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No. 172

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 20, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DARRELL ISSA 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.

BOLSTERING HEALTHCARE IN RURAL AMERICA

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Rural Health Day. Every third Thursday in November, we observe National Rural Health Day.

Nearly 60 million Americans live in rural areas, and too often, they encounter limited access to primary care, specialists, and mental health services.

These gaps are worsened by transportation barriers and hospital closures. These challenges don't just affect individuals. They impact entire families and communities.

Before I was elected to serve in the House of Representatives, I spent nearly 30 years in the nonprofit healthcare field, assisting those with life-changing diseases and disabilities.

It can be challenging to obtain reasonably priced healthcare, and this is especially true in rural America, like much of the 15th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. As the Member of Congress representing nearly one-third of the landmass of Pennsylvania, one of the most rural districts east of the Mississippi, I am keenly aware of the problems my constituents face when accessing medical services.

We are facing a healthcare crisis in our Nation's rural areas. These often disadvantaged populations are still struggling to access affordable, quality care.

While these challenges are great, there have been a few positive developments in recent years that stand to greatly benefit these communities. For one, I commend the work being done at the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health. This office has stepped up on a number of occasions to assist distressed healthcare facilities throughout the Commonwealth and continues to work on policies that will bolster rural healthcare for years to come.

Additionally, I cannot overstate the impact and importance of expanded telehealth services. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, telehealth added tremendous reach and value to communities across the country, especially in rural America. Many of my constituents were able to access regular care without having to drive nearly an hour, in some instances, ensuring they could get diagnosed and treated in an efficient manner.

To ensure this success continues, I reintroduced the HEALTH Act, which

will allow community health centers and rural health clinics to continue providing telehealth services and receive fair reimbursement for doing so.

I also continue to support efforts to bolster our healthcare workforce in rural areas. One of the driving forces behind many shuttered hospitals, healthcare facilities, and other services in these communities is a lack of staff, whether it be physicians, surgeons, OB/GYNs, technicians, nurses, or any other folks critical to providing care.

As providers struggle to attract and retain a talented workforce in our rural communities, we must think outside the box to resolve these issues. For example, I support efforts to encourage medical programs to place residents in rural communities as part of their education, training, and rotations. We know that people are far more likely to remain in communities where they train and serve, and we must continue to build this pipeline and solidify our rural health workforce.

These policies promote access to care for all Americans, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure equitable care in our rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, in rural communities, healthcare costs have gone up and premiums have skyrocketed, but choices have decreased. That is not right. It is not fair and not feasible. There must be a better way.

I know that together we will work to find a stable transition to a 21st century healthcare system that works for everyone in America, especially rural America.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF MINNIE FORBES

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

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the life and career

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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of one of my incredible constituents, Minnie Forbes, the last living owner of a Negro League baseball team, the Detroit Stars.

Minnie Forbes was born in 1932 in Mississippi and eventually found her home in Grand Rapids with her uncle, Ted Rasberry, a player in the Negro Leagues. Her uncle taught her to play softball. As a young teen, she played on the Grand Rapids' Cook's Brown Dolls softball team.

Minnie found her true love for the game working behind the scenes in team management. By 18, Minnie was a secretary for her uncle and his multiple baseball teams—the Grand Rapids Black Sox, the Detroit Stars, and the Kansas City Monarchs.

Then, at just 24, she became the owner of the Detroit Stars. Minnie was shocked but felt prepared to take over the team, and thus became one of the few women ever to own a Negro League baseball team.

As an owner of the Detroit Stars, Minnie endured racism and prejudice toward herself and her players, especially while traveling for games. Players were often forced to sleep and eat on the bus, as the restaurants and hotels refused to accommodate and even feed Black Americans. Sometimes they were even chased out of town.

The players and Minnie persevered through strife and their love of the game. The ripple effects of that persistence echoed through the civil rights movement.

Minnie and her contemporaries made strides in changing American culture through sport. We are forever indebted for their sacrifices in pursuing a more equal and equitable future for all.

I am proud to step up to the plate to commend Minnie for her extraordinary legacy, a legacy that continues to live on in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in the Ted Rasberry Youth League, where I have had the honor of serving as a volunteer coach.

JUST SAY NO TO SUBSIDIES

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, free market capitalism is the most democratic possible way to organize an economy.

In a free market, consumers vote every day with every dollar they spend on what they want the economy to produce, who will produce it, and what they are willing to pay for it. The prices decided every day in this never-ending plebiscite also convey vast information regarding every product, including the scarcity or abundance of the resources in it, the labor conditions that produced it, and the systems that distributed it.

It is a perfect system that requires only that government protect the freedom for a willing seller and a willing buyer to make an exchange according

to their own best judgment. No force is required because both act in their own self-interest.

The price signals of that simple exchange, multiplied infinitely throughout the day, guide the labor and resources of an economy to their highest and best use according to every person's own individual interests, needs, and judgment.

Yet, politicians love to interfere with this perfect mechanism through a variety of tools designed to direct the economy—that is, to replace the judgment of individual consumers and producers in the market with the judgment of politicians.

One of the most insidious and self-destructive ways they do this is by subsidizing the things that they think consumers should buy in order to make those things more attractive. This literally stuffs the economy's ballot box, diverting resources from their highest and best economic use for consumers to the highest and best political use for politicians. Worse, it corrupts the accurate price signals that are essential for consumers to make rational decisions over allocating their own resources and thus directing overall economic output.

Insurance, electric cars, mass transit, sugar, milk, solar panels, airline tickets, housing, tuition, healthcare, film production, green energy—it is hard to find a sector of the economy that isn't rife with subsidies. We also shouldn't forget the infinite subsidies that saturate our tax code.

True, these subsidies make the cost of favored products cheaper—and who can begrudge cheaper healthcare, tuition, or housing?—but that is an illusion. The reality is that sellers will always accept subsidies by raising their prices accordingly. Those receiving the subsidies are somewhat better off, but everyone else is much worse off.

As subsidies artificially inflate prices, more subsidies are required to ameliorate their effect in a continuing spiral. It is no coincidence that the prices in the most heavily subsidized sectors—like healthcare, housing, and tuition—are rising much faster than underlying inflation.

Provide first-time home buyers with a \$25,000 subsidy, and sellers accept that windfall by raising their prices on the entire housing stock. Subsidies not only cost hundreds of billions of dollars and inflate the prices of the things being subsidized, but they also misallocate resources and misdirect consumer decisions.

Insurance, for example, is how markets assign a dollar value to risk. It is risky to build a house in a flood zone, and high insurance premiums reflect that reality. Subsidized insurance rates invite people to take risks that high premiums would otherwise warn them against.

Accurate price signals are absolutely essential if consumers are to make rational decisions as they vote every day on what the economy should produce,

and they are just as essential if producers are to know what consumer demands they most need to fulfill.

Now, subsidies are so deeply ingrained in the economy that getting rid of all of them seems like a fool's errand. Every subsidy has a constituency, and the bigger the subsidy, the more powerful the constituency. Budget writers grappling with the largest Federal debt in history, and with an economy operating well below its potential, should be looking for every way to reduce, eliminate, or reform subsidies or substitute for them other mechanisms that can serve the same societal aims without doing so much damage.

Here is a modest proposal to Messrs. Musk and Ramaswamy: If you want to balance the budget and improve the economy, just say no to subsidies. Not only will such a hunt save hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars, but it will also reduce the overall cost of the things being subsidized and reinvigorate the economy by restoring the flow of capital to its most productive use.

ANTI-ARAB HATE CRIMES

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the recent surge in anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab, and Islamophobic hate crimes in our country.

The constant dehumanization of Palestinians has very real and deadly consequences. The hateful rhetoric, including from many elected officials in this Chamber and in the media, is leading to violence in our communities and putting countless lives at risk.

Hisham, Kinnan, and Tahseen are childhood friends, all college students. They were spending Thanksgiving break with Hisham's family in Burlington, Vermont, when they were shot by a man sitting on his porch. They were targeted while wearing kaffiyehs and speaking Arabic. Hisham is now paralyzed from the chest down.

These hate crimes are not isolated incidents, Mr. Speaker. In October of last year, a man from Farmington Hills, Michigan, posted on social media, asking if anyone in the metro Detroit area wanted to come to my district to go hunt Palestinians.

This threat to commit mass murder horrified our community in Dearborn, many not wanting to open their doors, as they were already grieving the loss of so many loved ones and friends from the horrific genocide taking place.

□ 1015

Last month in Detroit, 7-year-old Saida—I wish people would take the time to actually listen to her interview as a Yemeni-American child of Muslim faith—was playing at her local park and was brutally attacked. A man approached her out of nowhere and slit her throat with a knife. Saida ran home to her parents covered in blood.

As a mother, I cannot fathom the horror her parents must have felt at that moment watching their little girl come running in, bleeding and terrified.

Saida survived but she would live with the trauma for the rest of her life. Nightmares keep Saida awake at night. She said she dreams her attacker is right next to her.

In Texas, a mother wearing a hijab was watching her children swim in the community pool when she was approached by a woman interrogating her about what language she was speaking.

The woman then jumped into the pool, attempted to drown her 3-year-old Palestinian daughter who was gasping for breath, for air, as she was pushed under the water in the deep end of the pool. The woman threatened to kill the whole family as the police were carrying her away.

Her mother said: We are American citizens originally from Palestine, and I don't know where to go to feel safe with my kids. My daughter is traumatized. Whenever I open the door, she runs away and hides telling me she is afraid that lady will come back and try to attack her again.

Here we go with Wadea. Everyone knows about Wadea, I hope. In Chicago, a 6-year-old child was brutally attacked in his own home by his landlord, of all people. His mother ran to the bathroom to call the police.

His attacker was yelling, you Muslims must die, while he stabbed little Wadea's body 26 times. They had to pull the knife out of his small body.

His mother came back, and she saw Wadea's lifeless body there. They were taken to the hospital and all she felt was just this sense that she will never ever be able to see her child.

"We are not animals. We are humans," Wadea's uncle, Yousef, said. These stories, as horrifying as they are—I am thinking of the fact that these are the ones who made the headlines. Behind them are countless others, unreported incidents with families living in fear and communities being targeted.

I was approached by a father who said his child was on her school bus and somebody tried to rip her hijab off.

I said, did you report it?

Who do I report that to, he said?

What terrifies me the most, again, are these acts of violence are born from a culture of dehumanization.

Where is the outrage from my colleagues in this Chamber?

Why don't my colleagues denounce Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian, and anti-Arab hate?

We must push back against dangerous rhetoric that fuels this violence and call out those that continue to push for dehumanizing narratives that contribute to and spread this kind of violence.

Stop using racist tropes that feed into this hate. I know firsthand what it feels like to be targeted with hate. I receive death threats, smears, hate mail,

and relentless harassment right outside of my office.

To the families of Wadea, Hisham, Kinnan, Tahseen, Saida, and so many others who we will never know about, I want them to know I see them, I grieve with them, and I stand with them.

NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address our national debt.

I say to my fellow Americans, we have a serious problem. In the past 40 years, Congress, which comprises both the Senate and the House of Representatives, has only passed a budget four times.

Only four times in the last 40 years has a budget been passed by Congress. That has contributed to our overwhelming national debt of over \$36 trillion, which grows by \$1 trillion every 100 days. If we continue to pass continuing resolutions and omnibus bills, our annual deficits will double, our interest payments will triple, and for every dollar we borrow, 50 cents will go just to paying interest on the debt.

The American people are tired of Congress not doing the hard work that is necessary to bring spending under control and stop the national debt from growing. As Members of Congress, we have an obligation to bring spending under control and ensure that present and future taxpayers are not forced to fund any Federal program that is duplicative, wasteful, and inefficient.

Every Member of Congress knows that passing continuing resolutions or omnibus bills does not bring spending under control, but simply adds to our \$36 trillion national debt. The current continuing resolution expires on December 20. Once again, in the next couple of weeks, Congress will debate on how we are going to fund the government in 2025.

What will it be?

Will it be a continuing resolution? Will it be an omnibus bill or will it be a balanced budget that will fund the government in 2025?

Speaker JOHNSON assures us that it will not be an omnibus bill and because CHUCK SCHUMER refuses to pass the appropriation bills passed in the House, some will argue that the only option left on the table so that we don't face a government shutdown is a continuing resolution.

Most Americans are not aware that there is a bogeyman that lurks in the Halls of Congress. This bogeyman shows up twice a year, sometimes three times a year. It first shows up in September, and then it appears again in December.

What is the name of this bogeyman that Congress is afraid to face? Its name is government shutdown.

For countless years, the leaders of Congress have lacked the courage and strength to take on this bogeyman for

fear of having to explain to the American people why we are unable or perhaps refuse to pass a formal budget as outlined in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The American people are not afraid to shut down the government, and I stand with the American people. It is morally wrong for Congress to force the American people to carry a \$36 trillion national debt on their backs and to expect our children to carry this growing debt on their backs as well.

I say it is time for Congress to pass a formal budget that spends less than what it collects in taxes from the American people.

I say it is time for Congress to evaluate one by one the 1,200 unauthorized expired programs that are currently being funded by Congress to the tune of \$516 billion and vote to either reauthorize or terminate each one of them.

I hear in the Halls of Congress that if we want to be home with our families during Christmas, we must settle for a continuing resolution.

I would remind Congress that we have men and women in uniform that have taken the same oath of office that we did, and many of them will not be spending Christmas with their families because they have a duty to fulfill.

We also have a duty and obligation to fulfill to the American people: that is to bring spending under control and stop the national debt from growing. That responsibility comes before family or any holiday on the calendar.

Congress should not allow the leadership of either the Senate or the House of Representatives to lead us into 2025 with a shameful continued legacy that Congress is incapable of putting people over politics and passing a balanced formal budget that spends less than we receive from the taxpayers.

CHUCK SCHUMER should put his ego and pride aside and sit down with Speaker JOHNSON and develop a plan to utilize the appropriations process outlined in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to fund the government in 2025 before the end of the year. There are plenty of days still left on the calendar to do this.

Where there is a will there is a way. Every Member of Congress should be committed to working long hours, if need be, to pass a formal budget for 2025. Together, let us roll up our sleeves and do what is right for the future of our Nation as it pertains to the budget.

Together, let us show the Nation that as Members of Congress, we are ready, willing, and able to fulfill the assignment the American people have bestowed upon us. Together, let us make history by stopping decades of wasteful spending, and together let us protect the purse of the people.

HONORING BEYONCE GISELLE KNOWLES-CARTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. LEE CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE CARTER: Mr. Speaker, as the proud Representative of the 18th Congressional District of Houston, Texas, I have the distinct privilege of serving a diverse, resilient, and caring community.

On this day, I am proud to honor someone who exemplifies those values, a favorite daughter, as I am, of the 18th Congressional District in Houston, Texas, Beyonce Giselle Knowles-Carter.

As a global music icon with a staggering 99 Grammy nominations, Beyonce stands as the most nominated Grammy artist in history. This year, her nominations hold particular significance as they honor “Cowboy Carter,” a poignant tribute often described as her American requiem and a celebration of her Southern heritage.

This groundbreaking album not only earned Beyonce her eighth number one album, but also made her the first Black woman to top the country album charts.

However, “Cowboy Carter” is not just a country album. It is a Beyonce album. She is not just a global music icon. She is also a champion for women and children.

Beyonce’s roots remain firmly planted in “H-town” where she has contributed so much to our community in ways that extend far beyond her music, through her tireless work in giving back to children in need.

One of the most notable aspects of Beyonce’s philanthropic efforts is her strong dedication to children and families, which perfectly aligns with today’s celebration of World Children’s Day, originally established in 1954 as Universal Children’s Day 70 years ago.

This annual day promotes international togetherness, raises awareness of the needs of children worldwide, and underscores the importance of improving their welfare.

My mother, the late, great Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, cared deeply about children, and as a founding member and co-chair of the Congressional Children’s Caucus, she championed their welfare with unwavering devotion. It is my hope that we never lose sight of how our work shapes the dreams and futures of children in the United States and across the world.

Children are the future, and Beyonce has always understood the importance of protecting and nurturing their well-being, education, and opportunities.

Through her BeyGOOD Foundation, which she launched more than a decade ago, Beyonce has championed economic equity initiatives to improve the lives of children and families in need.

One of her most significant contributions came in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in 2017. The storm devastated Houston and surrounding areas, displacing over 30,000 families and causing an estimated \$125 billion in damage across Texas.

While many were overwhelmed by the scale of the destruction, Beyonce immediately stepped up for her beloved

hometown. Through BeyGOOD, she provided food, emergency housing, and financial support to families in crisis. Her collaboration with Bread of Life, a local nonprofit, ensured that children and their families had the resources they needed to recover and rebuild.

Beyond disaster relief, Beyonce has championed education by breaking down barriers for young people, particularly young Black women, through her Formation Scholars Award. This scholarship has empowered dozens of students to pursue higher education and create opportunities that changed their lives.

Beyonce’s efforts also encompass addressing the housing crisis with a focus on supporting unhoused families and youth who are disproportionately affected. Her collaboration on the Knowles-Roland House project in the 18th Congressional District provides housing, mental health support, and job training to vulnerable families in Houston, offering them a path toward freedom, stability, and hope.

With the love and support of her mother, Tina Knowles; father, Mathew Knowles; sister, Solange; husband and three children, she has shared her time, talent, and treasure to help others.

As we recognize World Children’s Day, we also celebrate leaders like Beyonce who use their influence to uplift communities. Her work reminds us that when we invest in our youth, we invest in a brighter future for everyone. Her example inspires all to do more to ensure every child grows up in an environment where they can thrive.

On behalf of Houston’s 18th Congressional District, I thank Beyonce for being an advocate for children and families. May we all get in formation to create better outcomes for children.

We look forward to welcoming Beyonce back to “H-town” on December 25 as the truly irreplaceable daughter who gives us energy and lets us know that girls can run the world.

HONORING VETERAN OF THE MONTH ANDREW VEASMAN

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our November Veteran of the Month, Andrew Veasman, who was an E4 specialist in the U.S. Army.

Andrew deployed to Iraq with the 504th Military Police Battalion from 2007 to 2008. While he was in Iraq, one of the main jobs he had was convoy security where he was responsible for providing protection from enemy attacks to ensure the safety of American troops and critical assets were in place.

Some of his duties in convoy security included reconnaissance, security, escorting, and establishing a combat reaction force.

Andrew’s fondest memory from his deployment was praying together for safety before each and every mission.

Andrew was honorably discharged in 2014 and joined the Missouri National Guard in 2024 as a mechanic.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Andrew for his dedication and his service.

□ 1030

HONORING CUMMINGS MEN’S WEAR

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our November Small Business of the Month from the Fourth Congressional District of Missouri, Cummings Men’s Wear, owned by Jennifer and David Cummings, friends of mine.

This fantastic business, on the historic downtown Clinton Square, just celebrated 40 years of outstanding business.

Mr. Speaker, in case you are looking for a new suit, they have got you covered. Cummings Men’s Wear offers a selection of suits, sport coats, dress shirts, polos, golf shirts, and so much more. From fun holiday socks to tuxedos, Cummings Men’s Wear has you covered.

Over the past four decades, Cummings Men’s Wear has become a trusted institution, known not only for its exceptional selection of men’s fashion but also for its personalized service and longstanding relationships with their customers, who aren’t just customers but they are friends.

This store is a symbol of excellence and style, sophistication, and professionalism with a loyal and appreciative clientele.

Missouri’s Fourth District is grateful to have such a community-invested, family-owned business.

Congratulations to David and Jennifer Cummings for menswear on the square, for 40 years of success and great men’s clothing.

RECOGNIZING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LIAISONS

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the family and community engagement liaisons across Orange County and this Nation.

Family and community liaisons play an important role in collaborating with health facilities and community resource centers to ensure that families have access to the support they need in their academic, professional, and overall community success.

In my own district, Santa Ana Unified School District is home to 54 dedicated liaisons who work around the clock to bridge the gap between schools and families, to ensure that every child and parent feels supported, empowered, and included in the local campuses.

I hope my colleagues join me today in recognizing November as Family Engagement Month and November 16 as National Family and Community Engagement Liaison Worker Day.

I thank every community liaison around Orange County and around the

country for their good work and for helping our local communities be successful.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT GORDON LEE HOGAN

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, legacy, and sacrifice of Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Gordon Lee Hogan.

An Orange County native, Staff Sergeant Hogan served our Nation bravely in Korea and Vietnam, and he made the ultimate sacrifice while fighting for our values in Vietnam.

During his 19 years of service, Staff Sergeant Hogan had many roles. He worked on trucks as a motor transport chief, waged the invisible war as a psychological operations specialist, and made relationships with civilians as a civil affairs officer.

In his many roles, Staff Sergeant Hogan would go on to be recognized with many awards and commendations. Among these, the National Defense Service Medal, the Navy Presidential Unit Citation, and a Purple Heart. These are just a few that I am naming today.

Sadly and tragically, on April 1, 1967, Staff Sergeant Hogan made the ultimate sacrifice when his unit was ambushed by the Viet Cong while on patrol in Thua Thien province in Vietnam. His body would be sent back home to Orange County where he would be laid to rest in our very own Westminster Memorial Park.

Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Gordon Lee Hogan was a model soldier, a model American, and a true patriot.

THE MANDATE

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, when I last spoke on this floor, I laid out the choice the country had before us. Then, on November 5, 2024, America made its choice loud and clear. America gave Washington, D.C., a mandate endorsing the greatest political comeback in American history with the election of President Donald J. Trump as the 47th President of the United States and Republican majorities in both the House and the Senate.

Kansas and the Big First District rejected 4 more years of the chaos we have experienced under President Biden and Vice President HARRIS. They voted for a government that works for the people and makes their lives easier, not one that handcuffs them and their families with overreaching regulations. They voted for a government that enforces the law and seeks commonsense solutions, not open-border policies that put our national security at risk. They voted to reduce Federal spending, to end the weaponization of the Federal Government once and for all, and for our future.

When I came to Congress almost 4 years ago, America was strong, our streets were safe, and our border was much more secure. House Republicans

and President Trump had passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, putting more money in the pockets of American families and spurring economic growth that led to the strongest U.S. economy in decades.

The Trump administration had spearheaded historic trade agreements and peace agreements across the globe that kept Americans competitive and secure.

Rather than capitalizing on that momentum and strength, the Biden-Harris administration wasted 4 years pushing through partisan, trillion-dollar spending packages and using the Federal Government to air its grievances with the previous administration. America clearly said: No more.

Mr. Speaker, those days are long gone. This House Republican majority, alongside President Trump and the incoming Senate Republican majority, are ready to restore American greatness and the American Dream. We are committed to securing a future American families can feel optimistic about.

