop TB Partnership Coordinating Board and hosted by a United Nations entity, committed to short- and long-term measures required to control and eventually eliminate TB as a public health problem in the world.

''(7) XDR–TB.—The term 'XDR–TB' means extensively drug-resistant TB.

''(d) AUTHORIZATION.—To carry out this section, the President is authorized, consistent with section 104(c), to furnish assistance, on such terms and conditions as the President may determine, for the prevention, treatment, control, and elimination of TB.

''(e) GOALS.—In consultation with the appropriate congressional committees, the President shall establish goals, based on the policy and indicators described in subsection (b), for—

''(1) United States TB programs to detect, cure, and prevent all forms of TB globally for the period between 2023 and 2030 that are aligned with the End TB Strategy's 2030 targets and the USAID's Global Tuberculosis (TB) Strategy 2023-2030; and

''(2) updating the National Action Plan for Combating Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis.

''(f) COORDINATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the President shall coordinate with the World Health Organization, the Stop TB Partnership, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, and other organizations with respect to the development and implementation of a comprehensive global TB response program.

''(2) BILATERAL ASSISTANCE.—In providing bilateral assistance under this section, the President, acting through the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall—

''(A) catalyze support for research and development of new tools to prevent, diagnose, treat, and control TB worldwide, particularly to reduce the incidence of, and mortality from, all forms of drug-resistant TB;

''(B) ensure United States programs and activities focus on finding individuals with active TB disease and provide quality diagnosis and treatment, including through digital health solutions, and reaching those at high risk with preventive therapy; and

''(C) ensure coordination among relevant United States Government agencies, including the Department of State, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense (through its Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs), and other relevant Federal departments and agencies that engage in international TB activities—

''(i) to ensure accountability and transparency;

''(ii) to reduce duplication of efforts; and

''(iii) to ensure appropriate integration and coordination of TB services into other United States-supported health programs.

''(g) PRIORITY TO END TB STRATEGY.—In furnishing assistance under subsection (d), the President shall prioritize—

''(1) building and strengthening TB programs—

''(A) to increase the diagnosis and treatment of everyone who is sick with TB; and

''(B) to ensure that such individuals have access to quality diagnosis and treatment;

''(2) direct, high-quality integrated services for all forms of TB, as described by the World Health Organization, which call for the coordination of active case finding, treatment of all forms of TB disease and infection, patient support, and TB prevention;

''(3) treating individuals co-infected with HIV and other co-morbidities, and other individuals with TB who may be at risk of stigma;

''(4) strengthening the capacity of health systems to detect, prevent, and treat TB, including MDR–TB and XDR–TB, as described in the latest international guidance related to TB;

''(5) researching and developing innovative diagnostics, drug therapies, and vaccines, and program-based research;

''(6) support for the Stop Tuberculosis Partnership's Global Drug Facility, the Global Alliance for Tuberculosis Drug Development, and other organizations promoting the development of new products and drugs for TB; and

''(7) ensuring that TB programs can serve as key platforms for supporting national respiratory pandemic response against existing and new infectious respiratory disease.

''(h) ASSISTANCE FOR THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND THE STOP TUBERCULOSIS PARTNERSHIP.—In carrying out this section, the President, acting through the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, is authorized—

''(1) to provide resources to the World Health Organization and the Stop Tuberculosis Partnership to improve the capacity of countries with high burdens or rates of TB and other affected countries to implement the End TB Strategy, the Stop TB Global Plan to End TB, their own national strategies and plans, other global efforts to control MDR–TB and XDR–TB; and

''(2) to leverage the contributions of other donors for the activities described in paragraph (1).

''(i) ANNUAL REPORT ON TB ACTIVITIES.—Not later than December 15 of each year until the earlier of the date on which the goals specified in subsection (b)(2)(A) are met or the last day of 2030, the President shall submit an annual report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes United States foreign assistance to control TB and the impact of such efforts, including—

''(1) the number of individuals with active TB disease that were diagnosed and treated, including the rate of treatment completion and the number receiving patient support;

''(2) the number of persons with MDR–TB and XDR–TB that were diagnosed and treated, including the rate of completion, in countries receiving United States bilateral foreign assistance for TB control programs;

''(3) the number of people trained by the United States Government in TB surveillance and control;

''(4) the number of individuals with active TB disease identified as a result of engagement with the private sector and other nongovernmental partners in countries receiving United States bilateral foreign assistance for TB control programs;

''(5) a description of the collaboration and coordination of United States anti-TB efforts with the World Health Organization, the Stop TB Partnership, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and other major public and private entities;

''(6) a description of the collaboration and coordination among the United States Agency for International Development and other United States departments and agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, for the purposes of combating TB and, as appropriate, its integration into primary care;

''(7) the constraints on implementation of programs posed by health workforce shortages, health system limitations, barriers to digital health implementation, other challenges to successful implementation, and strategies to address such constraints;

''(8) a breakdown of expenditures for patient services supporting TB diagnosis, treatment, and prevention, including procurement of drugs and other commodities, drug management, training in diagnosis and treatment, health systems strengthening that directly impacts the provision of TB services, and research; and

''(9) for each country, and when practicable, each project site receiving bilateral United States assistance for the purpose of TB prevention, treatment, and control—

''(A) a description of progress toward the adoption and implementation of the most recent World Health Organization guidelines to improve diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of TB for adults and children, disaggregated by sex, including the proportion of health facilities that have adopted the latest World Health Organization guidelines on strengthening monitoring systems and preventative, diagnostic, and therapeutic methods, including the use of rapid diagnostic tests and orally administered TB treatment regimens;

''(B) the number of individuals screened for TB disease and the number evaluated for TB infection using active case finding outside of health facilities;

''(C) the number of individuals with active TB disease that were diagnosed and treated, including the rate of treatment completion and the number receiving patient support;

''(D) the number of adults and children, including people with HIV and close contacts, who are evaluated for TB infection, the number of adults and children started on treatment for TB infection, and the number of adults and children completing such treatment, disaggregated by sex and, as possible, income or wealth quintile;

''(E) the establishment of effective TB infection control in all relevant congregant settings, including hospitals, clinics, and prisons;

''(F) a description of progress in implementing measures to reduce TB incidence, including actions—

''(i) to expand active case finding and contact tracing to reach vulnerable groups; and

''(ii) to expand TB preventive therapy, engagement of the private sector, and diagnostic capacity;

''(G) a description of progress to expand diagnosis, prevention, and treatment for all forms of TB, including in pregnant women, children, and individuals and groups at greater risk of TB, including migrants, prisoners, miners, people exposed to silica, and people living with HIV/AIDS, disaggregated by sex;

''(H) the rate of successful completion of TB treatment for adults and children, disaggregated by sex, and the number of individuals receiving support for treatment completion;

''(I) the number of people, disaggregated by sex, receiving treatment for MDR–TB, the proportion of those treated with the latest regimens endorsed by the World Health Organization, factors impeding scale up of such treatment, and a description of progress to expand community-based MDR–TB care;

''(J) a description of TB commodity procurement challenges, including shortages, stockouts, or failed tenders for TB drugs or other commodities;

''(K) the proportion of health facilities with specimen referral linkages to quality diagnostic networks, including established testing sites and reference labs, to ensure maximum access and referral for second line drug resistance testing, and a description of the turnaround time for test results;

''(L) the number of people trained by the United States Government to deliver high-quality TB diagnostic, preventative, monitoring, treatment, and care services;

''(M) a description of how supported activities are coordinated with—

''(i) country national TB plans and strategies; and

''(ii) TB control efforts supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, and other international assistance programs and funds, including in the areas of program development and implementation; and

''(N) for the first 3 years of the report required under this subsection, a description of the progress in recovering from the negative impact of COVID–19 on TB, including—

''(i) whether there has been the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan to recover TB activities from diversion of resources;

''(ii) the continued use of bidirectional TB–COVID testing; and

''(iii) progress on increased diagnosis and treatment of active TB.

''(j) ANNUAL REPORT ON TB RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—The President, acting through the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and in coordination with the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees until 2030 an annual report that—

''(1) describes the current progress and challenges to the development of new tools for the purpose of TB prevention, treatment, and control;

''(2) identifies critical gaps and emerging priorities for research and development, including for rapid and point-of-care diagnostics, shortened treatments and prevention methods, telehealth solutions for prevention and treatment, and vaccines; and

''(3) describes research investments by type, funded entities, and level of investment.

''(k) EVALUATION REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of the End Tuberculosis Now Act of 2024, and 5 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that evaluates the performance and impact on TB prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care efforts that are supported by United States bilateral assistance funding, including recommendations for improving such programs.''.

SEC. 3. SUNSET.

The amendment made by section 2 shall cease to have any force or effect beginning on December 31, 2030.

SA 3292. Mrs. MURRAY (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 4698, to authorize the Joint Task Forces of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act of 2024''.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 708 OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 708(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in clause (iii)(II), by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) a staffing plan for each Joint Task Force;''; and

(B) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

''(C) not later than December 23, 2024, and annually thereafter, submit to the committees specified in subparagraph (B) a report containing information regarding—

''(i) the progress in implementing the outcome-based and other appropriate performance metrics established pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iii);

''(ii) the staffing plan developed for each Joint Task Force pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iv); and

''(iii) any modification to the mission, strategic goals, and objectives of each Joint Task Force, and a description of, and rationale for, any such modifications.''; and

(2) in paragraph (13), by striking ''2024'' and inserting ''[2029] *2026*''.

(b) ANNUAL BRIEFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall brief—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(2) TOPICS.—Each briefing required under paragraph (1) shall cover the latest staffing and resource assessment at Joint Task Force-East, including—

(A)(i) a determination of whether the current staffing levels of Joint Task Force-East are sufficient to successfully advance the mission, strategic goals, and objectives of such Joint Task Force; and

(ii) if such determination reveals insufficient staffing levels, the cost, timeline, and strategy for increasing such staffing levels; and

(B)(i) a determination of whether sufficient resources are being provided for Joint Task Force-East in accordance with section 708(b)(7)(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)(7)(a)); and

(ii) if such determination reveals insufficient resource levels, the cost, timeline, and strategy for providing any remaining resource requirements.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I have six requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 19, 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 Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 10 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to the following members of my staff until the end of December: Isabella Rivera, Amanda Tureaud, Jasmine Hampton, Keegan Bankoff, Olivia Baine, Savana Sikorski, and Colin Wechsler.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

END TUBERCULOSIS NOW ACT OF 2023

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. 288 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 288) to prevent, treat, and cure tuberculosis globally.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Cardin substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered to be read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3291), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The bill, as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mrs. MURRAY. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 288), as amended, was passed.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DHS JOINT TASK FORCES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar No. 493, S. 4698.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4698) to authorize the Joint Task Forces of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs with an amendment, as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be stricken is in boldfaced brackets and the part of the bill intended to be inserted is in italic.)

S. 4698

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 ''DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act of 2024''.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 708 OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 708(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in clause (iii)(II), by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) a staffing plan for each Joint Task Force;''; and

(B) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

''(C) not later than December 23, 2024, and annually thereafter, submit to the committees specified in subparagraph (B) a report containing information regarding—

''(i) the progress in implementing the outcome-based and other appropriate performance metrics established pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iii);

''(ii) the staffing plan developed for each Joint Task Force pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iv); and

''(iii) any modification to the mission, strategic goals, and objectives of each Joint Task Force, and a description of, and rationale for, any such modifications.''; and

(2) in paragraph (13), by striking ''2024'' and inserting ''[2029] *2026*''.