When I ran for Congress, I promised to fight for agriculture and our conservative Kansas values. That commitment stands. While there is a lot of work to do to get this Nation back on track, I humbly accept that challenge. I am committed to working with my colleagues to unleash American energy and finally rein in energy prices that have crippled American families for the past 4 years. I will fight to make the 2017 tax cuts permanent and once again empower working and middle-class families who have been strangled by the record-level inflation caused by Washington Democrat spending. I will work for commonsense policies that don't empower the Mexican cartels or incentivize illegal immigration. Americans deserve an immigration system that makes it easier for people to come here legally and more difficult for people to come here illegally. That should not be controversial.

The task before us is a big one, but I have never been more confident in our ability to deliver for America and get this country back on track.

FAREWELL TO SYDNEY ROBINSON

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, for the past 2½ years, my family and team have been blessed and honored to call Sydney Robinson a colleague and, most importantly, a friend. Sydney is a fellow believer, an incredibly hard worker, and one of the best that Capitol Hill has to offer.

Sydney joined my team in 2022 and has served as staff assistant, scheduler, and, most recently, as our director of operations. She often served as the face of the front office, ensuring that whether it was a Kansans' first or fiftieth trip to our office, they were met with enthusiasm, kindness, and professionalism. Over the years, she oversaw our internship program; assisted Kansans during their visits to the Nation's Capital; balanced an ever-changing schedule, prioritizing time in the district, votes, and committee activity; and much more.

On top of all that, Sydney helped our team host weekly prayer breakfasts for Members of Congress and the 2024 National Prayer Breakfast. As the co-chair of the National Prayer Breakfast, I am honored to plan and host the event for congressional leaders, the President of the United States, and spiritual leaders. It is no easy task, but Sydney served as a partner in bringing every detail and logistic to life.

Sydney will always be part of Team Mann, and Audrey and I are deeply grateful for her service to our team, my family, and to the Big First District of Kansas. She will be deeply missed in Cannon 344, but we will all be praying for her and rooting for her in the days ahead.

I thank Sydney for serving so incredibly well. She makes everything she touches better. It is an honor and privilege to call her a friend.

CONGRATULATING DR. JEFFREY NASSE

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Jeffrey Nasse on his recent selection as Pima Community College's new chancellor.

As my alma mater, I am a proud product of Pima Community College and can confidently say that it helped shape me into who I am today. It equipped me with the tools and knowledge I needed to pursue my own American Dream.

Dr. Nasse brings over 20 years of experience across multiple areas of higher education and is committed to helping his students succeed.

His focus is on improving student outcomes, scaling online and flexible learning modalities for students, and raising the graduation rate.

As a Marine Corps veteran, Dr. Nasse has dedicated his life to service, first to our Nation and now to our students.

His story of commitment and dedication is just one example of the American Dream that we all cherish. I am grateful for his hard work safeguarding that American Dream for our next generation.

I know Dr. Nasse is well suited to continue leading Pima Community College into an even brighter future. I look forward to working with him to support and uplift the college and its students and, along with that, our community.

REMEMBERING GREG JOHNSON

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sierra Vista Councilman Greg Johnson. Greg was a Marine Corps veteran, businessman, lawyer, professor, and devoted public servant.

Before his time on the city council, Greg served on the board of directors of various chambers of commerce and hospitality and tourism organizations.

While he was a staunch advocate for fiscal responsibility, Greg believed

deeply in making strategic investments in his community that grew the economy and improved the quality of life for everyone.

He was passionate about the causes he believed in and had an unwavering commitment to the residents of Sierra Vista. I saw this firsthand for many years.

Laura and I will hold his amazing wife, Suzanne, their family, and his loved ones in our prayers. His work and legacy will continue to have a positive impact in our community long into the future as he always desired.

HONORING CRAIG MCFARLAND

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Craig McFarland for his outstanding tenure as mayor of Casa Grande.

Since his tenure began in 2016, Mr. McFarland has been a pillar of his community, a devoted public servant, a strong local partner for me, and a dear, dear friend.

From diversifying the economy in Casa Grande through companies like Lucid Motors and others, to expanding the I-10 and protecting the region's water, Mayor McFarland has ushered in growth throughout Casa Grande and Pinal County.

Then, in fiscal year 2025, Mayor McFarland and I partnered together to provisionally secure \$2.8 million in Federal funds for Casa Grande to invest in a new community center for students and expand access to affordable housing for our educators.

Luckily, despite his tenure ending as mayor, Craig will continue to serve Casa Grande and Pinal County as the new president and CEO of Pinal Partnership, one of the leading economic development organizations in the region. They regularly host informative discussions on important issues such as water security, infrastructure, and economic development with key stakeholders and industry leaders, as well.

I look forward to working together alongside Craig McFarland to continue advancing Casa Grande, Pinal County, and our entire region forward.

□ 1045

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSIE-TATUM CARLSON

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the life of Josie-Tatum Carlson of Blackshear, Georgia.

At the age of 21, Josie-Tatum leaves behind a legacy of service, compassion, and love for her savior, Jesus Christ.

Josie-Tatum grew up in Blackshear, Georgia, where she graduated from Pierce County High School as the class valedictorian. She attended Mercer University and was awarded the prestigious Presidential Scholarship.

Upon graduation from Mercer University, she married her high school sweetheart, Ethan Carlson.

Josie-Tatum will be remembered for her servant's heart and her willingness to help others. She was a shining light in a world of darkness and will be dearly missed by those who knew her and loved her.

Our hearts break for this young lady and her family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of them.

CELEBRATING COACH MARK STROUD

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Coach Mark Stroud's career at Calvary Day School in Savannah, Georgia.

Following this season, Mark Stroud will be concluding his time as the head football coach of the Cavaliers.

Stroud has coached the Cavaliers for 16 seasons, boasting an incredible 148 wins and 43 losses. During his 16 years at Calvary Day School, Stroud led his team to six regional championships, including the last 4 years in a row.

Stroud began his legacy as a head coach in 1992 at Toombs County High School and coached the school's program for 16 seasons until 2007. He also amassed an impressive record with the Toombs County Bulldogs, winning five regional championships.

Over the course of his 33 seasons, Stroud put together a remarkable career in the State of Georgia, winning 272 games and earning himself the second-most all-time wins in south Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Coach Stroud on his outstanding career at Cavalry Day School.

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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 10 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

A thousand years in Your sight are like a day when it has passed, or a watch stood in the night. These last 1,000 days and nights of the assault on Ukraine's sovereignty, soldiers, and civilians keeping watch every hour, are naught in light of Your immeasurable and eternal strength.

You alone have upheld the resolve of the Ukrainian people, and Your sure protections have maintained their spirit of faithfulness despite weapons of hate and hegemony firing ceaselessly into their homeland.

For their faith and fortitude in the face of the enemy's audacious offenses, they have given the free world a testimony that cannot be silenced, a witness to the unwavering certainty of Your divine presence in the valley of the shadow of the death around them.

It is You, O Lord, who have gone before them. You, O Lord, will ever be with them. You will not fail or forsake them. By this promise, may their fear never overwhelm them or their dismay ever overcome them.

Would that all of us in times of such testing and torment turn to You with the same faith in Your sovereign protections. Grant Ukraine Your peace and Your people Your divine provision in the face of all evil.

In Your merciful name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. KIM of California 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.

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

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

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on a very important topic, carbon monoxide poisoning, particularly in relation to the

dangers that come with operating an automobile.

According to the CDC, there are over 400 deaths and 20,000 emergency room visits each year as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is often referred to as the “silent killer” because of its undetectable traits. When people inhale certain amounts of carbon monoxide, the gas enters the bloodstream and prevents the intake of oxygen, which could result in death.

On September 2, 2021, Suzan “Suzie” Marie Hanna of Bridgewater Township tragically passed away from carbon monoxide poisoning while driving from her job in Flemington to her home, due to floodwaters preventing the movement of her automobile.

Suzie Hanna, a graduate of Bridgewater-Raritan High School and Raritan Valley Community College, was known for her kindness, selflessness, and always brightening the mood of people around her.

We are joined today by her family. In memory of their daughter and their sister, they have fought to urge drivers to acquire and use safety hammers in their cars to prevent tragedies like Suzie’s from happening again.

Additionally, the family started a foundation called Suzie’s Mission. This foundation hosts fundraisers that directly support local organizations and keeps Suzie’s memory alive.

Mr. Speaker, I thank her family for joining me today and making the U.S. and New Jersey a safer place.

HONORING KATHLEEN “KITTY” PFEIFFER

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

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Kathleen Pfeiffer, known as Kitty to those of us who knew her and loved her.

For 8 years, Kitty served as a staff member in my offices in the Pennsylvania State House and here in Congress. On Monday, she passed away at 83 years old.

Kitty was a dedicated public servant, helping more than 10,000 constituents in her time working with my staff and me. She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She was someone who brought warmth and kindness into every room she entered.

While I offer my condolences to her family and friends during this sad time, I am also filled with gratitude. I am grateful to have had the privilege of knowing Kitty and calling her both one of my favorite staff members and more importantly my friend.

Kitty will always be loved and missed.

COPD AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, November marks Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, COPD, Awareness Month.

COPD is a respiratory disease that is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and affects one in eight Americans over the age of 45.

An estimated 30 million Americans are affected by COPD, but only 17 million Americans are diagnosed. We unfortunately see COPD impact neighbors in southern California with more than half of Californians who suffer from COPD living in our area.

Today, on COPD Awareness Day, and throughout this month, we recommit to raising awareness and finding ways to mitigate the impacts of this disease. I will do my part.

CELEBRATING VA COMPETES

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

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the passage of my bipartisan bill, the VA COMPETES Act and what this means for veterans in my district and across the country.

My bill improves care for veterans by finally allowing the VA to pay doctors the salaries that they deserve. It is no secret that the VA has struggled to hire and retain healthcare staff, and low salaries are a big piece of that.

When the VA is understaffed, our veterans are the ones who suffer. Last year, when the Stockton VA Clinic went from eight primary care physicians to just four, wait times skyrocketed to over 100 days. Our veterans couldn’t get appointments, prescriptions filled, or access to the basic care that they needed.

I am proud to have worked with our local clinic staff in the VA to fix this issue, bringing wait times down to just 16 days. My bill is going to help ensure that no other clinic experiences a shortage like we did last year.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to be part of the solution and thank everyone who made this possible.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAMSPORT SALVATION ARMY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Williamsport Salvation Army on a record-breaking Red Kettle Kickoff.

As the holiday season unfolds, a sound fills the air, not just the laughter of children or the joyful notes of carolers, but the familiar ring of the Salvation Army’s red kettle bells.

Since 1897, the Salvation Army’s iconic Red Kettle Campaign has become synonymous with Christmas. This year, at the sixth annual Red Ket-

tle Kickoff breakfast, the Williamsport Salvation Army exceeded its goal, bringing in \$52,000 to start their holiday bell-ringing season.

This money, as well as future funds, will assist local underserved populations during the holiday season. The Salvation Army in Williamsport helps residents with rental and utility assistance, food donations, hygiene supplies, and toys and blankets for children, and much more.

Mr. Speaker, this time of year can bring challenges for low-income families. The Williamsport Salvation Army’s Red Kettle fundraiser ensures that the families in our community wake up to the magic of Christmas morning knowing that they haven’t been forgotten.

HONORING CLARENDON HILLS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, 2024 has been a year of celebration for the people of Clarendon Hills in my district as they commemorate their centennial.

Known as the volunteer village, the founders of Clarendon Hills were some of the most independent, hardworking individuals. From its very beginning, the Clarendon Hills community recognized the importance of local governance, coming together to elect their first board of trustees and establish their first neighborhood, businesses, churches, and schools.

Although a lot has changed over the past 100 years, the spirit of independence and hard work that first defined the people of Clarendon Hills still lives today. It is a village that I am proud to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Clarendon Hills on their 100 years.

RECOGNIZING CONNOR YOUNG

(Mrs. LESKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an integral member of my team, my senior legislative assistant, Connor Young.

Connor started in my office as a legislative correspondent and has risen the ranks to lead our legislative team. Connor is a dedicated and committed member of our staff, and his work has been essential to serving the constituents of Arizona’s Eighth Congressional District.

A proud LSU Tiger, originally from Memphis, Tennessee, Connor began his public service as an intern here in the U.S. House of Representatives and has shown his commitment to this institution and our Nation.

As I leave Congress, I have no doubt Connor will go on to great things as he

continues his public service. I appreciate his hard work and wish him nothing but the best in all of his future endeavors.

USL EASTERN CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS, RHODE ISLAND FC

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

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United Soccer League Eastern Conference Champions, Rhode Island FC.

Let me tell you, this team is special. This team never says die. Coming into this season, their first as an expansion team, Rhode Island FC wasn't projected to make the postseason. However, led by their head coach, Khano Smith, they put together a magical playoff run.

Earlier this month, they took down top-seeded Louisville City FC. On Saturday, they held off a late surge by the Charleston Battery to win a 2-1 thriller. Make no mistake, this team plays wicked good soccer.

Anchored in community, this team is bringing Rhode Islanders together and giving us something to root for.

I congratulate the Rhode Island FC on winning the United Soccer League Eastern Conference Finals. I wish them good luck as they take on Colorado Springs in the final. The whole State of Rhode Island will be cheering them on.

TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICAN HOSTAGES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, sadly, there are currently 46 Americans around the world wrongfully detained or held hostage. The unbearable trauma on their families is made even worse as the Internal Revenue Service currently charges late fees and penalties for overdue tax payments.

Currently, tax codes do not provide relief beyond 1 year for detainees. This must be corrected.

This week, House Republicans will consider the Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act to prevent the IRS from imposing charges and allow the affected families to focus on their safe return.

This bill also revokes the tax-exempt status of American nonprofit organizations that provide financial or material support to terrorist groups, such as Hamas and others.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators puts all American families at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent, as warned by the FBI. Trump will re-institute existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength.

□ 1215

RURAL HEALTHCARE ISSUES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this being Rural Healthcare Month, I will point out how critical it is that we pay attention to rural healthcare issues, such as in my district and so many around this country.

You have the challenges of rural residents living pretty far from sophisticated healthcare systems, good-sized hospitals, et cetera, so the local clinics are pretty critical. Also important is the continued expansion of telehealth, with more broadband reaching into rural areas, to make it so that local clinics can get images, get x-rays, other methods of getting information, and send them off to the urban centers that can analyze those tests and see what really needs to be done before maybe something more extreme such as transporting a patient a long way to a hospital or even in some cases where they send a helicopter to move them around.

We face these issues in northern California and so many places across the country that are rural. Such things as teaching health centers help keep people on site. They can learn as well as serve. I appreciate those objectives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the following resolutions:

S. RES. 872

Whereas Daniel "Dan" Evans was born in Seattle, Washington, in 1925;

Whereas Dan Evans graduated from Roosevelt High School in Seattle in 1943;

Whereas Dan Evans enlisted in the United States Navy in 1943, and served a 3-year tour of duty as an ensign aboard an aircraft carrier in the Pacific during World War II;

Whereas, after World War II, Dan Evans earned a bachelor of science degree and a master of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Washington and worked as a civil engineer in Seattle;

Whereas, in 1951, Dan Evans was recalled to the United States Navy for the Korean War, where he served as an operations officer on a destroyer with the rank of lieutenant and later as an aide to Admiral William K. Mendenhall during peace negotiations at Panmunjon;

Whereas Dan Evans married the late Nancy Bell Evans of Spokane, Washington, in 1959 and is survived by three sons, Daniel Jr., Mark, and Bruce;

Whereas Dan Evans was first elected to the Washington State House of Representatives in 1956 and served as the Republican floor leader from 1961 to 1964;

Whereas Dan Evans was first elected Governor of the State of Washington in 1964 and became the first person in Washington State history to serve 3 consecutive terms as Governor, winning reelection in 1968 and 1972;

Whereas Dan Evans served as Chair of the National Governors Association from 1973 to 1974;

Whereas Dan Evans served as the President of Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, from 1977 to 1983;

Whereas Dan Evans served as the first Chair of the Pacific Northwest Electric Power and Conservation Planning Council from 1981 to 1983;

Whereas, in 1983, Governor John Spellman appointed Dan Evans to the Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of former Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson of Washington;

Whereas Dan Evans was elected to the Senate in a special election in 1983, and served as the Senator from Washington from 1983 to 1989;

Whereas Dan Evans served as Vice-Chairman of the Select Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate from 1987 to 1989;

Whereas, in 1993, Governor Mike Lowry appointed Dan Evans to the Board of Regents of the University of Washington;

Whereas Dan Evans served as the President of the Board of Regents of the University of Washington from 1996 to 1997;

Whereas, in 1999, the University of Washington Graduate School of Public Affairs was renamed the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance; and

Whereas, in 2017, the Olympic Wilderness in Olympic National Park was renamed the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Daniel J. Evans, former member of the Senate;

(2) the Senate will communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased; and

(3) when the Senate adjourns today, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Daniel J. Evans.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 599. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3500 West 6th Street, Suite 103 in Los Angeles, California, as the "Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Post Office".

H.R. 807. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

H.R. 1060. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1663 East Date Place in San Bernardino, California, as the "Dr. Margaret B. Hill Post Office Building".

H.R. 1098. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 50 East Derry Road in East Derry, New Hampshire, as the "Chief Edward B. Garone Post Office".

H.R. 1505. An act to modify the prohibition on recognition by United States courts of certain rights relating to certain marks, trade names, or commercial names.

H.R. 3608. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 28081 Marguerite Parkway in Mission Viejo, California, as the "Major Megan McClung Post Office Building".

H.R. 3728. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 Dorchester Avenue, Room 1, in Boston, Massachusetts, as the "Caroline Chang Post Office".

H.R. 5476. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1077 River Road, Suite 1, in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania, as the "Susan C. Barnhart Post Office".

H.R. 5490. An act to amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to expand the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5640. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12804 Chillicothe Road in Chesterland, Ohio, as the “Sgt. Wolfgang Kyle Weninger Post Office Building”.

H.R. 5712. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Fremont Street, in Kiel, Wisconsin, as the “Trooper Trevor J. Casper Post Office Building”.

H.R. 5985. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 517 Seagaze Drive in Oceanside, California, as the “Charleetta Reece Allen Post Office Building”.

H.R. 6073. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9925 Bustleton Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the “Sergeant Christopher David Fitzgerald Post Office Building”.

H.R. 6249. An act to provide for a review and report on the assistance and resources that the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides to individuals with disabilities and families of such individuals that are impacted by major disasters, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6651. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 603 West 3rd Street in Necedah, Wisconsin, as the “Sergeant Kenneth E. Murphy Post Office Building”.

H.R. 7192. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 333 West Broadway in Anaheim, California, as the “Dr. William I. ‘Bill’ Kott Post Office Building”.

H.R. 7199. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at S74w16860 Janesville Road, in Muskego, Wisconsin, as the “Colonel Hans Christian Heg Post Office”.

H.R. 7423. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Benedette street in Rayville, Louisiana, as the “Luke Letlow Post Office Building”.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2546. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal service located at 100 North Taylor Lane in Patagonia, Arizona, as the “Jim Kolbe Memorial Post Office”.

S. 3946. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1106 Main Street in Bastrop, Texas, as the “Sergeant Major Billy D. Waugh Post Office”.

S. 4077. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 180 Steuart Street in San Francisco, California, as the “Dianne Feinstein Post Office”.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO). 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.

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

NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3012) to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3012

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 “North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-333; 22 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.) and subsequent reauthorizations of such Act aimed to promote the protection of human rights, documentation of human rights violations, transparency in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and the importance of refugee protection.

(2) According to the State Department’s 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, there are “widespread reports of political prisoners and detainees. . . most external estimates were between 80,000 and 120,000; some NGOs placed the figure as high as 200,000.”

(3) North Korea continues to hold a number of South Koreans and Japanese abducted after the signing of the Agreement Concerning a Military Armistice in Korea, signed at Panmunjom July 27, 1953 (commonly referred to as the “Korean War Armistice Agreement”) and refuses to acknowledge the abduction of more than 100,000 South Koreans during the Korean War in violation of the Geneva Convention.

(4) According to the State Department’s 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, there are significant human rights violations in North Korea, which include “arbitrary or unlawful killings, including extrajudicial killings; enforced disappearance; torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment; . . . and extensive gender based-violence.”

(5) The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and North Korea’s strict lockdown of its borders and crackdowns on informal market activities and small entrepreneurship have drastically increased food insecurity for its people and given rise to famine conditions in parts of the country.

(6) North Korea’s COVID-19 border lockdown measures also include shoot-to-kill orders that have resulted in the killing of—

(A) North Koreans attempting to cross the border; and

(B) at least 1 South Korean official in September 2020.

(7) The Government of the People’s Republic of China is aiding and abetting North Korea’s human rights violations by forcibly repatriating North Korean refugees to North Korea where they are sent to prison camps, harshly interrogated, and tortured or executed.

(8) The forcible repatriation of North Korean refugees violates the People’s Republic of China’s freely undertaken obligation to uphold the principle of non-refoulement, as a state party to the the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva July 28, 1951 (and made applicable by the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York January 31, 1967 (19 UST 6223)).

(9) North Korea continues to deny freedom of religion and persecute religious minori-

ties, especially Christians and followers of Shaminism. Eyewitnesses report that Christians in North Korea have been tortured, forcibly detained, and even executed for possessing a Bible or professing Christianity.

(10) The position of Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues was vacant from January 2017 to December 2022, even though the President is required to appoint a Senate-confirmed Special Envoy to fill this position in accordance with section 107 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817). In January 2023 President Biden nominated Julie Turner as Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights and Issues She was confirmed in July 2023.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) The human rights and humanitarian conditions within North Korea remain deplorable and have been intentionally perpetuated against the people of North Korea through policies endorsed and implemented by Kim Jong-un and the Government of North Korea.