(b) ANNUAL BRIEFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall brief—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(2) TOPICS.—Each briefing required under paragraph (1) shall cover the latest staffing and resource assessment at Joint Task Force-East, including—

(A)(i) a determination of whether the current staffing levels of Joint Task Force-East are sufficient to successfully advance the mission, strategic goals, and objectives of such Joint Task Force; and

(ii) if such determination reveals insufficient staffing levels, the cost, timeline, and strategy for increasing such staffing levels; and

(B)(i) a determination of whether sufficient resources are being provided for Joint Task Force-East in accordance with section 708(b)(7)(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)(7)(a)); and

(ii) if such determination reveals insufficient resource levels, the cost, timeline, and strategy for providing any remaining resource requirements.

(c) REPORT ON JOINT TASK FORCE-EAST HEADQUARTERS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, the Commissioner for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Administrator of General Services, shall submit a report to the congressional committees listed in subsection (b)(1) that analyzes the cost and effectiveness of hosting the Joint Task Force-East headquarters in Portsmouth, Virginia compared to alternative headquarters locations.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be withdrawn; that the Peters substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered and made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 3292), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act of 2024''.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 708 OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 708(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in clause (iii)(II), by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) a staffing plan for each Joint Task Force;''; and

(B) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

''(C) not later than December 23, 2024, and annually thereafter, submit to the committees specified in subparagraph (B) a report containing information regarding—

''(i) the progress in implementing the outcome-based and other appropriate performance metrics established pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iii);

''(ii) the staffing plan developed for each Joint Task Force pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iv); and

''(iii) any modification to the mission, strategic goals, and objectives of each Joint Task Force, and a description of, and rationale for, any such modifications.''; and

(2) in paragraph (13), by striking ''2024'' and inserting ''[2029] *2026*''.

(b) ANNUAL BRIEFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall brief—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(2) TOPICS.—Each briefing required under paragraph (1) shall cover the latest staffing and resource assessment at Joint Task Force-East, including—

(A)(i) a determination of whether the current staffing levels of Joint Task Force-East are sufficient to successfully advance the mission, strategic goals, and objectives of such Joint Task Force; and

(ii) if such determination reveals insufficient staffing levels, the cost, timeline, and strategy for increasing such staffing levels; and

(B)(i) a determination of whether sufficient resources are being provided for Joint Task Force-East in accordance with section 708(b)(7)(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)(7)(a)); and

(ii) if such determination reveals insufficient resource levels, the cost, timeline, and strategy for providing any remaining resource requirements.

The bill (S. 4698), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 9614

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if the Senate receives H.R. 9614 from the House of Representatives, the text of which is identical to S. 4539, the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—H.R. 4693

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4693, an act to provide the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 does not apply to certain reports required to be submitted by the Tennessee Valley Authority, and other purposes, and the bill be referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, September 23; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Jenkins nomination, postcloture; further, that all postcloture time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m.; and, finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Monday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators LANKFORD and MCCONNELL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Oklahoma.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, it is the middle of September. The end of the funding year is actually just over 10 days away. The Senate has brought up exactly zero appropriations bills, although the Committee on Appropriations has worked in a bipartisan way to be able to get those through the Committee on Appropriations. But zero of them have come to the floor for a vote, which means we are facing a continuing resolution in the next week and another one of those hanging deadlines out there.

We could have worked on it last week, except last week, there were just judges, and this week, it was some tax judges and other folks on the docket and some political votes that came up. So we didn't work on it last week, and we didn't work on it this week. We

didn't work on it 2 months ago or 3 months ago when they had already been out of committee. They just haven't come up at all.

So once again, the Nation is whispering about, will we have another government shutdown based on the fact that Congress has not finished its work. Quite frankly, even during this September, we have not even brought up appropriations bills for a vote on the floor at all.

I have come to this floor multiple times to say that this is not the way it should run. Quite frankly, a hundred of us would all nod our heads and say it is not the way it should run.

I continue to be able to bring to this body a very simple idea that MAGGIE HASSAN and I—my colleague from New Hampshire—have had together for years now that, if it ever came to the floor, would pass. We have plenty of support on both the Republican and Democrat side of the aisle to be able to deal with ending government shutdowns. It is a simple idea that she and I have; that is, if we get to a moment like this that we have not finished our work, the government doesn't have a shutdown; we have, actually, a shut-in where all of us have to stay here and continue our work. Federal employees and the Nation are held harmless, but we have to actually finish the work.

We have multitrillion dollars in debt and little to no conversation here about it, and we won't have any in September. Now, it looks like we will punt this for several months. My question is, Will we have it then? Probably not because it may punt to November or December or it may punt into next year. We haven't decided yet.

When that is decided, there will be another deadline sitting there, and there will be more things to do during that time period, whether it is the end of this year, because there are so many unaddressed things that have not happened this year that have to be addressed, so they will be crammed into the end of the year, so there will be no serious conversation then; or it will be punted into next year, and there are so many things under a new Presidential term that have to be done, there won't be any serious conversation then.

So my simple question is, When do we ever have this conversation on something we all acknowledge is a problem? But instead of working on what we all know is the big issue, we are instead voting on judges and chitchatting and pretending it is not a problem when it is.

We are not voting on the national defense authorization either. That has come out of committee already on wide bipartisan support months ago, but it has yet to come to the floor of the Senate. My understanding now of the latest rumor is that there is no plan to actually bring it to the floor of the Senate, that there seems to be an intent to say: We will just not ever bring it to the Senate and just kind of pretend we did and then move to a conference report at the end of year.

One of the single most important bills that we do during the course of the year is our funding for Americans' tax dollars in our National Defense Act. So far, we have not done any of the 12 bills dealing with our funding, and apparently, we are not going to do the National Defense Act this month, next month; maybe November, December if they can form an agreement with Members of the House behind the scenes. So the first time we may ever see the bill may be after some deal has already been struck, and we will have no amendments, no conversation; just the single biggest thing that we work on during the course of the year—national defense—landing on the floor of the Senate, saying: Vote up or down. Does anyone think that is the way it should operate? Anyone at all?

In this bill, I fought for things like Tinker Air Force Base. It is the largest sustainment base in all of the Air Force, and it happens to be in Oklahoma. There are serious things that are there.

We are in the transition between two different airplanes, the E–3 to the E–7. The E–7 has not come on fast enough, and the E–3 was already fading away, not being sustained. So in this bill, it actually says: Hold on, Air Force. The other platform is delayed. We can't give up this one until that one is on board.

So it is a literal national defense issue to say: We have to be able to resolve this. It is Congress speaking into what we should speak into in a very practical area to say these are things that need to be solved.

We have personnel issues, like pay raises for our military. We have issues for spouses and their work. We have all kinds of things that are built into this bill dealing with our different installations around the world and the fight that is happening in Europe and the Middle East and our preparation all around the world to be able to secure the United States. But we are not talking about that. We are having votes on judges instead. And apparently, from what I am hearing rumor of, we may not have any talk about it at all on the floor of the Senate.

There is a bill that has been moving through committee dealing with energy permitting—it seems to have bipartisan support—saying we have to fix the process of how we are doing energy transmission for transmission lines and also for pipelines and basic energy needs.

It is interesting. Ten years ago, I would have people catch me and say: We really want to be able to get renewable energy. We want renewable energy. We need that for our manufacturing. That is what we want to do.

Do you know what I hear now from manufacturers? We just need energy, period, because our electric grid is being strained across the entire country because we have more data centers, because we have AI coming on board, which uses a tremendous amount of electricity. We have electric vehicles that are coming on board, which use a tremendous amount of electricity. In the process, we have more and more regulations slowing down the production of more and more energy. We are not keeping up, and we all know it. Yet a bill to deal with energy permitting languishes. I have no idea, after it comes out of committee, if we will ever even discuss it on the floor of the Senate, although it has been worked on.

We have healthcare issues. We all talk about the importance of healthcare and trying to be able to bring down the cost for consumers. Well, guess what, the Finance Committee did protracted, multiyear work on a bipartisan basis to be able to move a bill dealing with pharmacy benefit managers to bring down the cost not of 10 drugs but of all drugs and to be able to make it more available—and not just available by mail, available at pharmacies, especially rural pharmacies that are struggling under the oppression of the pharmacy benefit managers.

Just this year, this calendar year—middle of September to January—just this year, 2,275 pharmacies in America have closed. Do you know why? That pharmacy benefit manager bill that we have that has been out of committee on a wide bipartisan vote is still sitting there not even debated on this floor while 2,275 pharmacies closed because, apparently, we needed to do other things.

So we have ignored more than 2,000 pharmacies closing, many of them in rural areas, because we wouldn't even debate the policy here. If we brought it to this floor, it would pass tomorrow with overwhelming support on both sides of the aisle, but it has not been brought up.

There is a farm bill that is out there that was due last year, so there was an extension into this year. Well, guess what, that farm bill expires now within the month, and there is no debate still about the farm bill that was extended from last year into this year on where it is going to go.

Farmers that are dealing with reference prices right now and inflation and what they are facing for the cost of fuel, the cost of fertilizer, the cost of equipment—as that continues to accelerate, Congress continues to ignore bringing up the farm bill, as if our food is just going to appear at the grocery store.

These are big issues. The reason we all were elected was to work on these big issues, but so far this year, these issues won't even come to the floor of the Senate for debate. It is not that they have been brought up and voted down; they are not even brought up.

My simple challenge is: It is the middle of September. Why aren't we working on the budget? Why aren't we working on the national defense authorization? Why aren't we working on energy and the cost of permitting for energy? Why aren't we working on

lower-priced prescription drugs? Why aren't we working on the farm bill? All of those had wide bipartisan support coming out of committee—all of them—but none of them have been brought up here on this floor.

Maybe it is so everything can just get crammed into the end of the year and get past ''the election.'' But maybe we need to reset our priorities. Let's get the things done that the American people expect us to work on, the hard things, the things that are important, whether it is healthcare, energy, ag policy, the budget, the national defense. Let's address the things that should be addressed, and let's get started. I would be OK with starting today, but let's at least address them next week. But from my understanding of next week's schedule, they are not coming up then either.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

TRIBUTE TO JULIE ADAMS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, one of my predecessors in the Senate from Kentucky was a guy named Happy Chandler. He had a legendary career that continued back in the Commonwealth as a two-time Governor, and he was actually the baseball commissioner for a while. He was known for what I found to be a wise observation: You can start too late but never too soon.

That sums up how I feel about the task I began this time last week: publicly thanking the talented people who serve with me in the Republican leader's office. It is not because I am going anywhere anytime soon. It is not because there is any shortage of important work still to be done. I have just had the great, good fortune of leaning on an outstanding staff, and it is never too soon to thank them for their devoted service over many years.

The group I would like to single out for particular praise this afternoon includes some of the longest serving members of my team and some of its newest arrivals, some of the most familiar faces around the Capitol and some of the behind-the-scenes heroes who actually keep us going. Every one of them is essential to the work that we do for Kentucky and for the Nation.

I will begin with someone whose first stint on my team predates my time as Republican leader.

Today, the former Secretary of the Senate, Julie Adams, is a senior leader with administrative responsibilities that touch every corner of this institution, but I will claim credit for first bringing this proud Iowan to the Senate as my deputy communications director.

When Julie left my team the first time, she wisely picked an opportunity I would have a rough time objecting to, and that was working for First Lady Laura Bush at the White House. Well, ever since she got back, I have done everything I could to keep Julie's numerous talents right here in the Senate. From complex personnel policy to ancient institutional protocol, Julie hasn't met a Senate challenge she couldn't handle with tact and grace. Appointing Julie as Secretary under the last Republican majority was literally a no-brainer. From this desk, I had a front row seat to Julie's professional excellence, but I wasn't the only one.

As I understand it, Julie's daily appearances on the Senate floor were appointment viewing for her parents Harold and Leah. They tuned in from back home, and they have good reason to be proud of their truly exceptional public servant.

So, Julie, thank you so much.

TRIBUTE TO GRACE HARRISON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, while Julie has been out amongst the tapestry of the broader Senate, the next pair I would like to thank have been holding down the fort just inside the doors of my Capitol office.

The first person anybody sees when they stop by my office is Grace Harrison, and that is by design. Grace has both the warmth and the poise of a royal and the authoritative confidence of a bouncer. She knows how to make guests feel welcome whether they are Kentuckians stopping by on a family vacation or dignitaries arriving for important meetings. At the same time, she knows how to keep a firm hold on what comes in and out of the office. It is a rare combination of skills and easily takes years to hone, but Grace had it mastered on day one.

As I understand it, it wasn't long after she arrived that Grace also had the names and faces of each of our colleagues committed to memory, and she has wasted no time in taking on extra projects above and beyond the duties of the front office. This isn't at all surprising for someone who, I am told, found time back in high school, amid the demands of academics and extracurriculars, to start up her own business on the side. Well, I am grateful that Grace continues to make it her business to support my entire team so well.

So, Grace, thank you.

TRIBUTE TO GADEN JAMES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now, Mr. President, if you make it past Grace, you may find yourself striking up a conversation with the other half of my all-star front office, Gaden James.

It usually begins with a detailed account of the incredible history of the room—the very first home of the Library of Congress—but where the conversation goes next is anybody's guess. Gaden is as comfortable discussing the finer points of sport fishing as he is the nuances of Richard Nixon's foreign policy. No matter the topic, you are sure to come away with some new walking-around knowledge. Perhaps that is par for the course with an alumnus of one of our most erudite former colleagues, Rob Portman.

Gaden has struck a sort of balance few young Capitol Hill staffers manage to achieve. He is both 100 percent present for the tasks at hand and 100 percent committed to honing the skills he hopes to use in his future. In other words, he is not above keeping track of my favorite coffee mug, but he never misses an opportunity to attend a briefing on an interesting topic either. And when the Senate works odd hours, so does my front office team. I am grateful that Gaden has been so willing to burn the midnight oil.

So, Gaden, thanks a lot.

TRIBUTE TO KATIE KARAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now, Mr. President, if the front office sounds like an energetic place to work, just ask our special assistant, Katie Karam, what it is like helping my senior staff in the back office.

Katie came aboard last year at a particularly busy time for my team. Depending on who you ask, she was either stolen or rescued from the wild world of House campaigns. Regardless, Katie dove headfirst into a tough job: keeping tabs on a chief of staff who is known to come and go from the office via a secret side door, tracking down a national security advisor who is frequently unreachable via phone or email, and taking on extensive other duties as assigned—all with a calm but eager willingness beyond her years.

Katie is a sponge for new knowledge and skills, and my entire staff has come to count on her as a utility player in all kinds of clutch situations.

Katie's contributions in my office follow in a distinguished family tradition of public service, and her loyal commitment to this team is second only to her devotion to her family, whom I know she makes very proud.

So, Katie, thank you.

TRIBUTE TO SARAH STEINBERG

Mr. MCCONNELL. Of course, Mr. President, I can't talk about how my office runs with calm efficiency and professionalism without mentioning the great work of my scheduling director, Sarah Steinberg.

Around the Senate, it is considered poor form to recruit all-star staffers away from our colleagues, but when my dear friend Lamar Alexander announced his retirement, I concluded it was fair play for the Kentucky delegation to borrow Sarah's talents from her native Tennessee.

At any given moment over the past 5 years, there isn't anyone who has had a better idea of where I am—or, more importantly, where I am supposed to be—than Sarah. Discretion and attention to detail are her calling cards. Sarah closely guards my confidence and vigilantly protects my time. She spots sensitive situations from a mile away and

steers us through them with the ease of a pro who has seen it all.

Indeed, Sarah has seen it all. From her days at the business end of Senate casework back in Tennessee to her tenure managing some of the most demanding schedules here in Washington, to the job of which I am sure she is most proud: raising two young sons, Connor and Graham, with her husband Shane.

I have been so grateful for Sarah's willingness to juggle it all with such excellence.

So, thank you, Sarah.

TRIBUTE TO MOON SULFAB

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I am proud of the way my team thrives under pressure, but when technical difficulties throw a wrench in a busy day, even the coolest heads require a bit of grace. In those moments, there is nobody my team is happier to see than my longtime information administrator of information technology, Moon Sulfab.

Of course, with Moon's capable hands on the wheel, moments of technological crises are few and far between. He plugged in the entire Republican leader's office. He will be the only one to unplug it as well, and every day in between, I have relied on Moon's trust, loyalty, discretion, and skill to keep our entire operation secure. Moon's relentless pursuit of professional development makes him not only an asset for my team but for the entire Senate.

But for every memory of Moon bailing us out of a wonky technological problem, my team recalls countless more times when he was just the friendliest colleague they could ask for. Moon asks after their parents and their favorite sports teams. He wants to know about their latest travels and regale them with stories and gifts from his own. And his reputation is hardly limited to my office. Around the Capitol, it is well-known that Moon hasn't ever met a stranger.

By his own admission, he is living an American dream, and by his joy for his work, his lifelong love of learning, and his devotion to this institution, Moon reminds those around him that we are as well.

So, Moon, thank you so much.

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDRA JENKINS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, my late friend and former chair of the Ethics Committee, Johnny Isakson, liked to warn folks not to drown in shallow water. What he meant, of course, was that while you are focused on the big picture, you can't forget to dot your i's and cross your t's.

Well, my entire team is fortunate that my office manager, Alexandra Jenkins, took that advice as words to live by.

Alex, of course, is a proud Kentuckian. And as I was reminded during my travels during a State work period, Kentucky is quite proud of her as well.

So is our shared alma mater. It is not uncommon for McConnell Scholars in Louisville to come up to me eager to let me know that they know Alex. I suspect they see in her what my staff saw in her years ago, when she joined the team—a passion for public service and a wisdom beyond her years.

It didn't take long before the selfless initiative that prompted Alex to quietly come into work on Sundays to help Kentuckians secure coveted tickets for White House tours invited even greater responsibilities.

As office manager, Alex is constantly immersed in the minutiae of Senate policy and personnel. Well before an issue arises, she makes it her business to become an expert. When my seniormost staff need honest assessments to make sensitive decisions, Alex doesn't pull any punches. Her competence and composure prevent headaches and quite literally keep our team out of harm's way.

I can't help but recall how, on January 6, while working from home, Alex provided such timely instructions and updates to members of my staff literally locked down in the Capitol that many of them assumed she was there as well.

I know my entire team is grateful for Alex's patience, her friendship, and the biting wit that keeps officemates on their toes.

And behind only her proud mom Debra, I count myself among her biggest fans.

So, Alex, thank you.

For a second week in a row, I close by saying that there are still many more incredibly talented and dedicated public servants that I need to thank publicly in the days ahead. In the meantime, my entire team will continue to do what they do best on behalf of Kentucky and the entire Nation.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024, AT 3 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The U.S. Senate stands adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:53 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 23, 2024, at 3 p.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EULOGY BY MONSIGNOR SYLVA AT THE FUNERAL MASS OF CONGRESSMAN BILL PASCRELL

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, Bill Pascrell was one of the most unique and authentic people I have ever had the privilege of knowing and serving with as both a colleague and a dear friend. He was so loved and appreciated for his candor and for the authentic way that he communicated his concerns for the people of Paterson and all of New Jersey. The Congress will never quite be the same, and nor will the 'corner,' our committee, or the Democratic Caucus. He was loved and respected by both Democrats and Republicans. He had that kind of impact on people and especially his friends and family for whom he deeply loved. Our hearts go out to his wife Elsie, his sons William III, Glenn, and David, his grandchildren, and the entire Pascrell family.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD a eulogy delivered by Monsignor Eugene R. (Geno) Sylva of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ, who on August 28th captured the essence of the Late Honorable Bill Pascrell:

A reading from the Holy Gospel According to Luke: ''For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners who love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies, do good to them, lend expecting nothing back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High. For He himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as also your Father is merciful.'' The Gospel of the Lord.

Please be seated.

Elsie, Bill, Glenn, David, Kelly, the whole family, please know that our love and our prayers have been with you and will continue to be with you. And to have all of you here, and to have his bishop, deacons, priests, to have his beloved firefighters, his wonderful group of pastors, his peers in politics—the Congressman would've loved this. And Bill, I think you're right, if your father was speaking, he'd still be talking now. Because we tried at times, there was no doing this (motions to cut off) once he got rollin'.

On the morning of Sherriff Richard Berdnik's funeral mass, this cathedral was overflowing with people. Police officers, firefighters lined the streets outside, the haunting sounds of the bagpipes wailed, when all of a sudden, my phone in my pocket begins to buzz. Worried that there might be an emergency outside, I take the phone out of my pocket, and I see the name Congressman Bill Pascrell. So, in a hushed voice, I answered the phone, hoping that The Congressman realized that the funeral was about to begin. There on the line, was the frantic voice of The Congressman, ''Monsignor, delay the start of the mass, I'm running late! You have to stall for 15 minutes.'' This is no exaggeration. ''I loved the sheriff, I can't be late for the mass, I have to be there, I'm tellin' ya, start late.'' I gotta be honest with you, my heart dropped. I'm sure we've all been in those situations where the beloved Congressman has spoken very . . . strongly. You never wanted to let him down, right? You see, after the Sherriff's wake the evening before, the Congressman had been rushed to the hospital and was only being released that very morning. He wanted to go home with Elsie and get changed so that he could look presentable for the funeral mass for his beloved friend, Sherriff Berdnik. Now, most normal men, they probably would've gone home and gone to bed. Not Bill. He had to go to church to pray for his friend.

But that's Congressman William J. Pascrell Jr. If he loved ya, there was no extent that he would not go to in order to help ya. But what made him truly remarkable, as it is easy to help those whom you love, and who you love, was that Bill would do all that he could to assist you even if he didn't like you, and you might not have liked him. Yes, he was a self-proclaimed tough guy, a street fighter from Paterson, ''with only one T!'' Right, how many times did we hear that? But what made him so remarkable, and please take this to heart, the Congressman could fight without hate. He could fight without hate. He could become enraged and angry, I'm sure we all felt that, without becoming vengeful. How many times did he and I argue bitterly? And I'm sure you can guess on what some of those issue might have been. I mean we really slugged it out. But as heated as the discussions may have become, however, he never let the disagreement—his anger—lead him to disregard my position, my personhood. And in those exchanges, I got to see his heart, and he took the time to see my heart.

And how was he able to do this? Because he fought one particular prized fight every day. One that was even more important than all of those battles on Capitol Hill. And what was that fight? Not to allow his justified anger—to make the world a better place—to simmer and to settle into hatred. For St. Thomas Aquinas had written, ''anger becomes a mortal sin only if through the fierceness of anger, one falls away from the love of God and his neighbor.'' You see, anger is not always contrary to love. For it seeks at times to make things right. It's only sin when it's no longer tethered to love, which is the greatest good.

Bill was able to tether his fierceness to love. His fiery character, which was trained in virtue by his dear parents, St. John's High School, and yes, the Jesuits at Fordham, to bring about good for God's kingdom. Friends, if there ever was a quote to capture the essence of Congressman Pascrell, it was the words of St. Augustine, whose feast day we celebrate today, so thank you for the other quote from St. Augustine: ''Hope has two beautiful daughters—their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are and Courage to see that they do not remain the way that they are''.

Because Bill was a man of justified anger, not of hatred—a man of courage, not of intimidation, the Congressman offered to each one of us in our own ways hope. I just invite you for a moment to recall one of those moments of hope that Congressman Bill Pascrell gave you. A moment of hope that might have been uncomfortable in the moment, but it got you to a place you never thought you could get, and you got.