(2) promoting information access in North Korea continues to be a successful method of countering DPRK propaganda and the United States Government should continue to support nongovernmental radio broadcasting to North Korea and promote other emerging methods in this space;

(3) because refugees among North Koreans fleeing into the People’s Republic of China face severe punishments upon their forcible return, the United States should urge the Government of the People’s Republic of China—

(A) to immediately halt its forcible repatriation of North Koreans;

(B) to allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (referred to in this section as “UNHCR”) unimpeded access to North Koreans within China to determine whether they are refugees and require assistance;

(C) to fulfill its obligations as a state party to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva July 28, 1951 (and made applicable by the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York January 31, 1967 (19 UST 6223) and the Agreement on the upgrading of the UNHCR Mission in the People’s Republic of China to UNHCR branch office in the People’s Republic of China, done at Geneva December 1, 1995;

(D) to address the concerns of the United Nations Committee Against Torture by incorporating into domestic legislation the principle of non-refoulement; and

(E) to recognize the legal status of North Korean women who marry or have children with Chinese citizens and ensure that all such mothers and children are granted resident status and access to education and other public services in accordance with Chinese law and international standards;

(4) the United States should continue to promote the effective and transparent delivery and distribution of any humanitarian aid provided in North Korea to ensure that such aid reaches its intended recipients to the point of consumption or utilization by cooperating closely with the Government of the Republic of Korea and international and nongovernmental organizations;

(5) the United States currently blocks United States passports from being used to travel to North Korea without a special validation from the Department of State, and the Department of State should continue to take steps to increase public awareness about the risks and dangers of travel by United States citizens to North Korea;

(6) the United Nations has a significant role to play in promoting and improving

human rights in North Korea and should press for access for the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in North Korea, as well as for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(7) North Korea should repeal the Reactionary Thought and Culture Denunciation Law and other draconian laws, regulations, and decrees that manifestly violate the freedom of opinion and expression and the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion;

(8) the United States should expand the Rewards for Justice program to be open to North Korean officials who can provide evidence of crimes against humanity being committed by North Korean officials;

(9) the United States should continue to seek cooperation from all foreign governments—

(A) to allow the UNHCR access to process North Korean refugees overseas for resettlement; and

(B) to allow United States officials access to process refugees for possible resettlement in the United States; and

(10) the Secretary of State, through diplomacy by senior officials, including United States ambassadors to Asia-Pacific countries, and in close cooperation with South Korea, should make every effort to promote the protection of North Korean refugees, escapees, and defectors.

SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS.—Section 102(b)(1) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7812(b)(1)) is amended by striking “2022” and inserting “2028”.

(b) ACTIONS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.—Section 104 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7814) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “2022” and inserting “2028”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “2022” and inserting “2028”.

(c) REPORT BY SPECIAL ENVOY ON NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.—Section 107(d) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817(d)) is amended by striking “2022” and inserting “2028”.

(d) REPORT ON UNITED STATES HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Section 201(a) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7831(a)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “2022” and inserting “2028”.

(e) ASSISTANCE PROVIDED OUTSIDE OF NORTH KOREA.—Section 203 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7833) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “103(15)” and inserting “103(17)”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “2018 through 2022” and inserting “2024 through 2028”.

(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Section 305(a) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7845(a)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “2022” and inserting “2028”.

SEC. 5. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.

Title I of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7811 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 103(a), by striking “Broadcasting Board of Governors” and inserting “United States Agency for Global Media”; and

(2) in section 104(a)—

(A) by striking “Broadcasting Board of Governors” each place such term appears and inserting “United States Agency for Global Media”;

(B) in paragraph (7)(B)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (i) through (iii) as clauses (ii) through (iv), respectively;

(ii) by inserting before clause (ii), as so redesignated the following:

“(i) an update of the plan required under subparagraph (A);” and

(iv) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by striking “pursuant to section 403” and inserting “to carry out this section”.

SEC. 6. SPECIAL ENVOY FOR NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.

Section 107 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) REPORT ON APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL ENVOY.—If the position of Special Envoy will remain vacant for 1 year or longer without any presidential nomination to appoint a new Special Envoy, not later than 90 days before the date on which such position becomes vacant for 1 year, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that describes the efforts being taken to appoint a new Special Envoy.”.

SEC. 7. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING KOREAN AMERICAN DIVIDED FAMILIES.

It is the sense of Congress—

(1) the United States and North Korea should begin the process of reuniting Korean-American divided family members with their immediate relatives through ways such as—

(A) identifying divided families in the United States and North Korea who are willing and able to participate in a pilot program for family reunions;

(B) finding matches for members of such families through organizations such as the Red Cross; and

(C) working with the Government of South Korea to include American citizens in inter-Korean video reunions;

(2) the institution of family is inalienable and the restoration of contact between divided families whether physically, literarily, or virtually is an urgent need; and

(3) the United States and North Korea should pursue reunions as a humanitarian priority of immediate concern.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Kim Jong Un regime continues to oppress the North Korean people through torture, forced labor, imprisonment, and starvation to continue expanding North Korea’s nuclear weapons program. The regime also severely represses the security of the United States and the world by advancing its missile and nuclear weapons programs.

Recent intercontinental ballistic missile tests and an alarming increase in the number of nuclear warheads in North Korea’s arsenal are clear demonstrations of its growing threat to global peace and stability.

North Korea has abducted Japanese and South Korean citizens and has caused the death of U.S. citizens while in North Korean custody. These acts of state-sponsored kidnapping and unlawful detention have caused immense suffering to the victims and their families. The regime’s blatant disregard for human life and international law is a violation of basic human rights and an affront to global justice.

The North Korean Human Rights Act ensures that the Kim regime’s human rights abuses do not go unchecked and reinforces the United States’ commitment to promoting human rights in North Korea. By shining a spotlight on these atrocities, the Act seeks to hold the regime responsible for its abuses and to give hope to the North Korean people who continue to endure unimaginable oppression.

This bill extends critical efforts to break the regime’s information control over the North Korean people, to protect North Korean defectors and refugees, especially from forced repatriation by China. It also ensures that the regime does not have opportunities to divert international assistance for military purposes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3012, the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act.

I start by thanking Representatives KIM and BERA for their leadership on this bill. Initially passed in 2004, the North Korean Human Rights Act was landmark legislation that promoted accountability for human rights violations in North Korea. We are here today because the underlying tenets of this bill are as necessary today as they were 20 years ago.

Since rising to power in 2011, Kim Jong Un has doubled down on the brutal, authoritarian rule of his father and grandfather. His government has committed untold human rights violations, including arbitrary and extrajudicial killings, mass detention, forced labor, and torture.

Under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, Pyongyang used lockdowns to intensify its repression, including through shoot-to-kill orders on its borders and draconian policies that have driven segments of the North Korean population into famine.

Today, North Korea remains one of the most, if not the most, repressive countries in the world. It is critical that we reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act today, and I urge the Senate to pass this bill immediately so that President Biden can sign it into law this year. It is essential that we reauthorize the bill now to make the United States’ commitment on this issue clear and irreversible.

We must not ignore the horrific human catastrophe taking place in North Korea. It is disappointing that

the Trump administration did not appoint a Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues, which the North Korean Human Rights Act mandates. Congress must ensure that does not happen again.

This bill will enable thorough legislative oversight of the administration's North Korea policy, including by requiring the administration to answer to Congress should it fail to appoint a Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues in an expedient fashion.

H.R. 3012 would also provide the incoming administration with the tools necessary to elevate the cause of human rights in North Korea while extending reporting requirements that will allow Congress to ensure that the United States does not ignore Pyongyang's brutal treatment of its own citizens.

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM), the chair of the Subcommittee on the Indo-Pacific.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MOYLAN for yielding and for his leadership as well as my good friend Representative MANNING for moving this bill forward.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bipartisan bill, H.R. 3012, the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act.

This bill updates the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 that was enacted to provide humanitarian aid to North Korean refugees, allow for information access for the North Korean people, and appoint a U.S. Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues.

H.R. 3012 reauthorizes, streamlines, and strengthens oversight of these programs through 2028 and calls for Korean-American families to be reunited with their immediate relatives in North Korea.

We need someone at the State Department dedicated entirely to North Korean human rights issues, especially as Kim Jong Un's brutality against his own people grows. Why?

Because North Korean women and children face the most inhumane treatment in the world, child labor is institutionalized in North Korea, and women are forced into sex trafficking organized by government officials and human traffickers; because an estimated 100,000 North Koreans are subject to forced labor in factories with inhumane conditions in the People's Republic of China; and because torture, forced disappearances, imprisonment, forced sterilization, and religious persecution are tools regularly used to consolidate the North Korean regime's power.

From January 2017 to December 2022, the special envoy position was vacant; that is nearly 6 years. If the position is ever vacant again for more than 180 days, my bill requires the State De-

partment to report on ongoing efforts to fill the position.

The authorization for the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 lapsed in 2022. We must get this legislation signed into law this Congress. We cannot ignore the threat posed by North Korea, and holding the North Korean regime accountable without supporting human rights is a nonstarter.

Failing to reauthorize this landmark human rights initiative sends a signal to Kim Jong Un that the United States will allow human rights abuses in North Korea and around the world to fall on deaf ears.

I thank Representative AMI BERA for co-leading this bill with me, and I thank our chairman of the full committee and his staff for their leadership and commitment to human rights and freedoms for the North Korean people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 3012.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

We must be just as committed today to supporting the human rights of North Koreans as we were in 2004, which is why I support this bipartisan reauthorization of the North Korean Human Rights Act through 2028.

While much of U.S. policy toward North Korea is focused on its nuclear and missile programs, we cannot ignore the gross human rights abuses within the country. We can and must address both.

I thank Representatives KIM and BERA for shining a light on the struggle of the North Korean people. I hope my colleagues will join me and support this important bill.

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

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

In closing, I thank Representatives KIM and BERA of California for working together on this important legislation that reinforces the United States' commitment to promoting human rights in North Korea.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3012, 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. MOYLAN. 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.

AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF STATE TO DESIGNATE ADDITIONAL PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS PASSPORT ACCEPTANCE AGENTS

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8234) to authorize the Secretary of State to designate additional persons eligible to serve as passport acceptance agents, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8234

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF STATE TO DESIGNATE ADDITIONAL PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS PASSPORT ACCEPTANCE AGENTS.

Section 6109(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 213a(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

“(6) A United States citizen who, as determined by the Secretary, is employed by and provides services through a reputable, established company or institution and is commissioned or appointed as a notary or notary public or otherwise authorized to perform a notarization under the laws of a State, district, or territorial government.”.

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO HAND-CARRY COURIER SERVICES FOR PASSPORT APPLICATIONS AND PASSPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall take such actions as may be necessary to—

(1) facilitate an increase in the number of companies certified to provide hand-carry courier services; and

(2) increase the daily maximum number of applications for United States regular passports, by service type, that such companies may submit to a passport agency of the Department of State (commonly referred to as “meeting slots”) as part of the hand-carry courier services of such company.

(b) HAND-CARRY COURIER SERVICE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “hand-carry courier service” means—

(1) the transport of applications for United States passports to a passport agency of the Department of State for processing; and

(2) the retrieval of newly issued United States passports for delivery, directly or indirectly, to the passport holder.

SEC. 3. DATE OF EXPIRATION OF UNITED STATES PASSPORTS.

The Secretary of State shall take such actions as may be necessary to provide that each United States regular passport issued or renewed on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act expires on the same month and day of the month as the date of birth of the individual associated with such passport.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, millions of Americans use U.S. passports as their official travel documents each year. Passports are what open doors to faraway foreign destinations.

The problem, though, is that certain Americans are having a difficult time applying for them. What should be a simple administrative step is anything but.

That is where my colleague Mr. MAST's bill comes in. H.R. 8234 would level the playing field, assisting those Americans who currently face unnecessary obstacles.

First, the bill would authorize new institutions to serve as passport acceptance agents. Passport acceptance is the process of verifying the applicant's identification documents.

Currently, most civilian passport acceptance is done by designated employees of the U.S. Postal Service. With the recent closure of many U.S. post offices and with fewer post offices offering passport services, however, access points for passport acceptance have been significantly reduced. This reduction has led to delays in some citizens' ability to schedule a passport appointment.

We feel this acutely on Capitol Hill. Scarcely a day goes by when Members of Congress like myself do not hear from frustrated constituents experiencing some sort of passport problem.

□ 1230

Allowing new entities, like public notaries, to become passport acceptance agents will ensure that the citizen application process is easier, faster, and more seamless. For example, if the notaries at all UPS Stores and AAA Travel offices nationwide were to become registered passport acceptance agents, then the number of passport acceptance sites would increase by 10,000 locations.

The second thing this bill would do is assist Americans in rural areas and nonmajor cities apply for their passports. The so-called hand-carry courier program helps citizens who otherwise would be unable to travel to a passport agency due to time, cost, or distance constraints. Through the program, they would be able to secure an urgent or emergency passport using a third-party registered agent.

H.R. 8234 would allow for more companies to participate in the hand-carry program. By expanding the program, we make emergency passports more readily available to citizens who need them, especially for those who don't live in or near a major city.

Finally, Mr. MAST's bill would align a passport's expiration date with the

applicant's birthday, making it easier for him or her to remember when it is time to renew. This will help reduce the application spikes surrounding popular travel seasons and prevent new backlogs and delays.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join in supporting H.R. 8234, which is an important step in making passport services more accessible and more reliable, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in strong support of H.R. 8234. As the world has reopened following the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for passports last year skyrocketed, leading to significant delays. Under Secretary of State Antony Blinken's leadership and the tireless efforts of consular officials, the State Department successfully tackled this backlog and restored processing times to prepandemic levels. Moreover, this administration has partnered closely with Congress to advance modernization of the Department's consular processing to be better prepared to handle future surges in demand.

The provisions in H.R. 8234 aim to further strengthen our passport processing infrastructure, particularly to help ensure that all Americans, especially those in rural or remote areas, have reasonably convenient access to passport services. This includes permissive authorities for the Department of State to better enable applicants to utilize private couriers, access passport acceptance agents, and remember to renew their passports before expiry. These provisions can help those in underserved communities who may not have a passport acceptance facility nearby.

There is no single solution to the challenges in providing passport and visa services at a sustained and high level, and the Department's efforts must be driven not by the preferences of courier companies or potential new acceptance agents but by the Americans who need passports.

We must work together and in a smart way to ensure the State Department has the authorities and resources it needs to carry out its mission securely and efficiently with respect to passport processing, and H.R. 8234 can help provide additional practical tools, where and as necessary, to improve service delivery and meet the needs of American travelers.

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST), who is the chair of the Oversight and Accountability Subcommittee.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues for their work and support on H.R. 8234.

It is a bill to reduce the passport barriers that American travelers face with just a few commonsense solutions to

help make it a more seamless process for Americans and a more intuitive process for when their passport might expire. It would help prevent the emergency situations that all of us as Members of Congress face for our constituents to get the passports they need.

Getting a passport, for many, is the closest that Americans will get to seeing the work of our State Department, and when they see delays and backlogs, that shakes their confidence in what they believe the State Department and many of our other institutions can do.

The backlog is especially troublesome for our citizens who live in rural areas without easy access to the few passport agencies or centers that we have around the country.

If the State Department can't get those small things done right now in a timely fashion and competent way, then it is hard to convince the American people that the State Department can handle bigger things—except a passport is not a small thing for most people, most families, and most individuals. For our constituents, that is a business trip, family vacation, wedding, or, God forbid, funeral.

We urgently need reforms to address the passport backlog and prevent any future backlog from occurring.

H.R. 8234 enhances U.S. passport applicants' customer experience in three ways that have been mentioned already.

First, it authorizes the Secretary of State to allow qualified notaries to accept and certify the relevant paperwork. Certify doesn't mean that they are issuing a passport. It means they are identifying that all the t's have been crossed, the i's have been dotted, and the blanks are filled in so that the application doesn't get kicked back by the State Department.

Currently, citizens who live in rural areas need to mail in their paperwork or try to get to a certain employee in a place like the post office. They have few or inconsistent hours to actually go see those individuals, and it delays their application process. By expanding the number of people who can accept and certify the paperwork to include these qualified notaries, we greatly expand the options for Americans who do not live near these passport acceptance centers.

Second, my bill requires the State Department to devote more resources to nontraditional applicants—again, often from rural areas—who utilize private courier services for emergency passport services. Since 2007, the number of slots these private courier services have to process Americans' applications has decreased, while the number of Americans who live at least 250 miles away from a passport acceptance office has substantially increased over that same period of time.

These services are an effective alternative for Americans who need urgent passports and don't live near those offices, and expanding these resources will help serve the citizens by adjusting to population migration patterns

that we have seen over the last two decades.

Finally, my bill would make it easier for Americans to remember to renew their passports by changing the passport expiration dates to coincide with their birthdays, just like most of us do with our driver's licenses. This simple change in awareness will make it so that many people remember to renew their passports early instead of realizing it at the last second because it is not on an intuitive date, which leads to the surges in applicants in the system and creates those backlogs.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues for their work on this legislation, and I urge adoption of this bill.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

The Department of State's passport application processing has shown welcomed improvement. The bipartisan provisions in this bill would help them make even more progress and connect more Americans to a U.S. passport.

By helping the State Department increase access and meet higher demand, I hope we can prove that the government can adapt and work faster.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I hope we can advance further measures to support consular services in a bipartisan fashion, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, we need to make passport services more accessible to Americans who don't live in major cities. This bill, H.R. 8234, would actually do that by authorizing new actors like public notaries to serve as passport acceptance agents.

It would also allow more companies to participate in the hand-carry courier program and open up slots for those companies at passport agency offices across the country.

Americans who don't live in major cities shouldn't have to have a harder time getting travel documents than anyone else.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8234, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COORDINATOR FOR AFGHAN RELOCATION EFFORTS AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8368) to establish a Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts in the

Department of State, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8368

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 "Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts Authorization Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COORDINATOR.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State shall appoint a Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts ("Coordinator"), who shall be responsible for—

(1) relocating and resettling eligible Afghan allies and facilitating the departure of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents who request United States assistance to leave Afghanistan, except that the Coordinator shall prioritize the facilitation of such departures before the relocation or resettlement of allies; and

(2) working with other offices of the Department of State, as well as with appropriate counterparts at other Federal departments and agencies, to ensure integrated United States support for such relocation efforts.

(b) AUTHORITIES.—The Coordinator is authorized—

(1) to enter into personal services contracts for a period ending not later than the date described in section 3;

(2) to extend and maintain through such date personal services contracts entered into pursuant to the authority provided by section 2401 of the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-43);

(3) to hire temporary personnel who are United States citizens, except that to the extent possible the Coordinator should use Foreign Service limited appointments to fill such positions both in the United States and abroad in accordance with section 309 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3949); and

(4) subject to the availability of appropriations—

(A) to accept, in the form of reimbursement or transfer, amounts from other Federal departments or agencies as appropriate to carry out the duties described in subsection (a); and

(B) to reimburse such other departments or agencies as the Coordinator may determine appropriate to carry out such duties.

(c) DETAILEES AND ASSIGNEES.—Any Federal Government employee may be detailed or assigned to the Office of the Coordinator, with or without reimbursement, consistent with applicable laws and regulations regarding such employee, and such detail or assignment shall be without interruption or loss of status or privilege.

(d) NOTIFICATION WITH RESPECT TO TRANSFERS OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Coordinator shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of each use of the transfer authority made available under subsection (b)(4)(A) not later than 15 days before the completion of such transfer.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this subsection, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 3. SUNSET.

This Act and the authorities provided by this Act shall terminate on the date that is

3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan legislation to codify the establishment of the Office of the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts.

When the Biden administration executed its disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, we left behind thousands of Afghans who had risked their lives to assist the United States' mission in Afghanistan.

The subsequent Taliban takeover put these brave individuals at serious risk, and we have seen many Afghans who worked for the U.S. be targeted in reprisal killings and forced disappearances. It is our duty as Americans to help bring these vulnerable Afghans to safety in the U.S.

The Office of the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts has worked tirelessly in 2021 to support the resettlement of eligible Afghans in the United States. After undergoing the most thorough security vetting processes, CARE assists Afghans as they complete the final stages of the resettlement process, preparing them for their new lives in the United States.

At a time when there is little hope for Afghans to pursue a life of prosperity amidst the brutal Taliban regime's crackdown on human rights and archaic restrictions on women, it is more important than ever that the U.S. fulfill our duty to our Afghan allies and help them come to the United States.

I have been happy to see that CARE has demonstrated increased efficiency in processing Afghan relocation cases, enabling our vetted Afghan partners to come to the United States.

Codifying this office ensures that every eligible, properly vetted Afghan may be moved to the U.S. and establish a new, safe life for their family far from the threat of the Taliban.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to show their support for our Afghan allies and support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1245

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 8368. There is one thing I believe unites us on the issue of Afghanistan, and that is unwavering commitment to the Afghan allies who stood by us during our nearly two-decade mission in the country. This bill is about honoring that commitment.

H.R. 8368 formally authorizes the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts, or CARE, which has been leading the essential work of supporting those who risked their lives to assist the United States by helping eligible Afghan applicants and their families relocate to the United States.

By providing a clear bipartisan mandate, along with the authorities that the State Department has requested, this legislation sends a strong message of support for CARE's mission that can't simply be waved away. It demonstrates that Congress stands firmly behind the creative, tenacious efforts by the CARE office to relocate and protect our deserving Afghan partners.

These are individuals who risked everything to support our mission. They served as interpreters, guides, and partners in some of the most dangerous conditions imaginable. To turn our backs on them now would be unconscionable.

Let's remember that our commitment is not just a matter of policy or party, but it is a matter of principle. This bill is a step in the right direction, but it cannot be the final word on our support for our Afghan allies, particularly since Congress will need to continue to act to ensure Afghan special immigrant visas remain available and CARE's work is appropriately resourced during the period authorized by this bill. There are bipartisan bills we can bring to the floor in this Congress to accomplish exactly that.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bill introduced by Representative TITUS, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same so that we can continue to uphold our promises to those who stood by us in Afghanistan.

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

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS), an esteemed member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the author of this measure.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge and thank my Republican colleague from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD) for joining me on this bipartisan legislation to establish the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts Authorization Act, H.R. 8368.

Over the course of our 20-year mission in Afghanistan, more than 300,000 Afghans worked shoulder to shoulder with U.S. servicemembers, diplomats, and aid workers. They provided valuable support for nearly 800,000 U.S. troops who rotated through Afghanistan. They served primarily as trans-

lators, guides, and informal advisers to U.S. personnel on the ground.

These are, in every sense of the word, our valued allies. They stood with us through difficult conditions, advancing U.S. interests.

In August 2021, the U.S. conducted an historic and heroic evacuation that carried 70,000 Afghans to safety along with tens of thousands of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents, as well as citizens from other countries.

Since July 2021, the State Department has worked around the clock to relocate U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents from Afghanistan who wanted to depart and who were eligible Afghan allies who worked with us.

Secretary Blinken has made this a top priority for the Department and has said that there is no deadline for this important work. He underscores the commitment that the Biden administration has to this effort and the promise of Operation Enduring Welcome.

In 2022, to solidify these relocation efforts, the State Department established a specialized office called the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts, appropriately known as CARE.

CARE serves as the hub for a whole-of-government priority, working closely with various Federal departments and agencies, international partners, veterans groups, former diplomats, government officials, and NGOs to ensure the safe and efficient relocation of individuals who have qualified to immigrate to the U.S., either as special immigrants or refugees, during the 20-year U.S. mission to Afghanistan.