Friends, as wonderful as those memories are, we're not here today merely to recall those earthly moments of hope that Bill gave us, but to pray for his eternal soul, won only through Christ's victorious battle over sin and death. For it's only Christ's victorious battle, not those that we wage, that we find Christian hope. Our politicians, you provide us with optimism, and boy, do we need that. But only Christ graces us with eternal hope, through His victory, not on Capitol Hill in Washington, but a hill called Golgotha in Jerusalem. How we need both human hope and theological Christian hope. For what is Christian hope? Christian hope is trusting in another who is capable of extending and expanding out limited hope and optimism into the future, into the Divine. And that other is Jesus Christ. Chrisitan hope is more than optimism, a belief that all will be well tomorrow. Hope has a name and a face, hope is a person, and he is Jesus Christ. And with hope and with the Lord, we can face the future without having to know what tomorrow looks like or what even awaits us. With hope, with Him, we know that our lives will not end in emptiness. We have hope in the person of Jesus who is alive and always with us. We know Him and we trust Him. Friends in the resurrection, the risen Lord speaks to us and tells us, ''Yes you need me, for no one can do this on their own, no matter the titles we have, the power we have. Yes, you need me, and you love me, and you have me, for I died for you.'' Friends, in our grief today, we are offered hope amidst our tears. For with hope in Christ, we see the loss of our husband, our father, our grandfather, our peer, and our friend in the light of the resurrection, for even now through our tears the Lord makes the sunset of death give itself way to the dawning of eternal life. Filled with hope, as we just pause for a moment to remember a man who assisted us in this life. So now we pause to pray for him into the next. For you see, if our relationships—our love—ended in death, then Bill's death would be a tragedy: an opportunity lost, a wound perpetually raw. Thus, it is death that we must ask the most important question I really believe: ''Can I love someone more, even after they died?'' And the answer is yes. And how? By praying our loved one on the final road, through the purification of sin, to his final home in heaven. And friends, speaking of the road to heaven, I'm reminded of something interested about the road to Paterson. Bill Pascrell III this week told me something interesting about his father that I never knew. That Governor Murphy, back in 2020, designated Route 19 the William J. Pascrell Highway. Right? But before you clap; Governor Murphy, that was wonderful. But . . . while you clap, Billy told me that the other day, I thought to myself 'how did I not know that?' You know why I didn't know it? There's no sign telling us that. Sorry Governor, there's no sign. I had to do it. Sorry Mayor. Sorry. Thanks. The road the Congressman has taken, you Elsie, Bill, David, Glenn, the entire family, you've been on with him, you were with him

through each battle, though there may be no public signs designated to his road or your road. That's ok. You and Dad never needed fame. You see, you knew that he loved you more than everyone else and knew that it was you who allowed him to fight the good fight each day.

And Elsie, having seen you both side-by-side for 30 years, I believe it was only your sweetness, your humility, your strength, your goodness, which in the end, allowed him to win the most important prized fight of his life: that of being man of justified anger, rather than one who ever had a hateful heart. For in the end, Elsie, he always knew that he had you, his greatest prize ever.

By the way, just finishing, you're wondering about Sherriff Berdnik's funeral—what did he do? I was really in a pickle, half Polish, half Italian. I had to start the mass on time for our Polish Sheriff, because I knew he would want that. But being half Italian, I knew I had to wait for our Italian Congressman, for I feared his wrath if I didn't wait. I was saved in the end by the Paterson Police Department and Passaic County Sheriff's department, because I called everyone and said, ''Get to Ninth Ave, and get the Congressman and Elsie here.'' It was miraculous, I think we started two minutes late.

Congressman Pascrell, my dear friend, thank you. I bet you speedily arrive home to heaven, where there will be no need more for you to be fiery and fierce, and where I'm sure Paterson will be spelled correctly. And don't worry Bill, we're going to get that sign up on Route 19.

Bill, through the mercy of God and the help of our prayers, just get home to heaven.

OPENING PRAYER BY HOUSE CHAPLAIN MARGARET GRUN KIBBEN

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to include in the RECORD the Opening Prayer offered by our House Chaplain, Margaret Grun Kibben on September 9th to grieve the loss of the Late Honorable Bill Pascrell:

In these days with much to be attended to, policies to be written, elections to be run; When the tasks not yet completed vie for attention, in contest with all that must yet be achieved;

When each day is a whirlwind of obligations and demands, break into our thoughts and concerns O Lord, and remind us again how precious is the life you give to each of us.

As we grieve the loss of our dear friend and colleague Representative Bill Pascrell, may it be his passionate and compassionate commitment to this country—and the people he was proud to represent—that inspires us to assess our spirit of service.

May it be his tender heart and gracious kindness that call us to love those with whom we labor in these chambers.

God our Creator, like trees planted by streams of water, may we each, like Bill Pascrell, yield fruit in our season. In the days that you give us, may our leaves not wither. In all that we do, may all be done for you. In this may our lives prosper with the certainty of your favor.

In your righteous name we pray.

HONORING JANA BOMMERSBACH

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of a legendary Arizona journalist, Jana Bommersbach, who passed away on July 17, 2024, at the age of 78 years old.

A North Dakota native, Jana moved to Arizona after earning her master's degree at the University of Michigan. It's in Arizona that she began an incredible career, which revolved around her love of the American West and all its colorful characters.

When Jana started at the Arizona Republic in the 1970s, she was one of just six women reporters in the newsroom. She worked her way up from reporter to editor, first for the Republic and later the Phoenix New Times. Because of her dogged reporting, the Arizona Press Club named her Arizona Journalist of the Year and honored her with its top investigative journalism prize, the Don Bolles Award, multiple times.

Jana's talents took her well beyond the newsroom when one of those-award winning stories turned into her hit book, The Trunk Murderess: Winnie Ruth Judd. Nominated for the Edgar Allan Poe Award and winning Arizona's only literary prize, The Trunk Murderess revisits the complicated story of Winnie Ruth Judd and a more than 60-year-old murder case, giving us a glimpse of Phoenix as a young frontier town. Jana earned the elderly Judd's trust, getting her to tell her side of the story for the very first time. That was Jana—reporting on true crime before it was trendy—because she understood just how much these stories matter.

Her life's work brought attention to the issues closest to her heart, like mental health and domestic violence. She paired vigorous journalism with selfless advocacy, giving her time to countless nonprofits. In 2020, she was inducted into the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame, rightly recognizing her lifetime of achievement.

More than anything, Jana was a joy to be around: a quick-witted, gifted storyteller who could leave any room in tears of laughter. She kept friends from all backgrounds and political parties and knew how to throw political jabs with a grin. Congress should take a lesson from her.

A trailblazer and fierce advocate for the voiceless, Jana's impact will live on through her work and the countless lives she brightened. We now do our best to keep her spirit with us by aspiring to be more like her. To live a life of purpose, integrity and fun. We join her friends and family in grief and gratitude, thankful we bore witness to her incredible legacy, full of stories to be told for generations to come.

Thank you to Jana, and Godspeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID ROUZER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 419, I mistakenly voted yea when I intended to vote nay.

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 8333, H.R. 1516, H.R. 1398, H.R. 1425, H.R. 7980, AND H.R. 9456

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to a slate of Republican bills offered this week that will do more harm than good in defending the United States' interests from the Chinese Communist Party.

Immediately upon their return from the August district work period, House Republicans have picked right back up with their prioritization of political talking points over responsible legislation. The Republican Majority is pushing forward a package of bills that revive failed programs, forgo due process, and undermine our academic institutions and domestic supply chains. Under the guise of deterring the influence of the Chinese Communist Party, the bills on the flow this week actually make it harder for us to protect national security interests and serve the interests of the American people.

H.R. 8333, the BIOSECURE Act, lists specific biopharmaceutical companies that are subject to federal contracting bans with no clear indication of why those companies were chosen. The bill lacks any due process to add or remove a company as a ''biotechnology company of concern.'' This sets a dangerous precedent going forward for companies that find themselves listed in this bill—or any other similar legislation.

H.R. 1516, To establish Department of Homeland Security funding restrictions on institutions of higher education that have a relationship with Confucius Institutes, and for other purposes, defines any connection to a Chinese public school or university as a relationship that is a threat to U.S. security. It would bar Universities with any of these connections from receiving any funds from the Department of Homeland Security, whether that funding is for securing college campuses against possible school shootings or receiving financial assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) after an emergency.

The Protect America's Innovation and Economic Security from CCP Act of 2024, H.R. 1398, is equally responsible. The Republican Majority would revive a defunct program at the Department of Justice that failed to address any of the actual threats posed by the Chinese Government and only succeeded in ruining the careers of academics and scientists of Chinese descent. Discriminatory impacts aside, the bill is plainly redundant, as the Department of Justice already prosecutes cases of economic espionage and trade secret theft.

H.R. 1425, the No WHO Pandemic Preparedness Treaty Without Senate Approval

Act hampers the United States' ability to respond to emerging pandemics and undermines the Biden-Harris administration's foreign policy agenda. House Republicans have introduced this bill under the pretense that any international agreement negotiated by the World Health Organization (WHO) is an international treaty, however, this is patently untrue. This legislation would only create more barriers, red tape, and headaches for our country as we respond to developing health threats around the world.

H.R. 7980, the End Chinese Dominance of Electric Vehicles in America Act, would threaten the viability of the EV tax credit for consumers created in the Inflation Reduction Act (Pub. L. 117–169). Congress has already set requirements for collecting the full $7,500 tax credit that strengthen the long-term EV domestic supply chain while also lowering our reliance on China. This bill would add additional requirements that are frankly unachievable and would virtually eliminate access to the EV tax credits that have helped thousands of people afford to purchase new EVs, saving Minnesotans money on gas and making the air in our communities cleaner.

Finally, the Protecting American Agriculture from Foreign Adversaries Act of 2024, H.R. 9456, undermines bipartisan-negotiated provisions from the Fiscal Year 2024. Consolidated Appropriations package that are helping to investigate national security threats from foreign investments into agricultural land, biotechnology, and other aspect of the agricultural industry. The Republican bill threatens to overwhelm the Committee of Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) and undermine its ability to investigate and stop real threats. We should not be undermining established law voted for by House Republicans and Democrats.

Mr. Speaker, the interference of the Chinese Communist Party, Russia, and other foreign adversaries poses real threats to our economy, our national security, and our democratic institutions. We need serious, deliberative, nonpartisan solutions to deal with these threats. Instead, the Republican Majority has brought bills to the floor this week that are ineffective at best and outright harmful at worst. I oppose all of these bills and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

RECOGNIZING MY VOICE COUNTS CHARITIES FOUNDATION, INC. FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, during this Hispanic Heritage Month, it is an honor to recognize My Voice Counts Charities Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization deeply committed to the social integration of Venezuelan immigrants into the American system.

Since its inception, they have tirelessly worked to support the Venezuelan community throughout Central Florida through a range of activities that promote solidarity, mutual support, and empowerment. They have organized job training workshops, English language programs, legal assistance, and healthcare services, facilitating the adaptation and well-being of hundreds of Venezuelan families across the United States. They have proactively addressed the challenges faced by our community. A prime example is their collaboration with our office to introduce the Venezuelan Adjustment Act in the U.S. House of Representatives. This bill would provide legal pathways and safeguard the lights of Venezuelans who have migrated to the U.S. in search of a better future. This effort underscores their commitment to justice and their ability to positively influence public policy that directly impacts their community.

Thanks to the dedication of their team and the invaluable support of volunteers and collaborators, My Voice Counts has successfully established a robust network of support that not only assists immigrants in integrating but also enriches the diversity and social fabric of local communities.