The Afghan Special Immigrant Visa program, also stood up by Congress and relying on our regular reauthorization of additional visa numbers to meet demand, long faced challenges and processing delays, but the situation changed dramatically early in 2021, when the Biden administration ramped up resources to clear an SIV processing backlog that had accumulated in the prior administration.

Working together, Congress and the administration have prioritized and streamlined the Afghan SIV program to meet evolving demand and uphold our moral obligation.

In fiscal year 2023, the administration issued the most SIVs in a single year since the start of the program in 2009. In the most recent report, the Department issued 1,894 SIVs, ensuring that almost 8,000 additional Afghan allies and their families had a pathway to safety.

Similarly, the State Department has announced the establishment of a new P-2 category for refugees, in addition to the P-1 referrals, to expand available pathways for persecuted Afghans. As a result, we have welcomed more than 130,000 Afghans to safety.

The CARE program has been the linchpin of this work, serving as a valuable conduit for all of the different organizations I mentioned and Afghans

themselves as they navigate a pathway to their new home. The work, however, is not codified in statute. It exists across a number of agencies and programs.

Congress should be unambiguous here. We support this work. We want to see the job continue, and we should do so by authorizing it as a new agency.

That is what this bill would do. It would authorize the CARE office in the State Department for 3 years and grant it important authorities to continue this work as an identified legislative priority for the State Department.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, to acknowledge the obligation that we have, our moral obligation to help those who helped us so much, and to fulfill our promise to all of those who stood with us.

I thank Ranking Member MEEKS and Chairman MCCAUL of the Foreign Affairs Committee for their support in helping move this bill to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

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

Mr. Speaker, for over 20 years, our Afghan allies risked everything to support the U.S. mission, and we must not turn our backs on them now. The CARE office deserves a clear, bipartisan mandate. I hope my colleagues will join me and support this important bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this administration failed the Afghan people by abandoning them to the Taliban rule. It is our responsibility as Americans to remedy this failure. I am proud to support this bipartisan legislation today, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in voting for this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8368, 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. MOYLAN. 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.

AFFIRMING THE NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC MINORITY SURVIVORS OF GENOCIDE IN IRAQ

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the

resolution (H. Res. 554) affirming the nature and importance of the support of the United States for the religious and ethnic minority survivors of genocide in Iraq, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 554

Whereas national, ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities and indigenous peoples, including Yezidis, Turkmen, Shabak, Sabaean-Mandaeans, Kaka'i, and indigenous Christians (including Chaldean, Syriac, Assyrian, Armenian, and Melkite communities), among others, have been an integral part of the cultural fabric and history of Iraq and the broader Middle East;

Whereas these same religious and ethnic minorities have made and continue to make invaluable contributions to the prosperity and well-being of societies across the Middle East and the world, including in the United States;

Whereas, according to the 2017 Report on International Religious Freedom, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria ("ISIS") is responsible for carrying out a "campaign of violence against members of all faiths, in particular non-Sunnis";

Whereas ethnic and religious minorities were subjected to innumerable atrocities by ISIS, including forced religious conversion, kidnapping, slavery, human trafficking, unlawful forced displacement, ethnic cleansing, torture, sexual violence, and sex trafficking, among other crimes;

Whereas the Secretary of State declared on March 17, 2016, and on August 15, 2017, that ISIS is responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and other atrocities against religious and ethnic minority groups in Iraq and Syria, including Shia Muslims, Christians, and Yezidis, among other religious and ethnic groups;

Whereas the Iraq and Syria Genocide Relief and Accountability Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-300) affirms that it is the policy of the United States to ensure that assistance for religious and ethnic minorities is directed towards those most in need, including those that the Secretary of State declared were targeted for genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes, and have been identified as being at risk of persecution, forced migration, genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes;

Whereas members of these religious and ethnic minority communities continue to face daily insecurity, discrimination, and hardship;

Whereas religious and ethnic minorities continue to face significant challenges to returning to their ancestral homelands, including in Mosul, Baaj, Sinjar, the Nineveh Plain, and other Yezidi places, due to security concerns, economic hardship, and shifting demographics; and

Whereas the restoration and stabilization of these regions will provide an opportunity for diverse ethnic and religious communities to flourish: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commits to protecting and upholding internationally recognized human rights of members of religious and ethnic minority communities;

(2) supports the restoration of security, stability, and economic opportunity of, as well as the safe, dignified, and voluntary return of, internally displaced persons, including those originally from the territories of Mosul, Baaj, Sinjar, and the Nineveh Plain;

(3) supports the restoration of religious and cultural heritage sites in Iraq, including,

churches, and other religious sites, and community buildings of religious and ethnic minority communities in these regions; and

(4) supports equal and inclusive representation for religious and ethnic minority groups in Iraq in line with article 125 of the Constitution of Iraq and encourages the Secretary of State to promote opportunities for affected minority groups to further that objective.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bipartisan resolution addressing ongoing challenges that face religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq after ISIS' brutal genocide.

ISIS overran wide swaths of Iraq and Syria 10 years ago, subjecting millions of people to their so-called caliphate.

ISIS perpetrated widespread atrocities, including forced religious conversion, kidnapping, slavery, human trafficking, unlawful forced displacement, ethnic cleansing, torture, sexual violence, and sex trafficking. Religious and ethnic minority groups were singled out and subjected to particular cruelty.

The United States repeatedly found that ISIS is responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and other atrocities against religious and ethnic minority groups in Iraq and Syria, including Shia Muslims, Christians, and Yazidis.

Just this year, a Yazidi woman was rescued in Gaza. She had been kidnapped at the age of 11 by ISIS. She was held in captivity for 10 years.

While ISIS no longer rules over these communities, the caliphate left widespread damage, displacement, and trauma. Religious and ethnic minorities continue to face widespread discrimination and displacement in Iraq, undermining efforts to promote their recovery.

Addressing these problems is critical for religious and ethnic communities and for the overall success of the Iraqi State, helping ensure it achieves its full potential as a vibrant, prosperous country.

This resolution reaffirms our commitment to protecting the rights of these religious and ethnic minorities and the need to help them return to their homes and rebuild their lives.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 554, affirming the nature and importance of the support of the United States for the religious and ethnic minority survivors of genocide in Iraq, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this resolution introduced by Representative SLOTKIN, which shines a much-needed spotlight on the significant contributions of Iraq's religious and ethnic minority communities, as well as the profound suffering they have endured.

Iraq is home to a rich tapestry of communities, each contributing to the nation's cultural heritage. Among them are the Yazidis, Shabak, and Chaldean, Syriac, and Assyrian Christians. These groups are not just a part of Iraq's history, but they are integral to its identity.

The persecution faced by these communities is well-documented, especially during the rise of ISIS. The brutal terrorist group committed unimaginable horrors against Iraq's minorities. The list of atrocities is long: kidnappings, torture, public executions, arbitrary detentions, and systematic rape. The scale of this cruelty led the State Department, under Secretary Kerry in 2016, to formally declare ISIS' actions as genocide and crimes against humanity.

While the territorial defeat of ISIS was achieved through the courageous efforts of the Iraqi Security Forces with critical support from the United States and our international partners, efforts at recovery are far from over.

Many of the communities that suffered most during ISIS' reign of terror continue to face challenges in rebuilding their homes, reclaiming their heritage, and securing representation in Iraq's national fabric.

This bipartisan resolution is a testament to the resilience of these communities and a call to action. It acknowledges the immense suffering they have endured, recognizes their invaluable contributions to Iraqi society, and underscores the need for continued U.S. engagement.

This resolution is not just about remembering the past, but it is about supporting a future where these communities can thrive once again. It emphasizes the importance of rebuilding, not just physically, but also restoring the cultural and historic sites that are central to their identity.

I extend my gratitude to Representatives SLOTKIN and JAMES for their leadership on this critical issue. Let us stand together in support of this resolution, which not only honors the legacy of Iraq's diverse communities, but also reaffirms our commitment to their future.

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

□ 1300

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MOOLENAAR).

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I join my Michigan colleague, Representative SLOTKIN, in support of H. Res. 554.

This resolution is an important bipartisan affirmation of our support of religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq who experience violent persecution for their religious beliefs.

Chaldean Christians are a religious minority in Iraq, and they have been subjected to countless atrocities and genocide over the last decade at the hands of ISIS terrorists.

They have been displaced from their homes, coerced into converting their religion, tortured, and forced into slavery. Churches and other religious sites have been destroyed, and they still face discrimination for their beliefs.

No one should ever be persecuted for their religious beliefs. The Chaldean community has made outstanding contributions to my home State of Michigan. They deserve to know that Congress supports Chaldeans and other religious and ethnic minorities and their human rights here at home and abroad.

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN), my good friend and fellow Michigander, the author of this important resolution.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 554, a bill affirming the importance of U.S. support for religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq.

Michigan has been home for more than a century to a vibrant Iraqi community, the largest outside the Middle East. Many are Chaldeans, Iraqi Christians who have faced incredible persecution and challenges in recent Iraqi history.

I am very proud to have done this bill with Congressman MOOLENAAR, Congressman JAMES, and other bipartisan support from the Michigan delegation.

When I traveled to the Middle East as part of a congressional delegation in 2022, I met with Iraqi leaders in Baghdad and Erbil to discuss the challenges of Iraq's Chaldeans and what the U.S. can do to help.

This is on the heels of me being a CIA officer, a Pentagon official, and having done three tours in Iraq alongside the military and seeing these issues up close and personal for myself in 2004, 2006, and 2008.

I took what I heard from that most recent trip back to Washington to work on this resolution, which would put this House on record as supporting the human rights and dignity of religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq.

Over the decades, Chaldeans and other religious groups, such as Yezidis, have suffered greatly from the brutality of vicious and violent groups such as ISIS.

ISIS subjugated and carried out countless atrocities against many of these communities, including murder, systematic rape, and kidnapping. As Iraq continues to rebuild after years of conflict and efforts to defeat ISIS, it is critical that U.S. support the security, stability, integration, and political representation of these minorities in their homeland.

This resolution expresses support not just for Iraqi Christians, but for all Iraqi minorities' fundamental rights, security and economic opportunity, community infrastructure, and representation in government.

Mr. Speaker, this is not just an issue of importance to the Chaldeans and other religious minorities living in Iraq, but also to hundreds of thousands of American citizens. Roughly half a million Chaldeans live in the United States, including more than 160,000 in southeast Michigan.

These families are a vibrant, active thread in the fabric of our community. Roughly 60 percent of Michigan's Chaldeans own a business and a sizable fraction own two or more businesses. They support our economy. They are active in our communities. They support churches and schools and foundations, and they are active participants in every aspect of civic life.

These Americans who feel a deep connection to and concern for their ancient homeland are looking to us to speak up for thousands of Iraqis threatened by continued persecution and discrimination. As Americans, they are looking to us to stand up for American values.

Mr. Speaker, I thank again the bipartisan group of Michiganders and other Members who supported this bill and, in particular, Congressmen MOOLENAAR and JAMES.

This legislation was passed out of the Foreign Affairs Committee by an overwhelming bipartisan majority, and I urge my colleagues today to support the same here on the floor.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES), the chair of the Africa Subcommittee.

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this very, very important and special bill, H. Res. 554, a resolution affirming America's support for religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq.

A special thank you to Senator-elect SLOTKIN, Representative MOOLENAAR, Representative McCLAIN, and Representative BERGMAN, and, most importantly, the Chaldean community in my district and in southeast Michigan for getting us here.

I am truly blessed to be a part of this, and I am proud to have shepherded this bill through committee.

I vowed since coming to Congress to be a voice not just for the Chaldean community in my district but for all those fighting for religious freedoms abroad. That is why for one of my very first congressional hearings, I questioned Secretary Blinken about the

plight and the struggles of Christians and ethnic minorities in Iraq. I believe that advocating for religious liberties abroad is vital to our moral standing not just in the United States but around the world.

This resolution authored by Senator-elect SLOTKIN expresses more than just America's support for the restoration of the rights and dignities given to religious and ethnic minority communities in Iraq. With untrustworthy actors aligned with Iran and ISIS continuing to be an obstacle to freedom in Iraq, this resolution is a powerful first step.

To my fellow Iraqi Catholic and Christian brothers and sisters, this moment is a long time coming, but more is yet to come.

My hope is that the leadership in Baghdad hears us loud and clear today. Congress is watching, and we stand ready to act.

I appreciate Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member MEEKS for allowing this resolution to come to the floor. I know our Chaldean community in Sterling Heights and across the State of Michigan have prayed hard and advocated for this very moment.

Mr. Speaker, in this moment here today, with my bipartisan colleagues, we will be able to show Chaldeans here and those around the world who pray for religious freedom that our God truly does answer prayers.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution shines a critical light on the lives, opportunities, and cultures lost in Iraq due to ISIS' campaign of terror.

The State Department rightfully declared ISIS responsible for genocide in 2016, but Congress had been too late to respond. The Yezidis, Shabak, as well as Chaldean, Syriac, and Assyrian Christians deserve equitable representation in the recorded history of Iraqi society. I am proud to stand with my bipartisan colleagues in supporting Iraqi religious and ethnic minorities who, for too long, have gone unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting H. Res. 554, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, there is still much work to be done to help Iraq and its people heal from the horrors unleashed by ISIS. This is particularly true with respect to the country's religious and ethnic minority communities.

This resolution serves as a commitment to ensure the United States continues to press for progress and to advocate for the rights of religious and ethnic minorities. I am proud to support this bipartisan legislation today, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in voting for this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 554, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REAFFIRMING THE TIES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 837) reaffirming the ties between the United States and the Philippines, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 837

Whereas the United States established diplomatic relations with the Philippines on July 4, 1946, and the two countries have since enjoyed expanded and positive relations;

Whereas there are over 4,000,000 United States citizens of Philippine ancestry in the United States;

Whereas the United States and the Philippines have a strong and mutually beneficial trade relationship, with more than \$18,900,000,000 in goods and services traded during 2020;

Whereas the People's Republic of China continues to use its Coast Guard and its Merchant Marine to violate the Philippines sovereignty, including in the Scarborough Shoal,

Whereas Chinese Communist Party propaganda now assert claims based on a so-called "ten-dash line", after a United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea arbitral tribunal ruled that China's nine-dashed line had "no legal basis";

Whereas in 1994, the People's Republic of China unlawfully seized Mischief Reef and have since constructed 20 artificial islands that extends the operational capabilities of the People's Liberation Army with the aim of expanding its presence and reinforcing their illegitimate claims to the South China Sea;

Whereas the People's Republic of China is asserting its sweeping claims over the South China Sea by disrupting the regular resupply of the BRP Sierra Madre, a Philippine Navy transport ship, based in the Second Thomas Shoal, by shooting water cannons at Philippine Coast Guard vessels and using military-grade lasers to blind its crew;

Whereas, on April 3, 2023, the Biden administration announced plans today to expand the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Arrangement to include four new sites to strengthen interoperability and allow the United States and the Philippines to better address shared challenges in the Indo-Pacific region;

Whereas, on August 5, 2023, the United States Department of State reaffirmed that "an armed attack on Philippine public vessels, aircraft, and armed forces—including those of its Coast Guard in the South China Sea—would invoke U.S. mutual defense commitments under Article IV of the 1951 U.S. Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty";

Whereas, on October 22, 2023, the Chinese Coast Guard rammed a Philippines Coast Guard cutter escorting supplies to the Second Thomas Shoal within the Philippines exclusive economic zone;

Whereas, on April 11, 2024, the leaders of Japan, the Philippines, and the United States held a trilateral summit in Washington, D.C., to expand trilateral cooperation and bolster a free and open Indo-Pacific and an international order based on international law; and

Whereas, on June 17, 2024, PRC vessels tried to deny the Philippines from lawfully delivering humanitarian supplies to service members stationed at the BRP Sierra Madre through the dangerous use of water cannons, ramming, blocking maneuvers, and towing which damaged Philippine vessels and injured Philippine service members: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms the United States unwavering commitment to invoke its Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippines if an armed attack against the Philippines assets, including those of the Philippine Coast Guard, is committed in the South China Sea;

(2) calls on the United States and Philippines to conduct more joint patrols in the South China Sea, including with other like-minded partners, to underscore the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight;

(3) firmly objects to the People's Republic of China's false sovereignty claims to the South China Sea;

(4) strongly condemns and calls on the People's Republic of China to cease its aggressive and dangerous actions against Philippine vessels in the South China Sea;

(5) welcomes swift implementation of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement to ensure we adhere to our commitments to the Philippine people, and to foster a free and open Indo-Pacific for all;

(6) emphasizes that respecting the shared values of democratic institutions, human rights, and the rule of law, especially with regard to the rights of trade unionists, journalists, human rights defenders, critics of the Government, faith and religious leaders, and civil society activists, will strengthen the alliance between the United States and the Philippines; and

(7) reaffirms the United States unwavering commitment to invoke its Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippines, in accordance with constitutional processes, if an armed attack against the Philippines assets, including those of the Philippine Coast Guard, is committed in the South China Sea.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 837, a resolution that reaffirms the enduring partnership between the United States and the Philippines.

This resolution is a testament to the deep-rooted bonds of friendship, shared

values, and mutual interests that have defined our relationship for over a century.

The Philippines is not only a close ally in the Asia-Pacific region, but also a vital partner in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity.

Our two nations share a long history of cooperation from the fight for freedom during World War II to our joint efforts in addressing global challenges today.

Whether it is combating terrorism, the Chinese Communist Party's aggression, or advancing trade, the U.S.-Philippines partnership is instrumental in shaping a safer and more secure world.

In addition to our strategic alliance, the Filipino-American community is an invaluable bridge between the two countries. More than 4 million Filipino Americans contribute to the fabric of America's society, enriching our culture and economy.

Furthermore, this resolution strongly condemns the People's Republic of China's aggressive action against the Philippine vessels in the South China Sea. These provocative maneuvers threaten the peace and stability of the region and violate international law.

We stand in full support of the Philippines' sovereignty over its territorial waters and call on China to respect the rights of all nations in the South China Sea.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 837, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 837, which reaffirms the vital partnership between the United States and the Philippines. I thank Delegate MOYLAN and Representative BOBBY SCOTT for bringing forward this important and timely resolution.

The relationship between our two democracies is more than just a long-standing alliance; it is a cornerstone for stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Over the past year, Beijing has persistently and illegally bullied the Philippines in the South China Sea. The Chinese Coast Guard and maritime militia have intensified their harassment of Philippine fishing vessels in contested waters as well as within the Philippines' own exclusive economic zone.

Chinese security forces have used water cannons, wielded axes and machetes, engaged in ramming and blocking maneuvers, and interfered with humanitarian supply missions of the Philippine Coast Guard.

These actions are dangerous and unacceptable. Beijing's military coercion and provocation threaten the Philippines' sovereignty as well as peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Philippine President Marcos has spoken passionately about the daily harassment faced by his nation's fishermen and coast guard at the hands of China's maritime militia, coast guard, and navy. His message has been clear:

The Philippines need international support to uphold international law and safeguard its sovereignty.

By passing this resolution today, we are offering that support. Amidst Beijing's flagrant and irresponsible actions, H. Res. 837 makes clear that the United States stands with the Philippines and reaffirms our commitment to defending the Philippines in the event of an armed attack against it. The resolution also upholds the importance of freedom of navigation and the rule of law on the seas, condemns the PRC's dangerous tactics, and rejects its unlawful maritime claims.

Over the past 4 years, the Biden administration has strengthened our alliance with the Philippines. We have bolstered our interoperability with the Philippines Armed Forces through a vital expansion of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement to four new sites.

The United States has also promoted partner collaboration with the Philippines, principally by hosting President Marcos in D.C. for the inaugural U.S.-Philippines-Japan Trilateral Summit and strengthening security coordination with Australia, Japan, and the Philippines.

□ 1315

Congress also did its part by passing the critical National Security Supplemental earlier this year with funds for our partners and allies in the Indo-Pacific.

Passing this resolution advances those efforts by reaffirming the alliance, as well as our shared resolve to uphold peace, stability, and the rule of law in the region.

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

Mr. MOYLAN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the ranking member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce and a strong supporter of the bilateral relationship between the U.S. and the Philippines.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 837 which reaffirms the ties between the United States and the Philippines.

This resolution highlights the important partnership between our two nations and makes it clear that we will firmly stand by our allies in the Indo-Pacific region.

I also thank the gentleman from Guam, Mr. MOYLAN, for both leading this resolution and for co-chairing the U.S.-Philippines Friendship Caucus with me.

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to meet with the President of the Philippines, along with members of the Philippine House of Representatives, to discuss the important bilateral relationship between our two countries.

These conversations between Members of the United States Congress and elected officials in the Philippines solidify the bonds between our two nations and help identify areas of mutual interest and concern in the Indo-Pacific region. In these discussions we emphasized our shared vision of keeping peace and freedom, particularly in the South China Sea.

We are putting these goals into action. Earlier this year, Congress passed the Indo-Pacific Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, recommending \$500 million in foreign military financing go to the Philippines.

Following the passage of the amendment, Secretaries Blinken and Austin announced \$500 million in military funding to help monetize the Philippines military and Coast Guard and boost collaboration.

This resolution reaffirms the United States' commitment to invoke the 1951 U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty if Philippine assets are attacked in the South China Sea and welcomes a swift implementation of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement.

I was pleased to see the Biden administration expand the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement to include four new military training sites. This will allow the United States and the Philippines to better address shared challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

I look forward to continuing our work to strengthen the ties between our countries. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE), a very strong supporter of our partners in the Pacific.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I join my friend from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and my friend from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) and many colleagues in strong support of H. Res. 837, reaffirming our country's enduring ties with the great Republic of the Philippines.

The strength of the U.S.-Philippines relationship endures on a foundation of shared heritage, history, and values, from Filipinos being the first documented Asian ethnic group in North America to the still-growing population of Filipino Americans today, numbering over 4.6 million, now the third largest group of Asian descent in our country, to our mutual vibrant democracies, and so much more.

In my own Hawaii, I am the very proud Representative for the congressional district with the highest number of Filipino Americans of any district in our country, some 204,000 today. For over a century, we in Hawaii have had experience in understanding how Hawaii and our Nation have greatly benefited from the significant contributions and accomplishments of our Filipino community.

The U.S.-Philippines relationship has perhaps never been as strong as it is today, and it is these people-to-people ties that are the foundation behind the security partnership outlined in the

1951 U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty. It recognizes an attack in the Pacific on either of us would endanger the peace of both of us and that we must act in concert to meet common dangers.