HONORING SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church of Newport News, Virginia, on its 75th Anniversary.

The church was established in 1949 and moved to its current location in 1982, with a mission to keep, practice, and proclaim the Orthodox Christian Faith. The church facilitates a number of ministries and organizations that offer engaging programs, philanthropic activities, educational initiatives, and community gatherings including the popular Newport News Greek Festival. This also includes the Daughters of Penelope, an organization that encourages civic engagement and offers scholarship opportunities. Importantly, the church has prioritized serving the disadvantaged in our local community through mission and donation, including support for the homeless, Habitat for Humanity, and the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank.

I also want to acknowledge the leadership of Father George Chioros. Father George was assigned to the Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in August of 1999 where he continues to diligently lead the large Orthodox Christian community on the Peninsula. He has actively served the community as a parish priest and as a member of many community boards. He has also participated in many charity organizations throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Father George and the clergy have continued growing the parish community, and they have enhanced numerous church ministries to address the needs of the Peninsula.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to congratulate Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church on its 75th anniversary and thank its members and leaders for all they have done for our community. I wish them many more years of success.

HONORING SHELLY HARTMANN

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Ms. Shelly Hartmann for her term as Chair of the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC), which concludes at the end of this year.

It is because of leaders like Shelly Hartmann that Michigan remains the best place in the country to grow. Shelly has dedicated her career to advocating for her fellow growers through numerous roles. Her impressive resume includes time serving as a member of the USHBC board for over ten years, as the governor-appointed treasurer of the Michigan Blueberry Commission, as a board member of the Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program Advisory Council, and as a member of the planning committee for the annual National Blueberry Festival in South Haven.

A pillar of our Southwest Michigan community, Shelly Hartmann currently co-owns True Blue Farms in Grand Junction with her husband Dennis. Overcoming adversity and beginning their operation in the early 1990s, True Blue Farms has become one of the largest growers in North America.

In 2021, Shelly was named the USHBC's first female chairperson. This impressive milestone illustrates Shelly's passion for her fellow growers. Throughout her tenure as chair, she has been a tireless advocate and has continuously enhanced the standing of American blueberry farmers across the world.

Mr. Speaker, as her tenure as chairperson concludes, I ask that you join me and the people of Michigan's 4th Congressional District in thanking Ms. Shelly Hartmann for her decades-long dedication to blueberry growers throughout the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF LUBERTA LEE

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 100th birthday of Luberta Lee.

Luberta was born in Coushatta, Louisiana in 1924. She and her late husband, Sigmund Lee, have 7 children and 17 grandchildren together. They were married for 46 years until he passed. As a couple, the Lee's made the cross country move from Louisiana to California. They settled in San Bernardino, where she dedicated 20 years of service to her community at Community Hospital before her retirement. She has now lived in San Bernardino for 75 years.

On behalf of the 35th Congressional District, I congratulate Luberta on this incredible milestone. It is my honor to represent courageous people like her. I hope that she enjoys much happiness in the coming year.

REMEMBERING MIKE CODY

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my sincere respects to Mike Cody, a highly respected Memphis lawyer who worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike, before going on to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, the state's Attorney General, and a Memphis City Council member. Cody passed Sunday at 88. I knew Mike Cody all my adult life, worked as a volunteer in his City Council campaign, and clerked for him at Burch, Porter & Johnson, where he began his legal career in 1961. As firm founder Lucius Burch might have said, 'the hair of the hypocrite was not seen about him.' After he, Burch and others met with King, Cody helped successfully argue, on the morning of April 4, 1968, for lifting a federal injunction preventing King from leading a second sanitation workers march after a first march ended in chaos. King was assassinated that evening. Cody worked with the Reverend James Lawson and others to form what became Memphis Area Legal Services, initially to meet individual sanitation workers' legal needs. He served as a Memphis City Councilman from 1975 to 1977 and was then appointed by President Jimmy Carter to be the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee into 1981. Scrupulously honest, he was known to prosecute both Democratic and Republican officials who abused their offices. An unsuccessful candidate in a special election for Memphis Mayor in 1983, Cody was soon appointed Tennessee's Attorney General during the administration of Republican Governor Lamar Alexander, serving from 1984 to 1988. He was also Chair of the Memphis and Shelby County Crime Commission (1997–1998). In 2005, he was appointed to serve as the Co-Chair of the Tennessee Commission on Ethics focusing on revising state ethics laws. In 2010, he was elected Co-Chair of the Society of Attorneys General Emeritus (SAGE).

Cody graduated from Memphis East High School (1954), then earned his undergraduate degree from Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College), in 1958, received his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1961, and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws from Rhodes in 1989, where he served as an adjunct professor. As Attorney General, Cody argued four cases before the United States Supreme Court: Rose v. Rose, 481 U.S. 619 (1987), Rose v. Clark, 478 U.S. 570 (1986), Alexander v. Choate, 469 U.S. 287 (1985), and Tennessee v. Garner, 471 U.S. 1 (1985). The landmark Garner case, in which Cody represented the State of Tennessee, established the precedent that an officer may not use deadly force to prevent the escape of a suspect without probable cause to believe the suspect poses a significant threat to the officer or others. The case grew out of a police chase in Memphis. Cody also served as an adjunct professor at Vanderbilt University School of Law, Memphis State University's School of Law, Rhodes College and LeMoyne Owen College. He served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1961 to 1967. He was the author of Honest Government: An Ethics Guide for Public Service (1992), and law review articles on excluding the mentally ill from the death penalty, Tennessee's experience with the privatization of correctional institutions, and on his representation of Dr. King in 1968, among other scholarly works. A member of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame and the Memphis Amateur Sports Hall of Fame, Cody was a runner since high school and ran in more than a dozen Boston Marathons, finishing fifth in his age group in 1990. He served on the board of the National Civil Rights Museum, as vice chairman of the Memphis and Shelby County Library Foundation, and President of the Memphis in May International Festival (1996). I extend my sincere condolences to his wife Suzanna; his children Jane, Mia and Michael; his extended family, and his many friends. He did much for his community, the legal profession, his state and the Nation. His was a life well-lived.

RECOGNIZING CLAIRE NASH'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Claire Nash, a longtime resident of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, who celebrated her 100th birthday in August. Claire is a beloved member of the Wolfeboro community whose giving heart continues to touch the lives of all who have come to know her. Today, I honor Claire for her steadfast commitment to spreading love and joy throughout her community.

Claire is loved throughout Wolfeboro and the towns surrounding it. Those who know her best would likely agree that it is better to describe her as 100 years young, not old. Everywhere she goes, she brings with her the exuberance and energy of the youngest at heart. As we celebrate Claire's 100th birthday, we recognize her unwavering dedication to her community and her continued contributions to the lives of countless others.

Claire has long been passionate about crochet and other hand crafts, skills she perfected over the years and continues to share with the world. Through the years, Claire has handmade and gifted countless quilts, pillows, and other crafts to the Police Department, Fire Department, Children's Center, and many other local organizations in and around Wolfeboro. In all she does, she inspires us with an enduring legacy of caring, creativity, and selflessness.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I wish Claire a happy and healthy 100th birthday. We thank her for bringing so much happiness and caring to her community and for her continued commitment to the people of New Hampshire.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF READING AND BEYOND

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today, we gather to commemorate a remarkable milestone in the field of children's education and economic empowerment for families—the 25th Anniversary of Reading and Beyond (RAB). This historic occasion is a testament to the enduring legacy and unwavering commitment of RAB to improving literacy and success for children and empowering families across California.

Founded in 1999, RAB was started by members of the First Covenant Church bringing together community leaders to find a solution for children that were struggling to read in the neighborhood. Since then, RAB has been a leader for families in the San Joaquin Valley, providing educational and wellness opportunities that have been carried on through generations.

In 2003, RAB was selected by the U.S. Department of Education in a competitive process to receive national funding. Through this, they were able to develop their Early Childhood Education program into a model that other organizations could replicate. Within the same year, the Fresno Unified School District also honored RAB as a ''model for other organizations.'' In 2008, RAB was recognized by Kern Briggs, the Department of Education Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, as a ''remarkable example of the impact that faith-based organizations have in a community.'' In 2014, RAB was chosen as one of only ten national projects to receive funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for their Fresno Bridge Academy program, for which they were awarded $12 million to achieve their goal of lifting families out of poverty through educational services.

The RAB mission is both clear and commendable: to empower children and families to achieve productive, self-reliant lives through its holistic, research, and results-based programs with the end goal of helping children succeed. Through this two-generation approach, RAB has been able to create a lasting effect on families that is passed down generationally. As a result of their commitment to this mission, RAB has grown from what started out as a community effort to help children in Fresno's neighborhoods improve their reading into the pillar of children's and family wellness and empowerment throughout the San Joaquin Valley that it is today. Beyond preschool and early childhood education, their services now include youth prevention and intervention programs, parent engagement and family strengthening programs, health and wellness education, training programs and workforce development for adults, and college preparation for students.

As Reading and Beyond reaches their 25th Anniversary, we must recognize and celebrate this momentous occasion. It represents a quarter of a century of dedication, commitment, and service to the families and communities of the San Joaquin Valley. Their work has impacted not only the individual children and families, but also the overall well-being of the Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring the 25th Anniversary of Reading and Beyond. Let us celebrate their legacy and their ongoing commitment to advancing educational, health and wellness opportunities to underserved families and children.

HONORING NOAH LYLES

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor my constituent and Olympic champion, Noah Lyles. Born on July 18, 1997, and raised in Alexandria, Virginia, Noah became the fastest man in the world at twenty-seven years old, completing the 100-meter race in 9.79 seconds at the 2024 Olympics in Paris, where he brought home the gold medal. He is the first American to win the 100m gold medal since 2004, a remarkable accomplishment that united us as a Nation in pride. Noah also won a bronze medal in the 200-meter race, a reflection of his talent and determination on the world stage.

Noah graduated from Alexandria City High School, where he is being honored by his alma mater and the Northern Virginia community, who are incredibly proud of his historic tourney at the Olympics this year. I am thrilled to celebrate his career as six-time world champion and Olympic achievements in his hometown and am hopeful his success will inspire the next generation of young athletes in Northern Virginia and around the country.

On behalf of my constituents in Virginia's Eighth Congressional District, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Noah Lyles.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ELISE ROXANN RHODES

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Elise Roxann Rhodes, who passed away on September 9, 2024. Known as ''Lesa'' to many, Ms. Rhodes was a cherished pillar of our community and brought joy to all those who knew her.

Born on February 13, 1965, in Buffalo, New York, Ms. Rhodes was raised by her parents Roosevelt and Frances Arlene Rhodes in the Central Park neighborhood. She attended Buffalo Public School No. 61 St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, and Archbishop Carroll High School before attending and graduating from Lafayette High School in 1983. While at Lafayette High School, Ms. Rhodes attended the Buffalo Vocational Technical Center, where she discovered her interest in healthcare. Afterward, Ms. Rhodes attended D'Youville University in pursuit of a career in nursing. She graduated in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing and in 1995 with a Master of Science Degree in Community Health Nursing.

Ms. Rhodes worked tirelessly as a nurse, providing exceptional care to her patients as a Registered Nurse, Clinical Nursing Professor, Program Director, academic advisor at the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and an advocate for underserved communities. Outside of her career, she was a member of the Parish Nurse Ministry of Western New York, as well as a volunteer for the Black Student Union at D'Youville University, advisor for the Minority Nurses Association at the State University of New York at Buffalo, and member of the Buffalo School Health Advisory Board.