This security relationship is critical today, given continued aggression by the People's Republic of China in the South China Sea and elsewhere in the Indo-Pacific. This congressional reaffirmation comes on the heels of Secretary of Defense Austin's recent visit to Palawan where he reaffirmed the ironclad U.S. commitment to the Philippines and reiterated that the U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty extends to Armed Forces, public vessels, and aircraft of both countries, including those of the Coast Guard anywhere in the South China Sea.

That is just one of many reasons why the reaffirmation of our relationship with the Philippines by this United States Congress, as well as this resolution, is more important now than ever.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting our critical U.S.-Philippines relationship. "Thank you very much and God bless," "Maraming salamat po and Dios ti agngina."

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

Mr. Speaker, the U.S.-Philippines alliance is imperative to both our security and the security of the Indo-Pacific region. Today, the Philippines is on the front lines in Beijing's attempts to flout international law and upend the status quo in the South China Sea. As Philippine vessels face threat and intimidation from Beijing, we must work together to ensure that our friends are not alone and that they do not waver.

By agreeing to H. Res. 837, we can send a clear message: The United States stands with the Philippines against Beijing's coercion and intimidation as we work to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting H. Res. 837.

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

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

I thank Representative SCOTT for leading this resolution with me and my good friend, Mr. CASE, for his testimony.

This resolution sends a clear message: The United States stands firmly with the people of the Philippines and reaffirms our unwavering commitment to invoke our Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippines in accordance with constitutional processes.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 837.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I wish to underscore my strong support of H. Res. 837 introduced by Mr. MOYLAN, our colleague from Guam, on Reaffirming Ties Between the United States and the Philippines. It is both timely and critical, as we see the People's Liberation Army Navy and the Chinese

Coast Guard intrude on Philippines territorial waters and engage in increasingly belligerent and lawless behavior.

My one quibble with the Resolution is the continued use of the term “South China Sea” to refer to that term for the sea west of the Philippines. Why not “West Philippines Sea,” an important semantic change that rejects the PRC’s claims on Philippines territory and reinforces the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea arbitral panel ruling that the PRC’s maritime territorial claims have no basis?

Indeed, even the term in Chinese makes no explicit reference to China. It is simply “South Sea.”

We have seen repeated aggression by PLA naval and coast guard vessels in the West Philippines Sea. We routinely see Filipino fishing boats harassed and surrounded by a flotilla of navy and coast guard vessels.

There was also an incident this past summer where a Chinese coast guard vessel engaged in a piratical ramming attack against Filipino vessels. Eight Filipino sailors were injured, including one who lost his thumb.

The PLA Navy is playing a dangerous escalation game. A war was once fought over a sailor’s severed ear—1739’s War of Jenkins’ Ear. Will a war now be fought over a severed thumb?

Not if we are resolute. There is a quotation attributed to Lenin: “You probe with bayonets: if you find mush, you push. If you find steel, you withdraw.”

This describes the strategy of the PLA Navy. Probing with bayonets. Unfortunately, up until now, they have only encountered mush. Steely resolution is what is needed to deter war.

It is my hope that the incoming Trump Administration show resolve which sadly has been lacking, including conducting naval exercises in conjunction with our Philippines treaty ally in the West Philippines Sea, and sending ships to escort the Filipino navy in resupplying Filipino sailors and Marines who are staffing an outpost on the Second Thomas Shoal—something that was bravely done just this past week by our stalwart ally.

I thank Representative MOYLAN for his resolution, underscoring this House’s resolve to stand by an ally.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 837, 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.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE ACTIONS OF THE RAPID SUPPORT FORCES AND ALLIED MILITIAS IN THE DARFUR REGION OF SUDAN AGAINST NON-ARAB ETHNIC COMMUNITIES AS ACTS OF GENOCIDE

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1328) recognizing the actions of the Rapid Support

Forces and allied militias in the Darfur region of Sudan against non-Arab ethnic communities as acts of genocide.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1328

Whereas Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (in this preamble referred to as the “Genocide Convention”), adopted at Paris on December 9, 1948, defines genocide as “any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: (a) Killing members of the group; (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group”;

Whereas the genocide that began in 2003 in Darfur perpetrated by the Government of Sudan and its proxy Janjaweed militia, explicitly targeting the Fur, Zaghawa, and Masalit ethnic communities through mass killings, forced displacement, the razing of villages and cropland, widespread rape, aerial bombings of civilians, and the blocking of humanitarian assistance, killed at least 200,000 civilians and displaced 2,000,000 people;

Whereas, on July 22, 2004, Congress declared, with the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 467 (108th Congress) and Senate Concurrent Resolution 133 (108th Congress), that atrocities occurring in Darfur were genocide, and the administration of President George W. Bush declared genocide in Darfur on September 9, 2004;

Whereas, in 2013, the Government of Sudan, under the administration of the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) and the command of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), formed the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a formal paramilitary force composed primarily of Janjaweed militia;

Whereas Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (commonly known as “Hemedti”), a Janjaweed militia leader during the genocide in Darfur that began in 2003, served as head of the RSF and became the deputy head of the Transitional Military Council, which took power from the President of Sudan Omar al-Bashir in 2019, and the deputy chairman of the successor Sovereign Council;

Whereas the elevation of individuals who served in leadership of the parties responsible for such genocide, including Hemedti and General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan of the SAF, into leadership roles in the transition government in 2019 only heightened the risk of atrocities recurring across Sudan, including genocide in Darfur;

Whereas fighting between the SAF and the RSF broke out in Khartoum on April 15, 2023, and quickly spread to Darfur, where the RSF has taken control of four of five regional capitals in Darfur: Nyala, Geneina, Zalingei, and El Daein;

Whereas, on August 16, 2023, CNN issued an investigative report on the June 15, 2023, atrocity in El Geneina, the capital of West Darfur, describing the atrocity as “one of the most violent incidents in the genocide-scarred Sudanese region’s history”, explaining how “the powerful paramilitary Rapid Support Forces and its allied militias hunted down non-Arab people in various parts of the city . . . reviving a genocidal playbook”, and in which survivors reported that identifying as Masalit “was a death sentence”;

Whereas, on November 3, 2023, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated, “We are deeply alarmed by reports that women and girls are being abducted and held in inhuman, degrading slave-like conditions in areas controlled by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Darfur”;

Whereas, on November 14, 2023, the United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Alice Wairimu Nderitu, expressed extreme concern with the “serious allegations of mass killings” in Ardamata, which “may constitute acts of genocide”, citing reports that the violence killed more than 800 people and displaced 8,000 Sudanese individuals to Chad;

Whereas, on December 6, 2023, Secretary of State Antony Blinken determined that, since the fighting between the SAF and the RSF began on April 15, 2023, Sudan has experienced war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing in “haunting echoes of the genocide that began almost 20 years ago in Darfur”, including Masalit civilians being “hunted down and left for dead in the streets, their homes set on fire, and told that there is no place in Sudan for them”;

Whereas a December 15, 2023, Reuters special investigative report detailed the targeted killing of Masalit men and boys by the RSF, about which an emergency protection officer for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees explained that “the objective of the killings seems to be the elimination of future fighters as well as the line of ancestry of a specific ethnic group”, referring to the Masalit people;

Whereas the RSF has killed Masalit political and traditional leaders in El Geneina, West Darfur, including Khamis Abdullah Abbakar, the Governor of West Darfur, and Farsha Mohamed Arbab, a prominent leader of the Masalit Sultanate;

Whereas, on May 9, 2024, Human Rights Watch reported that attacks by the RSF and allied militias in El Geneina, the capital city of Sudan’s West Darfur state, killed thousands of people and left hundreds of thousands as refugees, from April to November 2023;

Whereas there is significant evidence of widespread, systematic actions against the non-Arab ethnic communities of Darfur, including the Masalit people, committed by the RSF and allied militias that meet one or more of the criteria under Article II of the Genocide Convention, including—

(1) killing members of the non-Arab ethnic communities in Darfur in mass killings of civilians, including summary executions in the streets and shootings of civilians fleeing across the Wadi Kaja river and to the Chad border, targeted killings of men and boys, targeted killings of Masalit leaders, and burials in mass graves;

(2) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of such communities, including through extrajudicial detention, torture and beatings, extortion, sexual and gender-based violence, mass rape, sexual slavery, and forced displacement; and

(3) deliberately inflicting on such communities conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction in whole or in part, including the annihilation of villages, targeted attacks on marketplaces and schools, widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure and telecommunication, the looting of homes and hospitals, assaults on camps for displaced persons, the destruction of humanitarian facilities, the killing of aid workers, and restrictions on humanitarian aid and access; and

Whereas credible descriptions of the RSF’s objective of elimination of the line of ancestry of the non-Arab tribes of Darfur, survivors’ statements reporting that identifying

as Masalit is a death sentence, and reports that the RSF made clear that there is no place in Sudan for the Masalit, against the backdrop of the prior genocide in Darfur, evince a specific intent on the part of the RSF to destroy the Masalit and other non-Arab ethnic groups in Darfur in whole or in substantial part: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns atrocities, including those that amount to genocide, being committed by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and allied militias against the Masalit people and other non-Arab ethnic groups in Darfur, and the roles of the RSF and Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) in perpetrating atrocities, humanitarian catastrophe, and the destruction of Sudan;

(2) calls for an immediate end to the war and all violence and atrocities in Sudan;

(3) urges the Government of the United States—

(A) to take immediate steps with the international community, including through multilateral fora, to protect civilians, including by establishing safe zones and humanitarian corridors, enforcing the United Nations Security Council arms embargo on Darfur, and brokering a comprehensive cease-fire between the warring parties in Sudan;

(B) to support the consistent and transparent documentation of atrocities and genocidal acts in Sudan by instituting a mechanism that will, to the greatest extent possible, publicly release such documentation on a consistent and regular basis;

(C) to immediately identify mechanisms through which to fund local, community-based organizations that are currently providing nonlethal assistance to the Sudanese people in conflict-affected areas that traditional implementing partners cannot reach, including for the delivery of food, medical aid, and shelter to individuals impacted by the war in Sudan; and

(D) to review and update the atrocities determination for Sudan every 180 days for 3 years from enactment;

(4) supports tribunals and international criminal investigations to hold the RSF and allied militias accountable for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide; and

(5) calls on the Atrocity Prevention Task Force to conduct a comprehensive review of its efforts to prevent, analyze, and respond to atrocities in Sudan, in alignment with the 2022 United States Strategy to Anticipate, Prevent, and Respond to Atrocities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1328 recognizing the actions of the Rapid Support Forces and allied militias in the Darfur region of Sudan against non-Arab ethnic communities as acts of genocide.

The war in Sudan has been raging since April 2023. Sadly, the civilians of Sudan have disproportionately paid the toll with nearly 9 million people internally displaced.

While both the Rapid Support Forces and Sudanese Armed Forces have committed atrocities during this conflict, the Rapid Support Forces are reverting to their old ways from 2003 and, once again, committing genocide in Darfur.

Congress must act to declare this genocide as such and stress our support for the Sudanese people and urge a swift end to the conflict.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1328, which condemns atrocities in Sudan, including those that amount to genocide.

I support this resolution because it is imperative we turn the world's attention to the dire situation unfolding in Sudan. The scale of suffering there is nothing short of horrific. It is the world's largest humanitarian crisis. Yet, the response from the international community has been alarmingly silent.

Since April 2023, the conflict between the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces has had devastating consequences. The violence has claimed up to 150,000 lives and forced more than 14 million people to flee their homes. According to reports from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, more than half of Sudan's population now faces severe food insecurity, including some in Darfur who are experiencing famine.

The humanitarian needs are escalating by the day. Yet both the RSF and SAF have systematically obstructed humanitarian efforts. It is a moral outrage.

This resolution takes a firm stand against the atrocities that have come to define this conflict, including war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. It also condemns acts of violence that may amount to genocide, especially against the Masalit people and other non-Arab ethnic communities in Darfur.

The evidence of wide-ranging atrocities being committed in Sudan is overwhelming. We cannot turn a blind eye. It is essential that we hold those responsible to account for such crimes. That is why we have called on the administration to take decisive action, urging a determination under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act for gross violations of human rights by the RSF.

Last December, Secretary Blinken rightfully acknowledged that ethnic cleansing, war crimes, and crimes against humanity are being committed in Sudan. The United States has taken steps to sanction those fueling this conflict, including new sanctions on an RSF commander just last week.

However, more needs to be done, including by Congress, which is why my colleagues are working currently on additional legislative efforts to ensure smarter sustained action to end this crisis.

The resolution before us today urges our government to continue updating its assessment of the situation to ensure that the voices of the Sudanese people are not lost in the fog of war.

It urges immediate steps to protect civilians who are subjected to sexual and gender-based violence, torture, and murder by warring parties.

It is now time for other nations to step up, too. Whether through increased humanitarian aid, support for documenting these heinous crimes, or sanctions against those perpetrating this violence, every effort counts. Those who are providing material support to the warring parties, like the UAE, Russia, and Iran, must immediately stop prolonging the conflict.

Innocent civilians are dying every day. We cannot afford to let Sudan's cries for help go unanswered. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and, by doing so, to stand in solidarity with the people of Sudan.

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

□ 1330

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES), the chair of the Africa Subcommittee.

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Africa Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I have time and time again brought attention to the crises going on on the African Continent while the rest of the world looks the other way.

Mr. Speaker, where is the press? Where are the celebrities? Silent.

Today, Sudan is the largest humanitarian crisis in the world, with close to 9 million people internally displaced. Over 800,000 people face catastrophic hunger. Sudanese civilians are scattered around the region as they flee escalating violence by warring parties: the RSF and SAF.

Diplomatic efforts have failed, and the war rages in Khartoum and Darfur, where an abundance of evidence points to genocide being committed by RSF forces against the Masalit and likely against other non-Arab communities, as well.

In West Darfur, the RSF has systematically targeted the Masalit ethnic group. From April to June 2023, up to 15,000 people were killed in a series of coordinated attacks. Survivors said they were targeted explicitly because they were Masalit, according to a report compiled by the Raoul Wallenberg Center for Human Rights. The RSF has attacked, burned, and destroyed homes, entire villages, IDP camps, and shelters that primarily hosted Masalit people.

The governor of West Darfur was executed by the RSF shortly after he publicly decried the ongoing genocide,

calling for international intervention to protect the remaining population.

My resolution will formally declare the atrocities committed by the RSF and their allied militia as acts of genocide. For far too long, the world has stood by as we watch a repeat of history and as external actors, including the UAE, Russia, and Iran, fuel the slaughter of innocents and the rape of women and children without repercussion.

In 2003, the Government of Sudan and its proxy, Janjaweed militia, explicitly targeted the non-Arab Fur, Zaghawa, and Masalit ethnic communities through mass killings, forced displacement, destruction of farms, horrific violence against women and girls, aerial bombings of civilians, and the blocking of humanitarian assistance. Today, the RSF, formed out of these elements of the Janjaweed militia, continues and is using the exact same playbook.

In 2004, it was Congress that took the lead to bring attention to these heinous acts. President George W. Bush's administration followed by declaring genocide in Darfur. By September 2004, we had executed. The Bush administration and Congress were clear-eyed in addressing the plight of the Sudanese people.

Sadly, today, President Biden has failed the Sudanese people and has left another part of the world on fire for President Trump's new administration. For now, Congress will again take the lead.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support passage of H. Res. 1328, which passed out of committee on a unanimous, bipartisan basis.

The evidence is clear. The RSF's actions are unequivocally amounting to genocide and must be declared as such. The press must do their duty to the world and report on this heinous genocide and crime against humanity or they are failing in their mandate. They cannot talk about defending freedom of speech if they do not defend the lives of people in Darfur.

Mr. Speaker, I call on all parties and their backers to bring an end to this devastating war. We, for our part, in a bipartisan manner, will do everything we can to support the Sudanese people without delay.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

It is imperative that the U.S. takes this firm stance against the crimes against humanity waged by the Rapid Support Forces, their allied militias, and the Sudanese Armed Forces.

What is happening in Sudan right now, as I speak, is the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Famine, food insecurity, death, and destruction linger over millions of people.

This resolution recounts only some of the significant documented evidence of the Sudanese people's plight. While its passage is just one small step, it is a critical one. It sends a clear message: The world is watching, and we will not stand idle in the face of such suffering.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting H. Res. 1328, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The current administration has been derelict in their duty to act, failing to declare the Rapid Support Forces' actions as genocide. Congress must stand on the right side of history and strongly support an end to the conflict. The Sudanese people cannot wait any longer.

I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES) for introducing this resolution, which passed the Foreign Affairs Committee on a bipartisan, unanimous vote.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1328, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1328.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING THE GLOBAL RISE OF ANTISEMITISM AND CALLING UPON COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES TO COUNTER ANTISEMITISM

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1449) condemning the global rise of antisemitism and calling upon countries and international bodies to counter antisemitism.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1449

Whereas antisemitism is a threat to the fundamental freedoms, rights, security, and diversity of all citizens, societies, and countries;

Whereas there has been an increase of antisemitic rhetoric and acts in many countries around the world;

Whereas, in the months since the October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorist attack against Israel, Jewish communities around the world have experienced a significant increase in antisemitic threats;

Whereas, in the Berlin Declaration of April 29, 2004, participating states of the Organization for Security and co-operation in Europe condemned antisemitism and committed to take specific actions to combat it;

Whereas, in 2016, the 31 member states of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance adopted a legally nonbinding "working definition" of antisemitism, an important internationally recognized tool to increase understanding of antisemitism;

Whereas, on May 25, 2023, the White House issued the United States National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, making clear that

the fight against antisemitism is a national, bipartisan priority that must be successfully conducted through a whole-of-government-and-society approach;

Whereas, on July 17, 2024, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the United States and partners unveiled the Global Guidelines for Countering Antisemitism;

Whereas the Global Guidelines constitute a multilateral framework encompassing 12 areas of public policy, including: Jewish community protection, the need for leaders to speak out against antisemitism, uniform collection of data about antisemitism, and education of the Holocaust and Jewish heritage;

Whereas the Global Guidelines include policies to monitor and combat antisemitism that can be implemented and adapted to a wide variety of national, regional, and cultural contexts; and

Whereas more than 40 states and international bodies have endorsed the Global Guidelines for Countering Antisemitism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the rise of antisemitism in countries around the world;

(2) welcomes the Global Guidelines for Countering Antisemitism unveiled by the United States and partners in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on July 17, 2024;

(3) calls upon states and international bodies to take action to counter antisemitism, including by endorsing and embracing the Global Guidelines for Countering Antisemitism; and

(4) encourages greater action and international cooperation to counter antisemitism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOYLAN. 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 materials on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, coordinated mobs roamed the streets of Amsterdam, attacking Israelis in town for a soccer match, in a chilling, premeditated assault. Dozens of people were injured, and scores were running and hiding in fear.

The anti-Semitic, anti-Israel attack is the latest terrifying development in a global spike in anti-Semitic, anti-Israel vitriol since October 7. We have seen it here in the United States on our college campuses, at local synagogues, and even a few miles from us in the Nation's Capital, where a kosher restaurant had its windows smashed earlier this month.

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights documented a 400 percent increase in anti-Semitic activity since Hamas' October 7, 2023, assault on

Israel. The European Union also found that 96 percent of Jews encountered anti-Semitism in their daily lives.

Countering anti-Semitism needs to be a top priority at home and abroad. We need to be honest with ourselves and recognize that it is happening and that our solutions so far have been insufficient to stop this rising tide of hate.

We need to work with our partners to respond quickly and effectively to protect Jewish people in our countries and communities from violence. This is why we are considering Representative MANNING and Representative SMITH's bipartisan resolution condemning the global rise of anti-Semitism and calling upon countries to counter anti-Semitism.

For decades, when we talked about the Holocaust, the world said: "Never again."

The events of last week in Amsterdam and around the globe in the last year prove that we have failed Jews around the world. We failed to recognize the potency of this hate, and we have failed to keep them safe.

This resolution is our demonstration of our intent to remedy this problem and to live up to our promise.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue to support H. Res. 1449, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in strong support of H. Res. 1449, a bipartisan House resolution I introduced with my dear friend, Congressman CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey, supporting global efforts to counter anti-Semitism.

It has been an honor to serve alongside Representative SMITH as a co-chair of the House Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Antisemitism.

I thank House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member GREG MEEKS for their leadership and support in advancing this important measure through committee and to the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, we know that anti-Semitism is on the rise around the world. We know what a threat this is not just to the Jewish community but also to democracies around the world and to the very fabric of our own societies.

Today, not even 80 years since the liberation of Auschwitz, anti-Semitism has grown, taken on new forms, and spread to more parts of the world. As we have seen since the Hamas terrorist attack of October 7, 2023, the single deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust, anti-Semitism around the world has skyrocketed.

That explosion of anti-Semitism started on October 8, long before the IDF went into Gaza. In fact, it started while Hamas terrorists were still in Israel, attacking innocent civilians.

We saw shocking anti-Semitism rear its ugly head in Amsterdam earlier this month, where a violent mob planned a coordinated attack on Jews who attended a soccer match with an Israeli soccer team. It is deeply chilling that

this attack happened around the 86th anniversary of Kristallnacht, and as the specter of violence against Jews in Europe rises again. It is equally chilling that the perpetrators of that violence live streamed their atrocities.

Here in the United States, FBI data shows that anti-Jewish hate crimes increased in 2023 by nearly 63 percent from 2022, totaling the highest number recorded in almost three decades. We are talking about violence, destruction, and the murder of Jews in this country simply because they are Jews.

Jewish Americans make up only 2 percent of the U.S. population, yet anti-Semitic hate crimes account for more than 15 percent of all hate crimes reported by the FBI and two-thirds of all religious-based hate crimes.

Even though we face a significant global challenge, we must not despair. We must take action. We must continue to make progress in the fight against anti-Semitism through resolutions like this one.

In 2004, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the OSCE, acknowledged that anti-Semitism assumed new forms and posed a new threat to security and stability in the region.

In 2016, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance built international consensus around a valuable working definition of anti-Semitism.

In recent years, many countries around the world have appointed special envoys or coordinators or advanced national strategies to deal with the rise of hate against Jews.

In 2021, Congress passed—and President Trump signed into law—bipartisan, bicameral legislation to elevate the position of U.S. Special Envoy to the rank of ambassador.

In 2023, the Biden administration issued the first-ever "U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism." This July, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt unveiled the Global Guidelines for Countering Antisemitism, a new landmark international framework for acting against anti-Semitism, which countries around the world can sign on to and embrace.

□ 1345

I commend my good friend, Ambassador Lipstadt, and her team at the State Department for their excellent work on these guidelines. We now have a multilateral international framework that can provide guidance to other governments and to our own embassies about our shared obligation and responsibility to counter anti-Semitism.

This includes clearly and unequivocally condemning anti-Semitism, providing physical protection and security for Jewish communities, enforcing hate crimes laws, and educating future generations about the Holocaust and the long history of conspiracy theories and hate targeting Jews.

I am pleased that more than 40 countries and international bodies have al-

ready endorsed these guidelines, and we are working hard to make sure that more countries in different regions join them in the coming months.

H. Res. 1449 condemns the rise of anti-Semitism in many countries around the world, expresses our support for the global guidelines and other international efforts to counter anti-Semitism, and it calls on more countries around the world to endorse and embrace these guidelines.

I thank our colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support. What we are doing today is just the start, but we must do more. I deeply appreciate the leadership on both sides of the aisle and the commitment to this issue.

Before coming to Congress, I was fortunate to be involved in efforts to protect Jewish communities around the world for decades. Working together to make real progress in this fight, and on an issue where we can find agreement, has been a real highlight in my career and my time in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, anti-Semitism is wrong. It is dangerous. It deserves to be condemned, countered, and eradicated by all governments around the world. That is the purpose of our bipartisan resolution.

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chair of the Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank MICHAEL MCCAUL, our chairman, for very quickly bringing this important resolution to the floor along with the great support of GREGORY MEEKS, the ranking member.

I especially thank KATHY MANNING for authoring this extraordinarily timely resolution condemning the despicable rise of anti-Semitism around the world and calling on our international organizations and countries to embrace the global guidelines for countering anti-Semitism.

KATHY has done a wonderful job. It has been a privilege to serve with her as co-chair of the House Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Anti-Semitism. This resolution says it all. I thank her for doing it and doing it so well.

I want to make a few points. One, the spiritual cancer of anti-Semitism is metastasizing, not only in our country, but in many countries as well, at a rate that is both shocking and sickening. The evidence of it is everywhere, including in our college campuses and university campuses—and just not Harvard and NYU. In my own State at Rutgers University, I was there when people were camping out, and I was accosted verbally by some people. The hatred was just pouring out of their lips and their eyes. The hatred for Jews is unconscionable.

Of course, one of the most recent horrors, as was pointed out, was the Amsterdam pogrom earlier this month, the horrific mob assault on Israeli soccer fans.

It was repulsive on at least two levels. First, the brutal evil of the attackers themselves, but also the so-called respectable opinion-makers who just said: Oh, they shifted the blame. This is all about anti-immigrant sentiment or prejudice and even Israel.

Natan Sharansky is one of the greatest human rights individuals who has ever lived. I had him testify at two hearings. I tried to visit him and actually was in Perm Camp 35 in the 1980s where the Soviet Union had housed him. Frank Wolf and I went there.

When he got out, he came and testified, and he said: You know, if you don't chronicle the hatred—and that is included in these global guidelines—you can't combat it. It must be defined very clearly, especially by law enforcement, so it is not just brushed off as hooliganism or other kinds of things. You need to define it, and to do so with specificity.

He also talked about the three Ds that we are seeing manifesting vis-à-vis Israel every day of the week, and that is demonization, double standard, delegitimization, those three Ds. He talked about that and said that is a cover for anti-Semitism. Disagree with Knesset all you want or with Netanyahu, but once you lower yourselves into those—we see it at the U.N. every day.

I chaired four hearings this Congress alone, more than three dozen over the years, combating anti-Semitism about how the U.N. is rife—including the U.N. Human Rights Council—with anti-Semitism. It is just unbelievable how bad it is.

UNRWA is filled, overflowing with Hamas sympathizers and Hamas activists who teach children each day of the week to hate Jews and to kill. Just read the Hamas charter. It says: If you see a Jew behind a rock, kill him or her. That is what is being funded by the U.S. Government and funded—not right this minute—but it has been funded in the recent past. We should never do it again.

Let me also say that the guidelines—and I encourage every Member to read them—are very simple. They parallel the OSCE Conference that was held in 2002 and then the Berlin Conference in 2004. The idea of the conference came out of a hearing I chaired in 2002. I recommended it, and the OSCE took it up. The Bush administration took it up, and that conference had the Berlin Declaration in 2004. Rabbi Baker from the AJC did a masterful job—and a few others, but especially him—in wordsmithing a tremendous action plan. Of course, these global guidelines certainly parallel that—and as mentioned, certainly Ambassador Lipstadt.

Just for the record, I authored that legislation. We got it passed here in a bipartisan way, and it took months,

years for the U.S. Senate to take it up. They finally did and the Ambassador at Large of the Special Envoy, Ambassador Lipstadt, is doing a magnificent job.

Silence is not an option. We know it. In the fight against anti-Semitism we need government at all levels to denounce, chronicle, and prosecute where these thoughts matriculate into evil deeds.

We know that if you just stand by idly, you are enabling. You need to call it out. This is a very fine resolution, and I thank Ms. MANNING for authoring it. It calls out this anti-Semitism and says stop it.

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purposes of closing.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank my dear friend and colleague, Representative CHRIS SMITH, for not just his work, but his passion on this critically important issue and his work for many, many years to combat anti-Semitism. I greatly value our friendship.

Mr. Speaker, throughout history, the persecution, expulsion, torture, and murder of Jews has not just destroyed Jews and their vibrant communities, it has brought decay and destruction to the countries that have committed those atrocities.

Sadly, we are seeing that happen today, even as we see Jews being blamed for their own destruction by their evil perpetrators. We must learn from history.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution condemns the frightening rise of anti-Semitism we are seeing today across the world in civilized communities. This resolution calls on countries around the globe to take specific actions to combat anti-Semitism by endorsing and embracing the landmark Global Guidelines for Countering Anti-Semitism.

Throughout history, as Jews were persecuted and tormented and expelled and murdered, those acts were perpetrated, fermented, and allowed by governments. Today, we have a different scenario because here in the United States, our government is standing firm against anti-Semitism and joining in the fight to combat anti-Semitism.

With these guidelines, we ask countries around the globe, we ask their governments, to join us in combating this horrific rise of anti-Semitism.

Once again, I thank my Republican cosponsor, CHRIS SMITH, for his leadership and for his bipartisan cooperation. I thank all of the leadership and my colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee, as well as the leadership in Congress for bringing this resolution so swiftly to the House floor for a vote.

Now, more than ever, the United States and countries around the world must stand strong and must stand together in the fight against anti-Semitism and all forms of hatred. I urge my

colleagues to stand up and stand with me in supporting H. Res. 1449.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Ms. MANNING and Mr. SMITH, for this important, timely, and bipartisan resolution. It is critically important that we speak with one voice in countering anti-Semitism.

We have been fighting against this hatred for centuries. We can only make progress if we work together.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1449, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1449.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. MANNING. 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.

URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE TO REVIEW AND MODIFY ITS DECISION TO SUSPEND ADOPTION BY FOREIGN NATIONALS WITH A VIEW TO RESUMING SUCH ADOPTIONS

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 915) urging the Government of Ukraine to review and modify its decision to suspend adoption by foreign nationals with a view to resuming such adoptions, particularly in cases where the mutual concerns of the Governments of Ukraine and of the United States can be substantially addressed.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 915

Whereas adoption, including the adoption of child nationals of one country by adult nationals from another country, can be a profoundly beneficial way to unite children in need of parents with families that are eager and able to open their hearts and homes to children, providing the benefit of a permanent family to children who are orphaned or whose biological parents are otherwise unable to care for them;

Whereas adoptions require government safeguards to insure that they promote the best interest of the child and in order to prevent the abduction, sale, exploitation, or trafficking of children;

Whereas the Government of Ukraine has not acceded to the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption, and the circumstances of Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine render its accession currently difficult;

Whereas, since at least 1992, the Government of Ukraine has facilitated the adoption of Ukrainian children by United States citizens through its domestic law and process, and in the ensuing decades both Ukraine and the United States demonstrated that they shared the concern to protect and ensure the best interests of the child;

Whereas, as a direct result of the Russian Federation's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the Government of Ukraine temporarily suspended any adoption proceedings and protocols for the placement or adoption of its children with foreign nationals, on March 13, 2022;

Whereas the Government of Ukraine had very significant reasons to suspend intercountry adoption in March 2022, including that it was faced with the urgent and temporary displacement of Ukrainian children, including those who had been previously placed in institutional settings and orphanages, and the impossibility or extraordinary difficulty of conducting official business to protect and ensure the best interests of the child while under the shock of invasion and occupation of Ukrainian territory;

Whereas the Government of Ukraine has substantially restored its ability to conduct official business, including resuming the process of adoptions by Ukrainian nationals since May 31, 2022; and

Whereas the Government of Ukraine has not lifted its suspension of the processing of adoptions by foreign nationals, including United States citizens, nor has it identified a time-frame or protocol for doing so: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) urges the Government of Ukraine to review and modify its decision to suspend adoptions and preadoptive placements of Ukrainian children by United States citizens, and to actually and in good faith resume such adoptions in cases where the mutual concerns of the Government of the United States and of Ukraine to protect and ensure the best interests of the child can be substantially addressed;

(2) recommends as particularly urgent cases in which prospective adoptive United States parents have already complied with the requirements under Ukrainian domestic law for the adoption of Ukrainian children and that process has confirmed the legitimacy of the adoptability of these children, and cases in which the prospective adoptive United States parents have completed the process set forth under domestic Ukrainian law and have had their dossiers vetted and approved by the Ukrainian Government before the suspension of the adoptions by foreign nations on March 13, 2022;

(3) recommends that in those cases in which Ukrainian children had already participated in "hosting" programs facilitated by the Government of Ukraine and placed with individual families within the United States prior to the suspension of adoptions by foreign nationals, that regarding those children which have already been determined by the Ukrainian Government to be legally adoptable, the United States parents be permitted to initiate the process for adoption and be permitted to receive the preadoptive placement of such children during the Ukrainian domestic adoption process; and

(4) recommends that in those cases in which Ukrainian children had already participated in "hosting" programs facilitated by the Government of Ukraine and placed with individual families within the United States prior to the suspension of adoptions by foreign nationals, that regarding those children whose status regarding legal adoptability remains uncertain at this time, the United States parents be permitted to make

application to receive such children in preadoptive placements until the Ukrainian Government either establishes their adoptability or locates or identifies their biological parents.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on February 24, 2022, Russia launched a brutal, unprovoked, full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In the almost 3 years since that dark day, Ukraine has suffered countless atrocities committed by Vladimir Putin's forces.

Russian forces are responsible for murdering more than 12,000 civilians with millions more displaced. However, Putin's war of aggression has impacted one demographic group the most, Ukraine's children.

Since the beginning of the war, over 500 children have been murdered by Russian forces and over 19,000 Ukrainian children have been forcibly abducted into Russia. According to the National Social Service of Ukraine, over 1,800 Ukrainian children have been orphaned. These children belonged to loving, caring families that were ripped apart by Putin's war of aggression. They have been brutalized and traumatized by almost 1,000 days of the most horrific conflict that Europe has seen in decades.

These children deserve a loving home and a second chance at a happy life. Thankfully, there are many families in the United States who wish to welcome these children with open arms.

On March 13, 2022, the Government of Ukraine temporarily suspended adoption proceedings and protocols for the placement or adoption of its children with foreign nationals.

□ 1400

This decision was made in the best interests of the children as the Ukrainian Government struggled to conduct official business under the shock of the early days of the invasion. However, since then, the government has substantially restored its ability to conduct official business.

This resolution urges the Government of Ukraine to review and modify its decision to suspend adoptions and preadoptive placements of Ukrainian children by U.S. citizens.

Recently, the Ukrainian Government confirmed that they will process inter-

country adoptions in limited circumstances and for persons who have already received an official referral from the National Social Service.

While this is a very positive step, more can be done to work with the Government of Ukraine to speed up adoptions.

These children deserve a second chance at life. American families stand ready with open arms to provide a healthy, safe, and stable environment for these children.

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

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

I rise in support of H. Res. 915, urging the Government of Ukraine to review and modify its decision to suspend adoption by foreign nationals with a view to resuming such adoptions, particularly in cases where the mutual concerns of the Governments of Ukraine and the United States can be substantially addressed.

In the beginning of this Congress, my colleague from Texas and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairman MCCAUL, held a number of hearings that underlined the evil actions and aims of Russia's war against Ukraine. We looked at oversight issues, questions regarding strategic goals, and other aspects of U.S. support for Ukraine. All of that committee work was designed to shore up support for the freedom of Ukrainians ahead of difficult decisions and difficult votes about the United States' support for Ukraine's sovereignty and its ability to defend itself against wanton, unjustified Russian assaults.

One of the fundamental reasons to support Ukraine in this war boils down to truth and justice, whether we will decry the depravity of Putin's actions in Ukraine or whether we will look away. No other issue brings this better into focus than the forcible transfer and deportation of Ukraine's children to camps promoting indoctrination. These are brutal war crimes, plain and simple.

We were able to meet some of these children who were able to escape Russia at a committee hearing, and it was heartbreaking.

Due to Russia's renewed war of aggression, Ukraine limited intercountry adoptions, including Americans seeking to adopt Ukrainian children. On June 1, 2023, the Government of Ukraine amended its suspension of adoptions by allowing relatives of orphaned children to adopt. Ukraine is also processing intercountry adoptions for persons who have already received an official referral from its National Social Service to adopt.

We must recognize the positive steps that Ukraine has taken to permit intercountry adoptions while promoting the welfare and safety of Ukrainian orphans. I commend the Ukrainian Government and the Department of State for working to address

such concerns, including by allowing American families the opportunity to adopt Ukrainian children and provide them a second chance at a life free of the miseries of war.

Furthermore, in March 2024, the United States, under President Biden's leadership, was proud to join the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children. The goal is to ensure the safe return of all Ukrainian children who have been unlawfully deported or forcibly transferred by Russia to Russia and to promote accountability for those responsible.

Unfortunately, this Russian war has left Ukraine wounded, its families destroyed, and its children orphaned. H. Res. 915 paves the way for a path forward, empowering the Department of State to continue its diplomatic engagements with the Ukrainian Ministry of Social Policy, the National Social Service of Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington to help provide these children with families to help raise them.

I encourage my colleagues to join in supporting this measure, in supporting freedom and democracy for Ukraine, its people and its children, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chair of the Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, when Russia launched its brutal invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, Matt and Deidre Gordon of New Jersey were in the final stage of adopting Bogdan and Galena, an orphaned brother and sister from Ukraine.

The Gordons had been vetted and approved as adoptive parents by both the United States and Ukrainian Governments. They had a strong bond and relationship, they had a deep love, and they have a deep love for those two children and had spent precious time with them at their home in New Jersey, including regular contact and two long home stays totaling 5 months.

In March of 2022, however, during the first weeks of the Russian invasion, the Gordons had an appointment in Kyiv to be officially matched with the kids. It was at that point, however, that the Ukrainian Government temporarily suspended intercountry adoptions.

Arguably, the Government of Ukraine had reasons to suspend some adoptions, because of the fog of war and the difficulty in doing the requisite due diligence to safely and effectively process new adoption requests, but the Gordon case wasn't new. Matt and Deidre and many other Americans, hundreds of Americans, were nearing the end of the process when it all grounded to a halt leaving, in this case, these two children, and hundreds of other children, stranded.

Because of their deep love for their children, the Gordons have continued to visit Bogdan and Galena, who are in an institutional setting in Poland.

Let me just say, I did contact and wrote letters to President Zelenskyy, and this one goes back to July, asking for a remedy and to resolve this. We didn't even get an answer.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD my letter to President Zelenskyy.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

July 28, 2023.

His Excellency VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY,
President of Ukraine, Via: Oksana Markarova,
Ambassador, Washington, DC.

YOUR EXCELLENCY: I write to urge you to review and modify your government's decision to suspend intercountry adoptions from Ukraine, particularly in cases in which the adoptive Ukrainian children have already participated in American homestays approved and facilitated by Ukrainian officials before the suspension of the adoption process on March 13, 2022.

Throughout my tenure in the U.S. Congress, I have focused much of my work on promoting human rights, freedom and democracy around the world, including supporting democratic reform in Ukraine since 1991. Similarly, I have led numerous efforts to secure the rights and dignity of children across the world who, due to their age and vulnerabilities, are often tragically neglected and abused.

As the author of landmark legislation on issues pertaining to children—including the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act and the International Megan's Law to Prevent Child Exploitation, as well as proposals that increased federal tax incentives to help overcome the upfront costs of adoption—I am acutely aware of the complexity of issues facing children internationally and the need for government oversight of intercountry adoption to fully ensure the "best interest of the child" throughout the process.

Notwithstanding your government's reasons for initially suspending intercountry adoptions in 2022, I now urge that Ukraine's Ministry of Social Policy (MSP) revise that decision with a view to resuming intercountry adoptions in cases where our mutual concerns to protect and benefit children can be substantially addressed.

Principal examples of this include cases in which, first, the American adoptive parents have already had their dossiers vetted and approved by the Ukrainian government, and, second, the Ukrainian children have been determined to be adoptable by the Ukrainian government, and, third, the Ukrainian children have already participated in homestays with the American families—such cases are few and were at or very near the end stage of the process on February 24, 2022. In such situations, Ukrainian children have come to know and feel themselves as part of American families. I urge your government to seek solutions in these cases that recognize the deep bonds that have grown between the children and parents and, consistent with Ukrainian law and regulations, permit adoptions to be finalized.

One family that finds itself in this situation is that of Matt and Deidre Gordon of New Jersey, and a boy and a girl—natural siblings—of Ukraine. After the Ukrainian government approved the Gordons' adoption dossiers in December 2021, their previously scheduled final appointment with MSP officials was cancelled in the wake of the invasion. The children, whom the Gordon parents have already come to know, now endure the agony of war while awaiting the day when they can reunite. Any immediate assistance you could provide in this urgent matter will be greatly appreciated. Having worked with

the family, please know I stand ready to provide additional information or assist in any way you deem appropriate.

Intercountry adoption is a profoundly beneficial way to help children in need of parents and families that are eager and able to open their hearts and homes to benefit children. I sincerely thank you for your strength and courage in defending your country in the face of Russia's brutal onslaught and urge you to help unite American families and Ukrainian children in new family environments that will enhance the love and lives of both parents and children.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH,

Member of Congress.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, there are hundreds of other children and U.S. families in the same or similar situations, as I have indicated.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 915, which respectfully urges the Government of Ukraine to review and modify its decision to suspend adoption by foreign nationals for adoptive parents like the Gordons and their children.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution makes specific recommendations, which I will put in the RECORD, including cases in which adoptive U.S. parents have already completed, as I mentioned, the requirements under the Ukrainian domestic law for the adoption of Ukrainian children and in which the adoptability of these children has already been confirmed and also which the adoptive U.S. parents have already had their dossiers vetted and approved by the Ukrainian Government.

We ask them to please not delay any longer. Those kids want a loving home, and there is one awaiting them as we speak.

Second, there are also cases in which Ukrainian children have already participated in hosting programs facilitated by the Government of Ukraine and placed with individuals within the U.S. before suspension of adoption by foreign nationals.

Mr. Speaker, those kids have suffered much, certainly being in that kind of isolation. Orphanages are there, but it is so much better to be in a loving home. We have got a remedy sitting right at our fingertips. I am calling on the Ukrainian Government and President Zelenskyy, especially, to do so.

Let me also say, the Ukrainian Government resumed domestic adoptions and did that in June of 2022. There is an apparatus, there is a capability and a capacity to do this job.

I thank Matt and Deidre Gordon from New Jersey for bringing the needs of these Ukrainian children to my attention.

For his extraordinary leadership and compassion, I thank former State Senator Ray Lesniak for first suggesting that the House pass this resolution.

Special thanks to my good friend and colleague DONALD NORCROSS, who helped us craft this resolution and has been there every step of the way as the lead Democrat cosponsor. I thank Donald so much for his leadership on this important issue.

I also thank Mark Milosch, the Republican staff director of the Lantos Commission. Previous to that, when I chaired the Helsinki Commission, he was my chief of staff there, as well. He is very, very capable and really understands the European theater and the politics, and he helped us draft this, as well. I also thank Trent Bunker.

This resolution deserves the full support of this body, and I urge its adoption.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS), my friend and the lead Democrat on this important resolution.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MANNING for yielding.

I rise in support of H. Res. 915. I rise today for the Ukrainian children, those without a family, and for the Americans who wish to give them one.

It has been over 1,000 days since Russia invaded Ukraine. Ukraine suspended adoptions, for obvious reasons, by foreign nationals to protect the safety of their children, but as this war continues, the need to place these children in loving homes only grows.

Many Americans were in the process of adopting, some of those stories we just heard. These kids are stuck in limbo as war rages on.

In my home State of New Jersey, Andres and Farrah Meha were right in the middle of the process of adopting two of these children. They had formed strong bonds with these kids, and they had hosted them in their homes.

Right before this was going to work its way through the bureaucracy, an invasion began and changed everything. A few weeks later, those children had to return to Ukraine because of what Putin did and when war arrived in their home cities.

□ 1415

That is why I am urging the Ukrainian Government to resume adoptions by American citizens. There are no allies stronger than the U.S. Families across the U.S. stand ready with open arms to provide a healthy, safe, and stable environment for these children who deserve better.

I thank Ray Lesniak, who called me up to remind me that we need this passed. He is a wonderful friend whom I have served with in the New Jersey Senate. I thank CHRIS SMITH for what he continues to do each and every day.

The idea of these children who lost their families being in limbo, there is light at the end of this rainbow, and that is the American families who want to call them part of theirs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to engage and vote for H. Res. 915.

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

Mr. Speaker, this has been an unimaginable and agonizing time for the Ukrainian people, especially for the

Ukrainian children who, sadly, have been pawns in this terrible war.

It has been agonizing for adoptive parents like those we heard about today who have been waiting to give some of these children warm and loving homes.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is about doing what is right for Ukraine and for the children of Ukraine who have already endured such tragedy and hardship.

By working with Ukraine to reopen pathways for intercountry adoption, we are extending a lifeline to children who have been caught in the crossfire of an unjust war.

Let's make sure that, even in the darkest of times, we are creating pathways to brighten futures.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting H. Res. 915, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Mr. SMITH and Mr. NORCROSS, for introducing this important resolution.

International adoption is a profound way to unite vulnerable children with families who are eager to open their hearts and homes. There are numerous families across the United States who want to be the light for Ukrainian children who have been surrounded by the darkness of Putin's war. We can offer hope to children who have been robbed of it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 915, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 915.