As an advocate for her community, Ms. Rhodes found numerous ways to give back. She provided health education information during the City of Buffalo's annual Juneteenth and Kwanzaa Festivals. She participated in marches, demonstrations, and meetings to promote health equity and equal treatment, access, education, and rights for minority communities, especially Black and Latino communities. Because of her steadfast commitment to serving others, Ms. Rhodes was inducted as an Honorary Mother of Ka in Malika Kambe Umfazi Sorority, Inc.

Furthermore, Ms. Rhodes remained deeply committed to her faith. She was a faithful member of Elim Christian Fellowship, as well as a member of the Health Education Ministry in which she coordinated a project to make the entrance of the church fully accessible for individuals with physical disabilities. Ms. Rhodes also helped develop screening protocols for COVID–19 and acquired AED and Narcan stations at the church. Additionally, Ms. Rhodes served as the Administrative Coordinator for the Christian Education Ministry, where she was responsible for creating informational pamphlets and operational manuals for the Kingdom Growth Institute.

Ms. Rhodes was the loving daughter of Roosevelt and Frances Arlene Rhodes, cherished sister of Sonja Sidell Rhodes and Vonetta Tashika Rhodes, dear step-daughter of Faith Moore-Rhodes and step-sister of Ashley Rhodes, Briana Rochelle Rhodes, and Valerie Nicole Moody, and devoted niece, cousin, aunt, and godmother to many more.

Today, Ms. Rhodes is remembered as a hard-working woman of God, who put the needs of others first and worked to make her community a more healthy, equitable place. Please join me in honoring Ms. Elise Roxann Rhodes for her lifetime of dedication to service, and faith.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to a previously scheduled medical procedure, I was unable to be in D.C. on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, and on Wednesday, September 18, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: YEA on Roll Call No. 418, H.R. 8314, the No Foreign Election Interference Act; YEA on Roll Call No. 420, H. Res. 1455, On ordering the previous question; YEA on Roll Call No. 421, H. Res. 1455, Providing for consideration of the bills H.R. 3724; H.R. 4790, H.R. 5179, H.R. 5339, H.R. 5717, and H.R. 7909, and the Joint resolution H.J. Res. 136; YEA on Roll Call No. 422, S. 1146, the Find and Protect Foster Youth Act; YEA on Roll Call No. 423, H.R. 9076, the Supporting America's Children and Families Act; YEA on Roll Call No. 424, H.R. 7213, the Autism CARES Act; YEA on Roll Call No. 425, H.R. 1513, the FUTURE Networks Act; NAY on Roll Call No. 426, H.R. 5339, on Motion to Recommit; YEA on Roll Call No. 427, H.R. 5339, the RETIRE Act; YEA on Roll Call No. 428, H.R. 5179, the Anti-BDS Labeling Act; YEA on Roll Call No. 429, H.R. 7909, the Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act; NAY on Roll Call No. 430, H.R. 9494, on Motion to Recommit; and YEA on Roll Call No. 431, H.R. 9494, the Continuing Appropriations and Other Matters Act, 2025.

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLICAN NEWSPAPER'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 200th anniversary of The Republican newspaper in Springfield, Massachusetts.

For 200 years, The Springfield Republican has been the standard for journalistic excellence in western Massachusetts and throughout the nation. Since its founding by the Bowles family in 1824, the paper has been in continuous circulation for two centuries—a feat that few publications can attest to.

Over the course of my career in public life, I have had the privilege of working with publishers who navigated the paper through changes that have transformed how we receive the news. This includes the likes of David Starr, Larry McDermott, and most recently George Arwady. All have played a prominent role in the newspaper's success in an ever-changing world.

I've also had the pleasure of working with exemplary editors, including Dick Garvey, Wayne Phaneuf, and Cynthia Simison. Now, Larry Parnass continues their legacy. Their commitment to journalistic integrity has upheld the newspaper's reputation as an outlet for reliable reporting. Chronicling the triumphs and challenges that have shaped our communities with sincerity and respect, they have made The Republican a generational household name.

The paper's story started with two things: a flat-bottomed barge and a printing press. Samuel Bowles and his wife made their way up the Connecticut River and settled in Springfield, Massachusetts. In 1824, Bowles founded The Republican, and the rest is history.

From its founding, The Republican prided itself on being a paper that delivered accurate news, while never shying away from discussing controversial topics. Samuel Bowles III was quick to realign the newspaper with the newly formed Republican party and was a strong proponent of the anti-slavery movement. It was that commitment to adaptability and foresight that earned Bowles, and subsequently the Republican, the admiration of a national audience—including President Lincoln.

On April 14, 1865, after a private meeting with The Springfield Republican's Washington correspondent George Ashmun, President Lincoln invited Ashmun to attend the theater with

him and Mrs. Lincoln. Ashmun declined, and Lincoln subsequently wrote a note that read, ''Allow Mr. Ashmun and friend to come in at 9 A.M. tomorrow. A. Lincoln. April 14, 1865.''

Later that evening, President Lincoln was assassinated. His note inviting Mr. Ashmun to the White House the following day would be Lincoln's last written words.

I call attention to this because it speaks not only to The Republican's involvement in one of the most consequential moments in American history, but also to the paper's constant pursuit of informing its audience of stories throughout the nation and around the world. Over the course of its 200-year history, The Springfield Republican has reported on a Civil War, two world wars, and conflicts across the globe; national triumphs like putting the first man on the moon and the invention of the internet; landmark legislative achievements like giving women the right to vote with the ratification of the 19th Amendment, the genius of Mr. Roosevelt's Social Security Act, and Lyndon Johnson's Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965; tragedies like the assassinations of Presidents Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley, and Kennedy, and the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The Republican has been there through it all.

And while The Republican was there for each and every one of these stories of national and international significance, they have continued to prioritize the reporting of local stories. Or, as they have coined it, ''bringing home the news.'' For the last 200 years, The Springfield Republican has documented the triumphs and tribulations of this region, one filled with a rich history unlike any other; one whose history played a fundamental role in the founding of our Nation and its basic principles, including freedom of the press.

Whether it was covering visits by fifteen U.S. Presidents, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech at Springfield College, or foreign dignitaries visiting from around the world, The Springfield Republican was there.

Whether it was the 40 world championships won by Boston's four major sports teams, the invention of basketball by James Naismith, Dr. J's career with UMass basketball, Springfield's own Tim Daggett and his gold medal victory at the 1984 Olympics, or the countless high school athletes who have achieved All-Western Massachusetts honors, The Springfield Republican was there.

When we were ravaged by natural disasters, including the tornado in 2011, The Springfield Republican was there.

When we rebuilt our city and embarked on a renaissance that continues to take place right before our eyes, highlighted by the redevelopment of Springfield Union Station, the reinvigoration of our city's downtown, and transforming centuries-old buildings into state-of-the-art housing, The Springfield Republican was there.

In an ever-changing society, The Republican has endured a constantly transforming media market. In a time where social media dominates our nation's discourse, and misinformation and disinformation run rampant, we can continue to count on The Republican for their commitment to constant objectivity. On the occasion of their bicentennial, I am grateful for their unwavering loyalty to the people of this region.

I think Dave Starr said it best in his column published on October 24, 1999, when the newspaper celebrated its 175th anniversary. Dave wrote, ''Good newspapers like the Republican and the Union News live on because they offer a commodity that is worth the price. It's not just the news and the ads, the television listings and the sports pages, the comics and the crossword puzzles. They are important, but they are just part of what is in a good newspaper.''

He continued, ''A good newspaper is the embodiment of a community's hopes and dreams, its yearnings and its aspirations. It is the voice of the public it serves. It is the mirror of its community. And equally important, it is the public's guardian against dark forces that would erode or even destroy the people's rights and freedoms.''

As we celebrate The Republican's 200th anniversary, we thank all those who have played and continue to play a part in upholding the paper's mission of bringing home the news—news that embodies our community here in the Pioneer Valley and promotes the tenets of a free press.

The Springfield Republican has been there, and they will continue to be there for generations to come. Congratulations from the United States of America.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO DEBBIE CONARD

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Debbie Conard, who has dedicated over 20 years to volunteering with the Richardson Fire Department. On the Fire 1 Rehab Team, Debbie supports firefighters during large fires. She is on call 24/7, leading the photography team and responding to structure fires, capturing firefighters as they save lives and property. These images serve as a visual record of the bravery and dedication of our local firefighters and are on display at fire stations throughout the city.

After completing the Citizen Fire Academy (CFA), Debbie joined the CFA Alumni Association, where she served as President for many years and remains active today. Her dedication extends to the Richardson Police Department, where she has volunteered for over 18 years. After completing the Citizen Police Academy (CPA), she continued to stay involved through the board of the CPA Alumni Association, contributing to special events, including National Night Out and Safety Fairs, as well as photographing for CPA classes.

Debbie's dedication to serving North Texans isn't limited to Richardson city limits. She volunteered at the Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas where she engaged patients with crafts, books, and games. She also volunteered with Equest, a therapeutic equestrian riding program for children with diverse needs. Through her involvement with the annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb, Debbie helps honor fallen firefighters and police officers who lost their lives in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Debbie is also a volunteer photographer for Honor Flight, which celebrates America's veterans by inviting them to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials built to commemorate their service and sacrifice.

Those who know and work with Debbie describe her as humble, sincere, and deeply compassionate. She has a generous heart and never seeks recognition of accolades for her efforts. I'd like to thank Debbie Conard for going above and beyond to serve our North Texas community.

DETECTIVE MATTHEW KING NAMED OHIO'S 13TH DISTRICT CHAMPION OF THE WEEK

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Detective Matthew King of the North Canton Police Department as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

Detective King was recognized by his peers as the Police Officer of the year for the North Canton Police Department. King has been a police officer since 2018, and has been with the North Canton Police Department since 2019.

In 2021, Officer King was promoted to Detective King when he graduated as the Valedictorian of his Drug Recognition Expert Class, earning a 99.14 percent grade point average.

He is also a member of the Stark County Metro Narcotics Unit and the OVI Task Force.

This honor is not Detective King's first award. In 2021, he was awarded the Stark County Traffic Office of the Year. Detective King has been a model police officer for many years.

Once again, I'd like to congratulate Detective Matthew King on this distinction, and thank him for his tireless public service to North Canton. He is a perfect example of why Ohio's 13th Congressional District is known as the ''Birthplace of Champions.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILEY NICKEL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2024

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I was away from the floor during the vote on September 18. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on Roll Call No. 428.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development (PRAHD) as they celebrate their historic 50-year milestone of service. On September 19, 2024, they commemorate this accomplishment at PRAHD's Annual Roberto Clemente Gala. It is my privilege to

recognize the outstanding efforts of PRAHD to improve the well-being of our communities.

The rich history of this organization started with the mindset of the late Roberto Clemente. As a human service agency, the PRAHD staff is dedicated to being an open door for community members facing life altering obstacles. Honorably, the amazing organization has served over 14,000 people in the last year, feeding over 400 families annually. In May of 1974, the organization began their impact by operating youth services within Perth Amboy and have since expanded to serve Middlesex, Monmouth, Union, and Hudson counties.

For 50 years, PRAHD has succeeded in an exemplary campaign for the betterment of impoverished individuals. Their expansive human services empower the individual to reach their highest potential. I applaud PRAHD for its remarkable generosity.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development for their contributions to the community and congratulating them on this 50-year milestone.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREG LANDSMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote Number 429 on H.R. 7909, I mistakenly recorded my vote as NAY when I should have voted YEA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed the vote for the Anti-BDS Labeling Act (H.R. 5179). Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 428.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING PAT GOIN'S SERVICE AS CHAIR OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBERRY COUNCIL

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Pat Goin, who will be concluding her tenure as Chair of the North American Blueberry Council at the end of this year.

This August, I had the honor of visiting Pat and her husband Kevin at their blueberry farm, Goin's Blueberry Lane, in North Judson, Indiana as part of my district-wide ''Factories, Freeways, and Fields'' tour.