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. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1646

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CAMMACK) at 4 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intention to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution as is follows:

Directing the Committee on Ethics to preserve and publicly release records of the Committee's review of the alleged violations of the House Code of Conduct and Federal law by Representative Matthew Louis Gaetz II of Florida.

Whereas, Matthew Louis Gaetz II of Florida served in the House of Representatives from January 3, 2017, through November 13, 2024;

Whereas, Clause 2 of Section 5 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States establishes that: "Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings [and] punish its Members for disorderly behavior";

Whereas, clause 3(a)(2) of rule XI of the House of Representatives provides the Committee on Ethics the authority to investigate alleged violations by a Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House of the Code of Official Conduct or of a law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the conduct of such Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee in the performance of the duties or the discharge of the responsibilities of such individual;

Whereas, on April 9, 2021, the Committee on Ethics initiated review of allegations that Representative Gaetz may have engaged in sexual misconduct and/or illicit drug use, shared inappropriate images or videos on the House floor, misused State identification records, converted campaign funds to personal use, and/or accepted a bribe, improper gratuity, or impermissible gift, in violation of House rules, laws, or other standards of conduct in violation of Federal law and the rules of the House;

Whereas, on June 18, 2024, the Committee on Ethics released a statement acknowledging the Committee's continued review of allegations that Representative Gaetz may have engaged in sexual misconduct and illicit drug use, accepted improper gifts, dispensed special privileges and favors to individuals with whom he had a personal relationship, and sought to obstruct government investigations of his conduct;

Whereas, if Representative Gaetz engaged in the alleged violations while serving as a Member of this body, such conduct would affect the rights of the House of Representatives and the integrity of the legislative process;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Committee on Ethics shall—

(1) preserve all documents and investigative materials related to any review of Matthew Louis Gaetz II's conduct while serving as a Member of the House of Representatives; and

(2) make public the Committee's report regarding the alleged violations of the House Code of Official Conduct or of a law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct by Matthew Louis Gaetz II while serving as a Member of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Tennessee will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

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:

Motions to suspend the rules with respect to the following measures:

- H.R. 3012;
H.R. 8368; and
H. Res. 1449.

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 2-minute votes.

NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3012) to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 335, nays 37, not voting 60, as follows:

[Roll No. 474]

YEAS—335

- Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allred
Amo
Amodoi
Auchincloss
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Barr
Barragan
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Bice
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blunt
Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budzinski
Burgess

- Bush
Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cardenas
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foster
Foushee
Foxy
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Frost
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, V.
Gooden (TX)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Himes
Hinson
Houlahan
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
James
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (SD)
Joyce (OH)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Lee Carter
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin
Lieu
Loifgren
Lopez
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCaul
McClain
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
McHenry
McIver
Meeks
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (UT)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neguse
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross

- Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Womack
NAYS—37
Allen
Babin
Banks
Bean (FL)
Biggs
Boebert
Burchett
Burlison
Cloud
Clyde
Crane
Donalds
Fry
Fulcher
Good (VA)
Gosar
Green (TN)
Hageman
Harshbarger
Kustoff
Luna
Luttrell
Massie
McClintock
Mills
Moore (AL)

NOT VOTING—60

- Armstrong
Hill
Beyer
Blumenauer
Brecheen
Carey
Casar
Chu
Ciscomani
Connolly
Davis (IL)
DeLauro
DelBene
DesJarlais
Evans
Fletcher
Garcia, Mike
Gottheimer
Granger
Greene (GA)
Harris
Horsford
Houchin
Hoyer
Huffman
Hunt
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
Jayapal
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Keating
Kelly (PA)
Kildee
Larson (CT)
Lynch
McCormick
Menendez
Moore (WI)
Neal
Panetta
Phillips
Porter
Rodgers (WA)
Roy
Ruppersberger
Sanchez
Schneider
Schrier
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherrill
Smith (MO)
Suozi
Tonko
Trone
Waltz
Wexton
Wilson (SC)

□ 1712

Mr. FRY, Mrs. LUNA, Messrs. BABIN, MILLS, and ROSE changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Ms. VAN DUYNE changed her vote from "nay" to "yea."

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I experienced a delay in returning from a memorial service. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 474.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 474.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam Speaker, I was not present during Roll Call No. 474. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 474.

COORDINATOR FOR AFGHAN RELOCATION EFFORTS AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8368) to establish a Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts in the Department of State, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 334, nays 63, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 475]

YEAS—334

Adams Feenstra Lofgren
 Aderholt Ferguson Lucas
 Aguilar Fitzpatrick Luetkemeyer
 Alford Fleischmann Luttrell
 Allred Fletcher Magaziner
 Amo Flood Malliotakis
 Amodei Fong Maloy
 Auchincloss Foster Mann
 Babin Foushee Manning
 Bacon Foxx Mast
 Baird Frankel, Lois Matsui
 Balderson Franklin, Scott McBath
 Balint Frost McCaul
 Barr Fulcher McClain
 Barragán Gallego McClellan
 Beatty Garamendi McCollum
 Bentz Garbarino McGarvey
 Bera Garcia (IL) McGovern
 Bergman Garcia (TX) McHenry
 Beyer Garcia, Robert McIver
 Bice Gimenez Meeks
 Bilirakis Golden (ME) Menendez
 Bishop (GA) Goldman (NY) Pong
 Bonamici Gomez Meuser
 Bost Gonzales, Tony Mfume
 Bowman Gonzalez, V. Miller (OH)
 Boyle (PA) Gooden (TX) Miller (WV)
 Brown Graves (LA) Miller-Meeks
 Brownley Graves (MO) Molinaro
 Buchanan Green (TN) Moolenaar
 Bucshon Green, Al (TX) Mooney
 Budzinski Griffith Moore (WI)
 Bush Grijalva Moran
 Calvert Guest Morelle
 Caraveo Guthrie Moskowitz
 Carbajal Harder (CA) Moulton
 Cárdenas Hill Mrvan
 Carey Himes Mullin
 Carl Hinson Nadler
 Carson Houchin Napolitano
 Carter (GA) Houlihan Neguse
 Carter (LA) Hoyer Newhouse
 Carter (TX) Hoyle (OR) Nickel
 Cartwright Hudson Norcross
 Casar Huffman Nunn (IA)
 Case Huizenga Obernolte
 Casten Issa Ocasio-Cortez
 Castro (TX) Ivey Omar
 Chavez-DeRemer Jackson (IL) Owens
 Cherfilus- McCormick Pallone
 Ciscomani James Palmer
 Clark (MA) Jayapal Panetta
 Clarke (NY) Jeffries Pappas
 Cleaver Johnson (GA) Pelosi
 Clyburn Johnson (SD) Peltola
 Cohen Joyce (OH) Pence
 Cole Joyce (PA) Perez
 Comer Kamlager-Dove Peters
 Correa Kaptur Pettersen
 Costa Kean (NJ) Pfluger
 Courtney Keating Pingree
 Craig Kelly (IL) Pocan
 Crawford Kelly (PA) Pressley
 Crenshaw Kennedy Quigley
 Crockett Khanna Ramirez
 Crow Kiggans (VA) Raskin
 Cuellar Kildee Reschenthaler
 Curtis Kiley Rodgers (WA)
 D'Esposito Kimmer Rogers (KY)
 Davids (KS) Kim (CA) Rose
 Davis (IL) Kim (NJ) Ross
 Davis (NC) Krishnamoorthi Rouzer
 De La Cruz Kuster Ruiz
 Dean (PA) Kustoff Rulli
 DeLauro LaHood Ruppersberger
 Deluzio LaLota Rutherford
 DeSaulnier Lamborn Ryan
 Diaz-Balart Landsman Salazar
 Dingell Langworthy Salinas
 Doggett Latta Sarbanes
 Duarte LaTurner Scalise
 Duncan Lawler Scanlon
 Dunn (FL) Lee (CA) Schiff
 Edwards Lee (FL) Schneider
 Ellzey Lee (NV) Scholten
 Emmer Lee (PA) Schrier
 Escobar Lee Carter Schweikert
 Eshoo Leger Fernandez Scott (VA)
 Espallat Letlow Scott, Austin
 Estes Levin Sherman
 Ezell Lieu Simpson

Slotkin Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (WA)
 Smucker
 Sorensen
 Soto
 Spanberger
 Stansbury
 Stanton
 Stauber
 Steel
 Stefanik
 Flood
 Stevens
 Strickland
 Strong
 Suzzo
 Swalwell
 Sykes

NAYS—63

Allen Fischbach
 Arrington Fitzgerald
 Banks Fry
 Bean (FL) Good (VA)
 Biggs Gosar
 Bishop (NC) Grothman
 Boehert Hageman
 Brecheen Harris
 Burchett Harshbarger
 Burgess Hern
 Burlison Higgins (LA)
 Cammack Jackson (TX)
 Cline Jordan
 Cloud Kelly (MS)
 Clyde LaMalfa
 Collins Lesko
 Crane Lopez
 Davidson Loudermill
 Donalds Luna
 Fallon Mace
 Finstad Massie

NOT VOTING—35

Armstrong Granger
 Blumenauer Greene (GA)
 Blunt Rochester Hayes
 Castor (FL) Horsford
 Chu Hunt
 Connolly Jackson (NC)
 DeGette Larson (CT)
 DeBene Lynch
 DesJarlais McCormick
 Evans Trone
 Garcia, Mike Moore (UT)
 Gottheimer Murphy
 Neal

□ 1716

Mrs. CAMMACK changed her vote from “yea” to “nay.”
 So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on H.R. 3012, the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act, as amended, and H.R. 8368, the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts Authorization Act, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 474 and YEA on Roll Call No. 475.

CONDEMNING THE GLOBAL RISE OF ANTISEMITISM AND CALLING UPON COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES TO COUNTER ANTISEMITISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1449) condemning the global rise of anti-

semitism and calling upon countries and international bodies to counter antisemitism, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 388, nays 21, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 476]

YEAS—388

Adams Curtis Houchin
 Aderholt D'Esposito Houlihan
 Aguilar Davids (KS) Hoyer
 Alford Davidson Hoyle (OR)
 Allen Davis (IL) Hudson
 Allred Davis (NC) Huffman
 Amo De La Cruz Huizenga
 Amodei Dean (PA) Issa
 Arrington DeGette Ivey
 Auchincloss DeLauro Jackson (IL)
 Babin DelBene Jacobs
 Bacon Deluzio James
 Baird DeSaulnier Jayapal
 Balderson Diaz-Balart Jeffries
 Balint Johnson (GA) Dingell
 Banks Doggett Johnson (SD)
 Barr Donalds Jordan
 Barragán Duarte Joyce (OH)
 Bean (FL) Duncan Joyce (PA)
 Beatty Dunn (FL) Kamlager-Dove
 Bentz Edwards Kaptur
 Bera Ellzey Kean (NJ)
 Bergman Emmer Keating
 Bice Escobar Kelly (IL)
 Bilirakis Eshoo Kelly (MS)
 Bishop (GA) Espallat Kelly (PA)
 Bishop (NC) Estes Kennedy
 Blunt Rochester Ezell Khanna
 Bonamici Fallon Kiggans (VA)
 Bost Feenstra Kildee
 Bowman Ferguson Kiley
 Boyle (PA) Finstad Kilmer
 Brown Fischbach Kim (CA)
 Brownley Fitzgerald Kim (NJ)
 Buchanan Fitzpatrick Krishnamoorthi
 Bucshon Fleischmann Kuster
 Budzinski Fletcher Kustoff
 Burchett Flood LaHood
 Burgess Fong LaLota
 Calvert Foster LaMalfa
 Cammack Foushee Lamborn
 Caraveo Foxx Landsman
 Carbajal Frankel, Lois Langworthy
 Carey Franklin, Scott Larsen (WA)
 Carl Frost Larson (CT)
 Carson Fry Latta
 Carter (GA) Fulcher LaTurner
 Carter (LA) Gallego Lawler
 Carter (TX) Garamendi Lee (CA)
 Cartwright Garbarino Lee (FL)
 Casar Garcia (IL) Lee (NV)
 Case Garcia (TX) Lee (PA)
 Casten Garcia, Robert Lee Carter
 Castro (TX) Gimenez Leger Fernandez
 Chavez-DeRemer Golden (ME) Lesko
 Cherfilus- Goldman (NY) Letlow
 McCormick Gomez Levin
 Chu Gonzales, Tony Lieu
 Ciscomani Gonzalez, V. Lofgren
 Clark (MA) Gooden (TX) Loudermill
 Clarke (NY) Graves (LA) Lucas
 Cleaver Graves (MO) Luetkemeyer
 Cline Green (TN) Luna
 Clyburn Green, Al (TX) Luttrell
 Cohen Griffith Mace
 Cole Grijalva Magaziner
 Collins Grothman Malliotakis
 Comer Guest Maloy
 Correa Guthrie Mann
 Costa Harder (CA) Manning
 Courtney Harris Mast
 Craig Hayes Matsui
 Crawford Hern McBath
 Crenshaw Hill McCaul
 Crockett Himes McClain
 Crow Hinson McClellan
 Cuellar Horsford McClintock

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| McCollum | Plunger | Stefanik |
| McGarvey | Pingree | Steil |
| McGovern | Pocan | Steube |
| McHenry | Posey | Stevens |
| McIver | Pressley | Strickland |
| Meeks | Quigley | Strong |
| Menendez | Ramirez | Suozi |
| Meng | Raskin | Swalwell |
| Meuser | Reschenthaler | Sykes |
| Mfume | Rodgers (WA) | Takano |
| Miller (IL) | Rogers (AL) | Tenney |
| Miller (OH) | Rogers (KY) | Thanedar |
| Miller (WV) | Rose | Thompson (CA) |
| Miller-Meeks | Ross | Thompson (MS) |
| Mills | Rouzer | Thompson (PA) |
| Molinaro | Ruiz | Tiffany |
| Moolenaar | Rulli | Timmons |
| Mooney | Ruppersberger | Titus |
| Moore (AL) | Rutherford | Tokuda |
| Moore (UT) | Ryan | Tonko |
| Moore (WI) | Salazar | Torres (CA) |
| Moran | Salinas | Torres (NY) |
| Morelle | Sánchez | Trahan |
| Moskowitz | Sarbanes | Turner |
| Moulton | Scalise | Underwood |
| Mrvan | Scanlon | Valadao |
| Mullin | Schakowsky | Van Drew |
| Murphy | Schiff | Van Dуйne |
| Nadler | Schneider | Van Orden |
| Napolitano | Scholten | Vargas |
| Neal | Schrier | Vasquez |
| Neguse | Schweikert | Veasey |
| Nehls | Scott (VA) | Velázquez |
| Newhouse | Scott, Austin | Wagner |
| Nickel | Self | Walberg |
| Norcross | Sessions | Wasserman |
| Norman | Sewell | Schultz |
| Nunn (IA) | Sherman | Waters |
| Obermole | Simpson | Watson Coleman |
| Ocasio-Cortez | Slotkin | Weber (TX) |
| Ogles | Smith (MO) | Webster (FL) |
| Owens | Smith (NE) | Wenstrup |
| Pallone | Smith (NJ) | Westerman |
| Palmer | Smith (WA) | Wied |
| Panetta | Smucker | Wild |
| Pappas | Sorensen | Williams (GA) |
| Pelosi | Soto | Williams (NY) |
| Peltola | Spanberger | Williams (TX) |
| Pence | Spartz | Wilson (FL) |
| Perez | Stansbury | Wilson (SC) |
| Perry | Stanton | Wittman |
| Peters | Stauber | Womack |
| Pettersen | Steel | Yakym |

NAYS—21

| | | |
|----------|--------------|--------------|
| Biggs | Crane | Jackson (TX) |
| Boebert | Good (VA) | Massie |
| Brecheen | Gosar | Omar |
| Burlison | Hageman | Rosendale |
| Bush | Harshbarger | Roy |
| Cloud | Higgins (LA) | Tlaib |
| Clyde | Hunt | Zinke |

NOT VOTING—23

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Armstrong | Garcia, Mike | Phillips |
| Beyer | Gottheimer | Porter |
| Blumenauer | Granger | Scott, David |
| Cárdenas | Greene (GA) | Sherrill |
| Castor (FL) | Jackson (NC) | Trone |
| Cannolly | Lopez | Waltz |
| DesJarlais | Lynch | Wexton |
| Evans | McCormick | |

□ 1721

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. CASTEN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intent to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

House Resolution, directing the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives to release to the public the Committee's report on its investigation into allegations against former Representative Matt Gaetz.

Whereas, on April 9, 2021, the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives announced that it had begun to review allegations that Representative Matt Gaetz may have engaged in sexual misconduct and illicit drug use, shared inappropriate images or videos on the House floor, misused State identification records, converted campaign funds for personal use, and accepted a bribe, improper gratuity, or impermissible gift in violation of the rules of the House, laws, or other standards of conduct;

Whereas, the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives has completed its review into allegations pursuant to Committee Rules 14(a)(3) and 18(a) that Representative Gaetz may have engaged in sexual misconduct and illicit drug use, accepted improper gifts, dispensed special privileges and favors to individuals with whom he had a personal relationship, and sought to obstruct government investigations of his conduct;

Whereas, on November 13, 2024, President-elect Donald Trump announced his nomination of former Representative Matt Gaetz to serve as Attorney General;

Whereas, on November 13, 2024, Representative Matt Gaetz announced his resignation from Congress;

Whereas, there is precedent for the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives to release reports on former Members of the House of Representatives, should information in those reports remain relevant to the function of Congress;

Whereas, the decision by the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives not to release its report on its investigation into the serious allegations against former Representative Matt Gaetz impedes the ability of the Senate to provide advice and consent on this nomination; and

Whereas, a failure of the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives to release its report on its investigation impedes the dignity and integrity of the legislative proceedings of the House: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives shall immediately release to the public the committee's report on its investigation into allegations against former Representative Matt Gaetz, including any conclusions, recommenda-

tions, attachments, exhibits, or accompanying material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Illinois will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

□ 1730

ELECTING A MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1585

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Ms. Lee Carter of Texas.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 6887 AND H.R. 6598

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 6887 and H.R. 6598.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is granted.

RECOGNIZING SAMARITAN'S PURSE AND MOUNTAIN WAYS

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the incredible work being done by Samaritan's Purse run by Franklin Graham and Mountain Ways run by my friend Joe Baker in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene.

When the storm left countless families without homes, power, or hope, these organizations stepped up immediately. They didn't wait for a list of instructions or wonder how they would

get it done. They got to work delivering food, supplies, and hands-on assistance to those hit hardest.

Samaritan's Purse and Mountain Ways embody the best of who we are as Americans: neighbor helping neighbor, faith in action, and compassion when it is needed most. Their efforts have been a lifeline for the victims of Helene, providing not just relief but dignity and hope.

We need to take a hard look at how FEMA funds are distributed. Using these funds as flow-throughs to organizations like Samaritan's Purse and Mountain Ways will get resources where they are needed faster and more efficiently.

The truth is these groups know the communities, they know the needs, and they deliver the results because they live there.

Mr. Speaker, when push comes to shove and people need help the most, it is organizations like these that come through and save the day, not the Federal Government.

I would ask everybody to remember these folks in their prayers this weekend as apparently there is going to be some pretty bad snowstorms up there, and those people are just living in tents, Mr. Speaker, still waiting on aid from FEMA.

HONORING FIREFIGHTERS IN CALIFORNIA

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

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the brave firefighters and first responders who swiftly responded to and recently contained the Mountain fire, a destructive and devastating wildfire that burned over 20,000 acres in the hillsides of Camarillo in my district of Ventura County, California.

Ignited on the morning of November 6, the blaze, fueled by 80-mile-per-hour winds, quickly spread. While many homes were damaged and destroyed in this disaster, fortunately no lives were lost thanks to the swift and strategic response of emergency personnel.

I join a very grateful community in thanking the men and women of the Ventura County Fire Department, CAL FIRE, the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, local law enforcement, and the unified command of 3,000 personnel on the ground who responded to this incident and protected the lives and livelihoods of so many.

I remain deeply inspired by the heroism of our firefighters and first responders and our community's unwavering support for one another as we enter the recovery process and rebuild a stronger Ventura County.

REMEMBERING SPENCER LAWTON, JR.

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of famed Chatham County District Attorney Spencer Lawton, Jr.

After graduating from the University of Georgia's law school, Lawton worked in his family's firm and founded his own law firm before winning the 1980 election for Chatham County District Attorney.

Lawton served as the Chatham County DA for over 28 years where he modernized his management office, built an incredible team, and created Georgia's first victim-witness assistance program.

Lawton also helped to pass many pieces of legislation, including victim compensation and the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights. The victim-witness program Lawton created became a model for prosecutors across the Nation.

In addition to this incredible work, Lawton rose to fame for prosecuting Jim Williams in John Berendt's best-selling book "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil."

Outside of his career, Lawton was deeply involved in community organizations, including the Mediation Center, Coastal Children's Advocacy Center, and the Savannah Music Festival.

Our community will forever remember Lawton's service, and I send my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

HONORING NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH MONTH

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

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Rural Health Month to bring attention to the pressing need and to expand access to comprehensive healthcare services throughout rural America.

The rural communities in my own district of Virginia's Fourth face some of the worst public health outcomes of all counties in Virginia. Over the past 2 years, I have consistently engaged with these rural communities to hear firsthand about the challenges they face, including hosting a rural health summit with counties in the southern part of my district.

Throughout my conversations, I have heard similar challenges facing various rural communities, including the following: geographic constraints; long commutes and limited transportation; food deserts and a lack of access to healthy, nutritious, balanced foods; limited healthcare providers; insufficient access to culturally competent care; physician and healthcare provider shortages; and limited access to high-speed internet and devices for telehealth services.

Each of these contributes to the healthcare challenges in our rural communities and exacerbates existing disparities.

We must do more to support our rural communities, and I look forward to working with the Congressional Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus and Members on both sides to do just that.

RECOGNIZING APPRENTICESHIPS

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

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hardworking apprentices and those who are training them in Idaho's First District. Apprenticeships are a pipeline to good-quality, high-paying jobs.

Here is one example. My district is home to Quanta Services' Northwest Lineman College, which is training the next generation of skilled labor in the electric power, telecommunications, and natural gas industries. They trained 763 apprentice and preapprenticeship students last year at the campus at Meridian, Idaho, and one in five students is a veteran across their multiple training facilities.

When disaster strikes, linemen are on the front lines of the wreckage working to restore power to millions of homes, hospitals, and businesses.

This workforce is critical to build an electric grid and a broadband network that will deliver affordable and resilient services to Americans. We must ensure that our workforce is ready to meet the Nation's energy and broadband challenges of tomorrow.

I am proud to represent a community that supports and values apprentice work.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY

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

Mrs. LEE CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak for so many of those unable to speak for themselves, our children.