During my visit, I had the opportunity to learn more about their family-owned and operated blueberry farm that has been in business since 1980. Just as importantly, I was able to see firsthand Pat's great character and the passion she has for consistently putting out a high-quality product over all these years.

I am immensely grateful to Pat for the warm hospitality that my team and I received on our visit, as well as for the fresh and ripe blueberries that she, Kevin, and their family have been producing for more than 40 years.

I also greatly appreciate the leadership that Pat has provided to the North American Blueberry Council in her role as Chair on behalf of our blueberry producers and those connected to the blueberry industry all across our country. Our farmers and agricultural producers are some of the most industrious and important men and women anywhere in America, and I know that Pat has done a great service by effectively advocating on behalf of blueberry growers and their interests.

God bless Pat Goin.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARVIN TURNER

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Marvin Turner, who passed away on August 12, 2024. Marvin was a dedicated civil servant and worked tirelessly to make the District of Columbia the 51st state.

Marvin was a native of Atlanta, Georgia. After graduating high school, Marvin joined Job Corps and then began his career fighting for the rights of workers and for fair housing in North Carolina and South Carolina with the Service Employees International Union.

Marvin came to D.C. to work for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Soon after arriving in D.C., Marvin became a staffer for then-Mayor Sharon Pratt and then became a member of my staff. In 2013, Marvin was appointed as a commissioner on the District of Columbia Sentencing and Criminal Code Revision Commission, where he worked with other commissioners and D.C. Councilmembers to revise sentencing guidelines and the criminal code.

During his career, Marvin worked closely with Reverend Jesse Jackson as an advance staffer, as well as serving as the D.C. Statehood Coordinator for the National Rainbow Coalition. Marvin's work on the local and national levels ultimately led to him working for the Democratic National Committee's Office of the Secretary for nearly 20 years.

Marvin's work left an indelible mark on both D.C. and our Nation. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the incredible life and legacy of Marvin Turner.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS ACT, 2025

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2024

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this six-month Continuing Resolution and the accompanying SAVE Act.

Most of us do not want a CR and it is deeply unfortunate that one is necessary. Once again, the Senate did not get its work done and failed to pass any Appropriations bills off the floor. The House Republican Majority wasted months writing bills loaded with extreme social policy that the American people do not want. And still, Republicans only passed half their bills—why? Because they were so unpopular with their own conference.

Having failed to complete this work, Republicans now want to kick the can for six months. They will waste half the fiscal year, costing taxpayers billions of dollars. A CR this long would be irresponsible. The Department of Defense has also identified the consequences for our national security. A six-month CR would have negative impacts on our Military Personnel and their families. It would not include funds to cover the 4.5 percent pay raise for Service Members. It would not fund the nearly $3 billion increase required by law for the Basic Housing Allowance. And it would not include funds needed to cover medical costs for military families and stabilize the Military Healthcare System.

The Services would not be able to offer new enlistment and reenlistment bonuses—harming recruitment efforts. New program starts can't happen under a CR. This harms innovation and delays getting weapons and equipment into the hands of our personnel quickly. Keeping major defense programs on time and on budget will be more difficult. A CR will delay multi-year procurement of platforms like: heavy lift helicopters and Virginia Class Submarines. It will pause investments in our space-based satellite architecture. It will prevent full funding for the Columbia Class Submarine, and delay procurement of the B–21 Raider. Finally, CR's damage the readiness of the Joint Force. Training exercises and operations that are needed to ensure we can win any fight—they won't happen.

The Navy will suffer a delay of 58 ship maintenance availabilities, limiting work for our public and private shipyards. Air Force flying hours, weapon system sustainment, and ground combat readiness will suffer. We know this to be true—why?

We just had a nearly six-month CR in Fiscal Year 2024 which impacted DoD's ability to budget appropriately. The last thing we should do is compound this problem. We also have the Fiscal Responsibility Act to consider. Because if all 12 appropriations bills are not enacted by the end of April, sequestration takes effect.

What does that mean? Across the board spending cuts impacting everything from national security, to infrastructure, to healthcare and education. That is a gamble none of us should want to take.

To make a bad deal even worse, the Speaker has tacked on a partisan voter-suppression tool known as the SAVE Act, in an attempt to appease his most extreme Members. If this bill became law, the vast majority of Americans would need more than one document to vote. We need to be removing barriers to the ballot box not adding more. The Senate will not pass this bill, and it will not become law. We should reject this legislation—pass a clean short-term CR—and roll up our sleeves and get to work.

HONORING THE FRESH MARKET ON BEING NAMED ONE OF THE TOP GROCERY STORES IN AMERICA

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate The Fresh Market on being named one of the top Grocery Stores in America by USA Today and being ranked number one in the following categories: Best Grocery Store Bakery, Best Grocery Store Deli, and Best Grocery Store Prepared Food.

Originally founded right here in North Carolina, The Fresh Market has taken its renowned freshness and customer service to over 150 stores across 22 states. While The Fresh Market has grown and expanded its footprint across the country, it has never stopped focusing on the things that its home state is known for, good food and good people.

Whether you're grabbing something quick to go, or enjoying one of their many baked goods, The Fresh Market has something for everyone. The Fresh Market has shown its commitment to providing the highest quality food and produce to its customers, and that commitment is clearly reflected in these outstanding rankings. I can confidently say that we here in North Carolina could not be prouder of our local company which has achieved such national recognition for its incredible quality.

Again, congratulations to all the folks at The Fresh Market. They should feel extremely proud of all their hard work and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating The Fresh Market on being named one of the top grocery stores in America.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL APP CHALLENGE DAY

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate September 19, 2024, as the inaugural National App Challenge Day. This day honors the innovation, creativity, and technical skills of our nation's youth, who are the driving force behind our future's technological advancements.

The National App Challenge Day was established to encourage young students from across the United States to develop their coding skills, explore their creativity, and apply their problem-solving abilities to real-world issues. This initiative aligns with our nation's broader goal of promoting K–12 STEM education and preparing our students to be competitive in the global economy.

Since its inception, the Congressional App Challenge has inspired over 58,000 students, across all 50 states and territories to engage in computer science and technology. By participating in this challenge, students gain invaluable experience in teamwork, critical thinking, and innovation. The apps developed by these young coders address a wide range of issues, from improving educational resources to creating solutions for community challenges. National App Challenge Day highlights the importance of investing in our youth and supporting STEM education. It is a day to celebrate the achievements of all student participants and to recognize the mentors, educators, and community leaders who support and inspire these students.

As a recovering computer science major and one of the co-chairs of the Congressional App Challenge, I recognize the importance of supporting initiatives that foster innovation and creativity among our nation's youth. Let the National App Challenge Day serve as a catalyst for future leaders, innovators, and problem-solvers who will shape the world of tomorrow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NICK LaLOTA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mr. LaLOTA. Mr. Speaker, I regret to have missed the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 426; YEA on Roll Call No. 427; YEA on Roll Call No. 428; YEA on Roll Call No. 429; NAY on Roll Call No. 430; and YEA on Roll Call No. 431.

BLUECOATS DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS NAMED OHIO'S 13TH DISTRICT CHAMPION OF THE WEEK

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise today to recognize The Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

On August 7th, on the field of Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, the Bluecoats nearly achieved a perfect routine, scoring a 98.75 out of 100 to win the second world championship in their corps' history. This current win comes on the heels of them holding second place in the championships in 2022 and 2023.

The Drum Corps International World Championships was the grand finale for the Bluecoats' busy summer. The championship was the last show after a string of 17 competitive shows and 21 performances on its 8,000-mile national tour.

The Bluecoats are a perfect example of why Ohio's 13th Congressional District is known as the ''Birthplace of Champions.''

Once again, I'd like to congratulate the Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps for bringing this World Championship home. We are so proud of your hard work and incredible talent.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 9468, Veterans Benefits Continuity and Accountability Supplemental Appropriations Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6191–S6322

Measures Introduced: Thirty-one bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 5103–5133, S.J. Res. 110, and S. Res. 830–835. **Pages S6210–11**

Measures Reported:

S. 4716, to amend section 7504 of title 31, United States Code, to improve the single audit requirements, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–226) **Page S6210**

Measures Passed:

Veterans Benefits Continuity and Accountability Supplemental Appropriations Act: Senate passed H.R. 9468, making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, after taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S6192–99**

Rejected:

By 47 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 247), Paul Amendment No. 3289, to rescind funds from the Department of Energy loan programs office. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the amendment, having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S6198–99**

Purdue University Engineering 150th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 830, recognizing the 150th anniversary of Purdue University Engineering. **Pages S6203–04**

Purple Martin Conservation Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 803, recognizing the importance of purple martins to United States ecosystems, tourism, and history by designating August 10, 2024, as "Purple Martin Conservation Day", and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S6204**

End Tuberculosis Now Act: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. 288, to prevent, treat, and cure tuberculosis globally, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S6318**

Murray (for Cardin) Amendment No. 3291, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S6315–17**

DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act: Senate passed S. 4698, to authorize the Joint Task Forces of the Department of Homeland Security, after withdrawing the committee amendment, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S6318**

Murray (for Peters) Amendment No. 3292, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S6317–18**

Measures Considered:

Corporal Michael D. Anderson Jr. Post Office Building—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1555, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Sylvan Avenue in Modesto, California, as the "Corporal Michael D. Anderson Jr. Post Office Building". **Pages S6202–03**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Michael Sfraga, of Alaska, to be Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs. **Pages S6202–03**

Prior to the consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Pages S6202–03**

Ensuring Nationwide Access to a Better Life Experience Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent

agreement was reached providing that if Senate receives H.R. 9614, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain provisions with respect to qualified ABLE programs permanent, from the House of Representatives, the text of which is identical to S. 4539, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain provisions with respect to qualified ABLE programs permanent, Senate proceed to its immediate consideration, and the bill be passed. **Pages S6319**

Tennessee Valley Authority Salary Transparency Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4693, to provide that the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 does not apply to certain reports required to be submitted by the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the bill be referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. **Page S6319**

Jenkins Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Rose E. Jenkins, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court. **Page S6191**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 76 yeas to 15 nays (Vote No. 248), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6204**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, September 23, 2024; and that all post-cloture time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m. **Page S6204**

Sfraga Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Michael Sfraga, of Alaska, to be Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs. **Page S6202**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Rose E. Jenkins, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court. **Page S6204**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6202**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6202**

Messages from the House: **Pages S6209–10**

Measures Referred: **Page S6210**

Measures Discharged: **Page S6210**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S6210**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6211–12**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S6212–22**

Additional Statements: **Page S6209**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S6227**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S6318**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S6318**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—248) **Pages S6199, S6204**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:53 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, September 23, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6322.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

COAST GUARD DRUG INTERDICTION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Oceans, Fisheries, Climate Change, and Manufacturing concluded a hearing to examine Coast Guard drug interdiction and enforcement in the maritime environment, including actions needed to address persistent challenges hindering efforts to counter illicit maritime drug smuggling, after receiving testimony from Admiral Kevin E. Lunday, Vice Commandant, Rear Admiral Jo-Ann Burdian, Director, Joint Interagency Task Force South, and Rear Admiral Bob Little, Director, Joint Interagency Task Force West, all of the Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security; and Heather MacLeod, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, Government Accountability Office.

FUSION ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine fusion energy technology development and commercialization efforts, after receiving testimony from Jean Paul Allain, Associate Director for Fusion Energy Sciences, Office of Science, Department of Energy; Jackie Siebens, Helion Energy, Everett, Washington; and Patrick White, Nuclear Innovation Alliance, Brewster, Massachusetts.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of John W. McIntyre, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Eswatini, Jeremey Neitzke, of Illinois, to be

Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho, Abigail L. Dressel, of Connecticut, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Angola, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, who was introduced by Senator Murphy, James Holtsnider, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the Independent State of Samoa, Brian K. Stimmler, of Nebraska, to be Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic, Amanda S. Jacobsen, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Keith D. Hanigan, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Solomon Islands, Kali C. Jones, of Louisiana, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Benin, Stephanie A. Miley, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of The Gambia, and Christophe Andre Tocco, of California, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

An original resolution directing the Senate Legal Counsel to bring a civil action to enforce a subpoena of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and

An original resolution authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the report of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate regarding the refusal of Dr. Ralph de la Torre to appear and testify before the Committee.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Byron B. Conway, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, Jonathan E. Hawley, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois, April M. Perry, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Gail A. Weilheimer, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Joseph R. Adams, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of West Virginia, and David L. Lemmon II, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of West Virginia, both of the Department of Justice.

FIGHTING FRAUD

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine how scammers are stealing from older adults, focusing on fighting fraud, after receiving testimony from Susan Whittaker, Lehigh County Aging and Adult Services, Allentown, Pennsylvania; Scott Pirrello, San Diego District Attorney's Office, San Diego, California; Kathy Stokes, AARP Fraud Watch Network, Washington, D.C.; and Nancy Gilmer Moore, Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Indianapolis.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 41 public bills, H.R. 9673–9713; and 12 resolutions, H.J. Res. 205–206; and H. Res. 1469–1478, were introduced. **Pages H5522–24**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5526–27**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 5526, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the application of the in-office ancillary services exception to the physician self-referral prohibition for drugs furnished under the Medicare program, with amendments (H. Rept. 118–691, Part 1);

H.R. 6319, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to review and make certain revisions to the Standard Occupational Classification System, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–692);

H.R. 2941, to require the Office of Management and Budget to revise the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–693); and

H.R. 2574, to require the Secretary of Labor to revise the Standard Occupational Classification System to accurately count the number of emergency medical services practitioners in the United States, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–694). **Page H5522**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Maloy to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5451**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:36 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H5461**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:45 p.m. and reconvened at 3:40 p.m. **Page H5495**

Accreditation for College Excellence Act: The House passed H.R. 3724, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit recognized accrediting agencies and associations from requiring, encouraging, or coercing institutions of higher education to meet any political litmus test or violate any right protected by the Constitution as a condition of accreditation, by a yea-and-nay vote of 213 yeas to 201 nays, Roll No. 433. **Pages H5495–96**

Rejected the Bonamici motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Education and the Workforce by a yea-and-nay vote of 195 yeas to 203 nays, Roll No. 432. **Page H5495**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118–49 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill. **Pages H5471–74**

Agreed to:

Molinaro amendment (No. 1 printed in part A of H. Rept. 118–685) that adds ''religion'' to the definition of political test in the bill; **Pages H5474–75**

Ogles amendment (No. 2 printed in part A of H. Rept. 118–685) that expresses the sense of Congress that acts of violence committed on the campus of an institution of higher education are not protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution; and **Pages H5475–76**

Ogles amendment (No. 3 printed in part A of H. Rept. 118–685) that specifies that the prohibition on discrimination by public universities against religious student organizations based on their leadership standards includes leadership standards regarding religious identity, belief, or practice. **Page H5476**

H. Res. 1455, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3724), (H.R. 4790), (H.R. 5179), (H.R. 5339), (H.R. 5717), and (H.R. 7909) and the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 136) was agreed to yesterday, September 18th.

Guiding Uniform and Responsible Disclosure Requirements and Information Limits Act: The House passed H.R. 4790, to amend the Federal securities laws with respect to the materiality of disclosure requirements, to establish the Public Company Advisory Committee, by a yea-and-nay vote of 215 yeas to 203 nays with one answering ''present'', Roll No. 435. **Page H5497**

Rejected the Casten motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Financial Services by a yea-and-nay vote of 206 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 434. **Pages H5496–97**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118–48, modified by the amendment printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–685, shall be considered as adopted, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill. **Pages H5477–95**

H. Res. 1455, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3724), (H.R. 4790), (H.R. 5179), (H.R. 5339), (H.R. 5717), and (H.R. 7909) and the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 136) was agreed to yesterday, September 18th.

No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act: The House considered H.R. 5717, to provide that sanctuary jurisdictions that provide benefits to aliens who are present in the United States without lawful status under the immigration laws are ineligible for Federal funds intended to benefit such aliens. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, September 20th. **Page H5498**

Agreed to:

Ogles amendment (No. 1 printed in part A of H. Rept. 118–685) that shortens the time frame referenced in Section 3 to a maximum of 60 days; and **Page H5503**

Ogles amendment (No. 2 printed in part A of H. Rept. 118–685) that requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to report annually to Congress to identify jurisdictions that fail to comply with a request lawfully made by the Department of Homeland Security under section 236 or 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1226 and 1357) to comply with a detainer for, or notify about the release of, an individual. **Pages H5504–05**

H. Res. 1455, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3724), (H.R. 4790), (H.R. 5179), (H.R. 5339), (H.R. 5717), and (H.R. 7909) and the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 136) was agreed to yesterday, September 18th.

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Enhanced Presidential Security Act of 2024: H.R. 9106, amended, to direct the Director of the United States Secret Service to apply the same standards for determining the number of agents required to protect Presidents, Vice Presidents, and major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates. **Pages H5505–5**

Senate Referrals: S. 1871 was held at the desk. S. 3187 was held at the desk. Page H5498

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page 5520.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5495, H5495–96, H6496–97 and H5497.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Committee Meetings

OVERSIGHT OF EXTREMISM POLICIES IN THE ARMY

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing entitled ''Oversight of Extremism Policies in the Army''. Testimony was heard from Agnes Schaefer, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Department of the Army; and Lieutenant General Patrick Matlock, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, Department of the Army.

THE COST OF THE BIDEN-HARRIS ENERGY CRISIS

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The Cost of the Biden-Harris Energy Crisis''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

HOLDING THE BIDEN-HARRIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ACCOUNTABLE FOR RADICAL RUSH-TO-GREEN SPENDING

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials held a hearing entitled ''Holding the Biden-Harris EPA Accountable for Radical Rush-to-Green Spending''. Testimony was heard from Sean W. O'Donnell, Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION PRACTICES: A DISCUSSION ON PAST VERSUS PRESENT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce held a hearing entitled ''Federal Trade Commission Practices: A Discussion on Past Versus Present''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST AT A CROSSROADS: HOW TEHRAN'S TERROR CAMPAIGN THREATENS THE U.S. AND OUR ALLIES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia held a hearing entitled ''Israel and the Middle East at a Crossroads: How Tehran's Terror Campaign Threatens the U.S. and our Allies''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MONEY IS POLICY, PART II: ANALYZING SELECT STATE DEPARTMENT GRANT AWARDS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Accountability held a hearing entitled ''Money Is Policy, Part II: Analyzing Select State Department Grant Awards''. Testimony was heard from Julieta Valls Noyes, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Department of State; Cindy Dyer, Ambassador-at-Large, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Department of State; and Rashad Hussain, Ambassador-at-Large, Office of International Religious Freedom, Department of State.

BEYOND THE BORDER: TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY CONSEQUENCES OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence; and Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement held a joint hearing entitled ''Beyond the Border: Terrorism and Homeland Security Consequences of Illegal Immigration''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on Ratification of Subcommittee Assignments; H.J. Res. 144, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, relating to ''Definition of 'Engaged in the Business' as a Dealer in Firearms''; H.R. 115, the ''Midnight Rules Relief Act of 2023''; H.R. 358, the ''Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act''; H.R. 8205, the ''Keeping Violent Offenders Off Our Streets Act''; H.R. 8666, to amend title 28, United States Code, to authorize holding court for the Central Division of Utah in Moab and Monticello; H.R. 7177, to amend title 28, United States Code, to consolidate certain divisions in the Northern District of Alabama; H.R. 9605, the ''No Censors on our Shores Act''; and H.R. 8419, the ''American Victims of Terrorism Compensation Act''. Ratification of Subcommittee Assignments passed. H.R. 8666, H.R. 7177, and H.J. Res. 144 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 8205, H.R. 115, H.R. 9605, H.R. 358, and H.R. 8419 were ordered reported, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 3283, the "Facilitating DIGITAL Applications Act"; H.R. 4235, the "Wildfire Technology DEMO Act"; H.R. 5103, the "FISHES Act"; H.R. 6012, the "Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act of 2023"; H.R. 6085, to prohibit the implementation of the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Rock Springs RMP Revision, Wyoming; H.R. 6107, the "Urban Canal Modernization Act"; H.R. 6547, the "Colorado Energy Prosperity Act"; H.R. 6826, to designate the visitor and education center at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine as the Paul S. Sarbanes Visitor and Education Center; H.R. 6843, to expand the boundaries of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area to include Lafourche Parish, Louisiana; H.R. 7332, the "Utah State Parks Adjustment Act"; H.R. 8219, the "Lahaina National Heritage Area Act"; H.R. 8413, the "Swanson and Hugh Butler Reservoirs Land Conveyances Act"; H.R. 8704, to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a grant program to foster enhanced coexistence between ocean users and North Atlantic right whales and other large cetacean species; H.R. 8811, the "America's Conservation Enhancement Reauthorization Act of 2024"; H.R. 9533, the "ESA Amendments Act of 2024"; and S. 612, the "Lake Tahoe Restoration Reauthorization Act". H.R. 9533, H.R. 8704, H.R. 6085, H.R. 6547, H.R. 3283, H.R. 4235, H.R. 5103, H.R. 6012, H.R. 6107, H.R. 7332, H.R. 8219, and H.R. 8811 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 6826, H.R. 6843, H.R. 8413, and S. 612 were ordered reported, without amendment.

A LEGACY OF INCOMPETENCE: CONSEQUENCES OF THE BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY FAILURES

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "A Legacy of Incompetence: Consequences of the Biden-Harris Administration's Policy Failures". Testimony was heard from Brendan Carr, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission; and public witnesses.

MEMBER DAY HEARING ON PROPOSED RULES CHANGES FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Member Day Hearing on Proposed Rules Changes for the 119th Congress". Testimony was heard from Chairman Foxx, and Representatives Griffith, Kilmer, Hageman, Pettersen, Cleaver, Foster, Yakym, Castro of Texas, and Ogles.

NAVIGATING THE BLUE FRONTIER: EVALUATING THE POTENTIAL OF MARINE CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL APPROACHES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Environment; and Subcommittee on Energy held a joint hearing entitled "Navigating the Blue Frontier: Evaluating the Potential of Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal Approaches". Testimony was heard from Noah Deich, Senior Advisor, Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, Department of Energy; Sarah Kapnick, Chief Scientist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

VA'S OPEN CASH REGISTER: FRAUD, WASTE, ABUSE AND REVENUE OPERATIONS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a hearing entitled "VA's Open Cash Register: Fraud, Waste, Abuse and Revenue Operations". Testimony was heard from Kurt DelBene, Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology and Chief Information Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Jennifer McDonald, Director, Community Care Division, Office of Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs.

HOW THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY USES THE LAW TO SILENCE CRITICS AND ENFORCE ITS RULE

Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "How the CCP Uses the Law to Silence Critics and Enforce its Rule". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled "Maduro Stole the Elections Again: The Response to Fraud in Venezuela", 11 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Trade, hearing entitled "Protecting American Innovation by Establishing and Enforcing Strong Digital Trade Rules", 9 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

3 p.m., Monday, September 23

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Rose E. Jenkins, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

9 a.m., Friday, September 20

House Chamber

Program for Friday: Complete consideration of H.R. 5717—No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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