Today, we commemorate the 70th anniversary of World Children's Day. The need for this day is even more poignant given the global challenges children face around our world.

As the daughter of the founding member of the Congressional Children's Congress, the Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee, I too am committed to protecting and uplifting children.

I know that many of my colleagues believe in supporting our children, and I urge you to restore the child tax credit. If the child tax credit was restored today, in 2025, roughly 2.6 million fewer children would live below the poverty line.

My mother believed deeply in protecting our children, and she worked vigorously to stop human trafficking and especially to protect our youngest, vulnerable Americans.

While protecting the lives of our children is understood, we must also stand

up for children everywhere. She also authored the Oleksander Ivanov Act of 2023, H.R. 5800, so that the children of Ukraine could be safe and protected and have access to freedom.

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary, we cannot forget the work that is still undone. There should be no child that goes to bed hungry. Unfortunately, hunger is responsible for the death of 3.1 million children a year.

I ask that we join in commemorating this anniversary and rededicate our drive to support all children as well as our own.

HELPING VETERANS REGARDLESS OF ZIP CODE

(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, during a Veterans Service Officer Roundtable held in my district earlier this year, a constituent expressed concern about the difficulty he and his fellow veterans had traveling to access healthcare. In response, we took action and introduced the Rural Veterans Transportation to Care Act, which expands the Department of Veterans Affairs' Highly Rural Transportation Grants program and helps veterans in remote areas travel to the VA or VA-authorized healthcare facilities for their appointments.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Congress to pass this essential legislation. We must help our veterans, regardless of their ZIP Code or crossroads.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS PREPARE FOR 119TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KEAN of New Jersey). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. 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 topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, it is great to be back in Washington, D.C., this week as the House Republicans set the stage for the 119th Congress with a unified front to tackle the most pressing issues that the American people face.

Americans from coast to coast are grappling with the consequences of the Biden-Harris administration, including high energy costs, crippling inflation, rising crime, burdensome regulations, and government overreach in schools and other institutions.

House Republicans are working together as a conference to craft legislation that tackles inflation, implements pro-growth tax policies, cuts back on regulatory red tape, promotes family values, supports small businesses, secures our borders, and strengthens our position on the world stage.

During this lameduck period, we are hard at work advancing other key important pieces of legislation, specific pieces. This week, we put on the floor Congresswoman CLAUDIA TENNEY's Stop Terror Financing and Tax Penalty Act, which protects American citizens who are wrongfully detained or held captive abroad from late penalties from the IRS and revokes the tax-exempt status of nonprofits that provide financial or material support to terrorist groups like Hamas.

We have to listen to the American people when it comes to energy independence, a topic that we have spent the last 4 years trying to debate.

□ 1745

I think the people have spoken, and House Republicans are listening. They are advocating for policies that cut red tape and unleash our Nation's energy potential.

That is why we passed, earlier this week, Congressman RUSS FULCHER's, who was just in the Chamber, Committing Leases for Energy Access Now Act, the CLEAN Act, which requires the Interior Department to increase the frequency of geothermal lease sales from every 2 years to every year, hold a replacement sale if necessary, and create decision deadlines for geothermal drilling permit applications, therefore enhancing our geothermal energy output and domestic energy supply.

If you say that you want clean energy, if you say that you want other alternatives but continue to withhold the permitting and hold hostage the permitting process, then you truly do not want to create a solution.

We are done with this. Permitting reform is something that has to take place in our Nation. We have done a little bit of it in a bipartisan way, but if we can't look at something like this and say that this, to reduce the burden on permitting, is the most common-sense thing for geothermal potential, then nobody is being actually serious back here.

Let's get these things done.

I am grateful for my colleagues who are going to join us this evening to discuss this and many other measures that are pertinent to their districts. I am grateful for their commitment to delivering for the American people as we continue to look forward to next Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from the Commonwealth of Virginia (Mr. CLINE).

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah for holding this Special Order this evening.

This week, House Republicans are taking a decisive stand to support our

fellow Americans who are wrongfully held hostage abroad.

The Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act will change the way the IRS will treat American citizens who are held hostage or wrongfully detained abroad. With over 40 Americans currently detained, it is simply unacceptable for them to return home only to face tax penalties imposed by their own government.

Our current tax code provides just 1 year of relief before late fees begin to accumulate, and this is unacceptable.

The IRS imposing late fees and penalties on hostages for missing tax returns highlights the agency's failure to help the American people. We must ensure these Americans can focus on reuniting with their families and not be burdened by financial penalties and bureaucratic red tape.

Additionally, a crucial part of this legislation is that it sends a powerful message to those who finance terrorism that we will revoke the tax-exempt status of U.S. nonprofits that support groups like Hamas.

American taxpayers should never be forced to subsidize those who seek to undermine our safety and security. We must stand united with these Americans and make it clear: Our government will not tolerate any support for terrorism. We will continue to fight for justice, and we will continue to fight to protect our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for sponsoring this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important bill.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks. We appreciate his followthrough in highlighting this key, important legislation.

There are, I think, 46 Americans who are wrongfully detained. They should not be going through these types of tax penalties. This is something that makes absolute sense.

I appreciate my next colleague who will address the Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank our vice chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, for the last several weeks, I listened to countless concerns from literally hundreds of Tennesseans whom I have the honor to represent here in Congress. I heard from families still struggling to make ends meet because of rampant inflation. They are paying more for housing, groceries, energy, and just about everything else you can think of because of Bidenomics.

I listened to constituents who are worried about crime, fentanyl, and, yes, the overrun U.S.-Mexico border.

Small business owners expressed the heavy burden of government regulations. Parents told me the many ways government overreach in schools keeps them up at night.

It is not hyperbole to say that the results of this election were an answered

prayer for those Tennesseans and millions more across this country.

Throughout the 118th Congress, House Republicans fulfilled our Commitment to America. We passed bills to secure our borders, lower energy costs, curb Federal regulations, and restore fiscal sanity to our government, but unlike what we have seen for the last 2 years, the bills we pass in the 119th Congress will no longer be dead on arrival in the do-nothing Senate.

The next Congress will also have a Commander in Chief who values family, common sense, and strength on the world stage. We will have a partner in the White House who is willing to roll back red tape rather than layer on more. We will have a President willing to sign legislation into law that will keep American workers and their families working, safe, and prosperous.

But we are not waiting for January to deliver results, Mr. Speaker. This week, House Republicans will bring two commonsense pieces of legislation to the floor.

The first prohibits the IRS from charging penalties and late fees to Americans who happen to be late on filing their taxes due to being wrongfully detained abroad. American families of hostages held by Hamas terrorists shouldn't incur tax penalties. I proudly voted for this bill when it came up under suspension and plan to do so again.

The second bill aims to support our national security and energy independence by streamlining the permitting process for geothermal energy development. It requires the Interior Department to increase the frequency of geothermal lease sales to every year rather than every 2 years. It also calls on the Department to hold a replacement sale, if needed, and creates deadlines for geothermal permit applicants.

Geothermal energy is a clean, dependable, renewable energy source that supports my commitment to an all-of-the-above energy approach needed for the 21st century.

After month after month of record-breaking price increases and illegal border crossings, the American people are anxious to see their country made great again.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for his remarks. I always appreciate his involvement.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for our next address.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, my district is suffering, our Nation is suffering, and Congress has the duty to alleviate it.

This year, record-breaking storms have wreaked havoc on homes, businesses, families, farms, and more.

Right now, the West Coast is battling a catastrophic bomb cyclone, dumping as much as 1 foot of rain on impacted communities. On the East Coast, this year's hurricane season was especially

destructive. Hurricanes Debby, Helene, Milton, and Beryl, just to name a few, brought destruction to the Southeast, the likes of which I have never seen in my more than 60 years living in the great State of Georgia.

We aren't talking about temporary inconveniences. Communities, particularly ag communities, are experiencing generational damage.

Our fellow Americans have lost loved ones and property at an alarming rate. Among those casualties is Blackshear Assistant Fire Chief Leon Davis from Pierce County, who was killed during Hurricane Helene while selflessly clearing debris in an attempt to keep his community members safe.

My thoughts and prayers continue to be with the Davis family as they mourn this immense loss.

There is nothing we can do to bring our loved ones back, but we can make life better for those who still are with us.

We need disaster relief, and we need it yesterday. The number one responsibility of the Federal Government is to protect our citizens from foreign and domestic threats. It brings me no joy to say this, but we are failing in that mission.

FEMA and SBA's disaster relief coffers are as empty as the hope many people feel about getting the aid they so desperately need, but we have a window of opportunity to change that. I am calling on my colleagues to work together to seize this opportunity.

The White House has submitted a roughly \$100 billion request to help our Nation recover from natural disasters. This request is a step in the right direction.

Georgia alone, according to Governor Brian Kemp, needs \$12.2 billion just for Hurricane Helene damage recovery. That is just one State and just one storm.

I don't say this often, not often at all, but I echo President Biden's call to quickly pass a supplemental funding package with no delay.

We must work together in a bipartisan and bicameral manner to get the American people the help they deserve. Disaster relief is not a red issue, and it is not a blue issue. It is a red, white, and blue issue.

We have a responsibility to help our communities recover, and there is no excuse for us to delay any further.

We also must ensure that our timber farmers are able to deduct the value of their lost crop, which is why I am pushing for my bill, the Disaster Reforestation Act, to be included in this package.

I am ready to work with my Republican and Democratic colleagues to get this disaster supplemental across the finish line. Anything less than this, Mr. Speaker, will be a dereliction of our duty. Our people need help, and they need it now.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his remarks. Utah has potential for

some disasters, but nothing like the devastation they have seen, and our heart goes out to them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would echo, too, following BUDDY CARTER, that we did an outing over the weekend down along the Georgia and Florida area. As a Californian, we have our own disasters typically, but it is very devastating.

We talked to a lot of farmers, ranchers, and timber people there. Immediate help is needed for them. They will be gone if something isn't done. They will be out of business, and the next generations won't have that option. We will miss that giant hole in the economy in that area and that food supply chain, as well as the lumber.

Something must be done immediately in whatever package that comes out of here.

I did want to speak about energy and energy policy a little bit. We have suffered as a nation these last 3½ years because we haven't really had a coherent energy policy.

A lot of things go hand in hand with a strong economy, with energy and some of the byproducts it takes to put into it. We have to have the wherewithal with our natural resources to produce energy, the inputs that are required, and the equipment.

That means mining, and that means hydroelectric power. We have to be able to build water storage to make electricity.

People right now are suffering from inflation, and it keeps ramping up. Two of the main drivers we have seen from this streak of inflation the last 3-plus years have been driven by the cost of energy and profligate spending by this government above and beyond what we should have been doing.

I know we had to go through that COVID period, and it was tough, but the spending within that and also on top of that was the so-called infrastructure bill, the Inflation Reduction Act, they call it, and other angles. It is just pathetic. It hasn't been focused.

The true infrastructure we need is water storage. The true infrastructure we need is enhancing our transportation, whether it is our ports, highways, or trains, what have you. Instead, we get more mandates.

As a Californian, the mandates come down the pike from CARB, as it is known, the California Air Resources Board, and it is emulated by about six other States. Even EPA looks at how California does it, trying to foist that on the whole country to force requirements for, for example, locomotives that don't even exist yet. It is the equivalent of what would be called tier 5, as we haven't really perfected the tier 4 locomotive yet as far as cleanliness.

The diesel engines we produce these days are so much cleaner than anything just 20 years ago or much longer

than that. If we allowed trucks and trains to be replaced by attrition over time with the clean technology, we would see dramatic gains.

If we achieved 99 percent in cleanliness from, say, 1950 or 1960 to now, that last 1 percent is the one that is acutely hard to achieve and hyper-expensive to get that last 1 percent, but the regulators are hell-bent all the time on trying to get that last 1 percent.

Why can't we move toward having everything hit that first level at 99, whether it is clean engines or what have you, on that, and achieve that goal and see where we are?

That is because the more we export our industry and the more we export agriculture to other countries, they do it much, much dirtier, if you want to put it that way, than us. Coal, for example, used to be a cornerstone of our energy grid in this country. It is dissipating, yet China builds more coal power plants every month, and they don't really care about environmental stuff like we do.

□ 1800

We are looking for reasonable environmental regulations, and sometimes it goes too far. They don't care.

Remember when they had the Olympics? They shut down the country for about 2 or 3 weeks beforehand so the air would clean up enough and it would look good on TV and the athletes wouldn't choke to death, but then right back to business as usual afterwards.

A coherent energy policy means, yes, we need to be extracting oil and gas from the lands we have, whether private or Federal, and it can be done ecologically soundly. We don't have to be scared to death.

The ANWR, the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge, is the size of South Carolina. It is massive. The area where they want to do the extraction is a tiny postage-stamp size compared to that. Yet, we are going to ruin the whole thing, so it is disingenuous.

Energy policy will help bring things back in line costwise. Coupled with restraint on government spending, that is how we can solve a whole bunch of the inflation problems for regular Americans who are struggling.

Look to a better energy policy, whether it is oil and gas, whether it is not tearing out our hydroelectric power—there are aspirations to tear out dams all the time these days—or building more nuclear power plants. Small modular reactors are really going to be the way to go.

Guess what? With hydro plants, no CO₂; with nuclear plants, no CO₂. If you are worried about CO₂, those are good ways to not have it.

Instead, for example, in the San Joaquin Valley in California, where they are taking away so much of the water and the land values are deteriorating rapidly because they are covered up with what they are calling solar farms. There are acres and acres and acres of these plastic panels out there that will

have maybe a 20-year or 25-year life, at best. Maybe you should call it a half-life like nuclear. Then they all have to be disposed of.

Agriculture has been displaced. The best breadbasket in this country has been displaced by having a noncoherent energy policy, but whatever feels good.

Mr. Speaker, if we want to solve these problems for American consumers, middle-income and lower-income American families, these are what we need to attack.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding the time.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, as always, I appreciate the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) and his thoughtful, but yet frustratingly common voice on energy policy.

I thank my colleagues for being here tonight and taking the time to speak on some of these priorities the House Republicans are focused on as we look forward to the 119th Congress, Mr. Speaker.

As I mentioned earlier, House Republicans are pushing legislation to reform the United States tax code, to protect American hostages abroad, and support our domestic energy industry.

Currently, there are approximately 46 Americans wrongfully detained or held hostage abroad, and our tax code does not provide any relief beyond 1 year for detainees.

The Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act works to support Americans by preventing the IRS from charging late fees and penalties to U.S. citizens wrongfully detained abroad. This bill also revokes the tax-exempt status of U.S. nonprofit organizations that provide financial or material support to terrorist groups like Hamas.

This is the most commonsense legislation that we are going to see in the lameduck period, and I am hopeful to see this through the legislative process entirely as it passes the House.

Americans should not be penalized for being held hostage by adversaries abroad, and this bill is a necessary step toward ensuring detainees and hostages are able to focus on safely returning home and reuniting with their families.

This week, House Republicans successfully passed the Committing Leases for Energy Access Now Act to require the Department of the Interior to increase the frequency of geothermal leases, the lease sales, from every 2 years to every year. It also includes holding a replacement sale, if necessary, and creates decision deadlines for geothermal drilling permit applications.

This bill emphasizes a robust energy policy that unleashes our Nation's energy potential, reduces reliance on foreign energy sources, and cuts back against onerous red tape that slows down energy production.

House Republicans know that we have a lot of work to do, and we are committed to using our constituents'

voices as our guide as we reverse the Biden-Harris administration's failed policies and protect American citizens, restore American energy independence, and lower energy costs for American workers and their families.

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

RESTORE THE AMERICAN DREAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DELUZIO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, the American people are sick and tired of powerful corporations ripping us off, junk fees, small businesses struggling, union busting, price gouging, bad trade deals, all of it.

I am convening this Special Order hour today because I am committed to fighting back. I am here because we need to revive and restore and strengthen the American Dream for all who are willing to work for it. I know my constituents are. I know the American people want more from this body.

In the depths of the Great Depression, Franklin Roosevelt confronted these same forces in a different time head-on, saying: "These economic royalists complain that we seek to overthrow the institutions of America. What they really complain of is that we seek to take away their power."

Absolutely. There is no freedom if families are struggling to meet basic needs. There is no liberty if we are ruled by oligarchs. No one is going to say that profits don't matter; they do.

Something else has to matter more: Our safety has to matter. Our jobs have to matter. Our communities have to matter. This country has to matter.

For those things to matter, we have to break this corporate stranglehold on our economy and our country. The American economy works just great if you are a billionaire or if you are a giant corporation, but too often our system fails hardworking people.

We need an economy and a government that rewards hard work, not just extreme wealth.

Where I come from and where I grew up, that is something that we value. I represent the good people of the 17th District of Pennsylvania, western Pennsylvania. We believe in hard work. We believe in patriotism. We believe in sacrifice.

We are the folks who made the steel that built this country. We have answered the call in every war. We have

done hard work, like so many across this country have done. We saw a story that rewarded that sacrifice with trying to strip us for parts; shipping good jobs away overseas; gobbling up small businesses, squeezing them; seeing big, powerful corporations put their lust for profit ahead of our safety.

We have to stand strong against those forces, a lot of them created by corporate power that are making life worse for people. It is making life more expensive and too expensive.

If American capitalism is going to succeed, we have to have competition. We have to take on anticompetitive monopolies, give small businesses and entrepreneurs a shot to succeed and compete, and make sure that our safety and our communities aren't collateral damage in the way of profits and make sure that workers have some say and dignity on the job and the freedom and forum to join a union.

The American Dream has been snatched away from far too many Americans who are hardworking, who are good and decent people, who want to have a shot at dignity and security. It is a devastating reality for folks to live with. It is unacceptable to me. I know it is unacceptable to many in this Chamber.

Some folks are angry about it. They are sad. They should be. They should expect more of this body, and they should expect more of their government.

I think we need to lay a path back to the American Dream. I am honored to be joined by so many colleagues tonight who will join me in this fight to restore and strengthen the American Dream. With a strong economic message of taking on corporate power, local action, being unafraid to fight the bad guys when we need to, we can deliver for the American people to bring down costs, to reward hard work, and to make life better and cheaper.

We can make sure the American Dream is revived and strong for generations to come.

I am proud to yield time to one of my colleagues from just next door, the great State of Ohio (Mr. LANDSMAN).

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for hosting tonight.

It is crystal clear that people are frustrated. They are frustrated with politics. They are frustrated with the economy, and they want costs down and an economy that is built for working people, the middle class, and our small businesses. I think it is really important for us to have this conversation and to start with the reality.

The reality is that the system is rigged, and it has been rigged for decades. It works for the superwealthy while everyone else is left behind, facing higher prices and a tax system that helps the rich get richer.

This started in the 1980s with huge tax giveaways to the wealthy while gutting oversight and regulations.

The result is that the system is producing the outcomes it was designed to

produce. The top 1 percent in the United States now holds 12 times the wealth of the bottom half of American households. That is what this system produced.

Think about that: 1 percent of Americans own more wealth than half of all American families combined.

When people look at their bank accounts, they are frustrated and when they get their grocery bill and their tax bill and they are wondering where all their money went, they know. They see on their phones and on the news how rich the rich have gotten. That is where their money has gone.

The superwealthy and powerful have seized more and more of our money and more and more of our power.

Let me say that again: The superwealthy and powerful have seized more and more of our money and more and more of our power.

Since the pandemic, billionaires have become \$3 trillion richer. Their wealth has grown three times faster than inflation. Corporate profits have gone up 54 percent. Wages have only gone up 26 percent.

Mr. Speaker, what is Congress' solution?

The 2017 Trump tax bill was a massive handout to corporations and billionaires. The majority of the benefits went almost entirely to the top 1 percent, and it added \$2 trillion to the national debt.

Here in these Halls, folks want to do it again. Members of Congress who have continually bent a knee to billionaires and their corporate PAC donors are now going to take their money, follow their orders, and give them the tax giveaways they want. They are going to gut regulation and allow for more corporate consolidation, which means that consumers lose more and more power in the marketplace and pay more and more for goods and services.

I don't accept corporate PAC money because I know that my constituents expect us to be with them, not the superwealthy.

Most politicians, unfortunately, do take corporate PAC money, and I believe it is one of the reasons why there is so much pushback to Medicare negotiating lower prescription drug prices or attempts to privatize Medicare or any effort to pursue commonsense gun reform. Think about how much the gun manufacturers make. It is billions and billions of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, many of them are all in on spending trillions on the superwealthy through tax reform because it helps their own interests. It is not what people want.

People are struggling, and they want change. They are tired of the status quo. They are saying that over and over. For decades, that is what they have been given. We have appeased billionaires and big corporations while leaving working people, the middle class, and small businesses behind.

In the next Congress, we have an opportunity to pass a new tax bill. What

if 100 percent of all tax reform benefits went to working people, the middle class, and small businesses?

The last time Congress passed a big tax bill, almost 90 percent went to the top 1 percent. What if 100 percent of any tax cuts went to working people, the middle class, and small businesses? It should be paid for by making the superwealthy just pay all their taxes, just like the rest of us.

Big corporations and the superwealthy don't need our tax cuts. The middle class, small businesses, and working people need them. By giving people enough money to support their families, pay for their groceries, and contribute to our economy, we are all better off.

Everyone at the top should pay all of their taxes so every American can pay all their bills.

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for his words.

The gentleman is right. We have to confront this corporate power. We have to build an economy and a government that rewards hard work, not just obscene wealth. We talk about how we all feel that squeeze. We feel that power hurting us.

We all hear from our constituents about the cost of groceries and the cost of food. They don't have a choice to not feed their families. We are feeling it and we are hearing constantly about the pressure folks are under to make ends meet and to put food on the table.

People's paychecks aren't going as far in the grocery store and the checkout line. It hurts budgets. It hurts families.

They are asking: Who is responsible? Why is this happening?

No doubt, a few years back, food and grocery supply chains were affected by the pandemic, but a Federal Trade Commission Report made clear that the disruptions from the pandemic disproportionately impacted small firms because larger companies tried successfully to protect their power and their market share.

□ 1815

There is very little competition across much of the grocery sector. It is not marked by heavy competition. The four biggest grocery retailers account for nearly 70 percent of sales across the country.

Among food suppliers, four firms control more than 60 percent of sales in most grocery categories. That is not terribly competitive.

Without real competition, large grocers and retailers have got power to—guess what—set prices that we all pay for. We have seen price gouging by these corporations well above the level of inflation.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL), who I acknowledge and know has been fighting hard against not just corporate power, but to bring down costs for folks, especially in the grocery stores.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania for yielding. I am so grateful for his leadership every single day on behalf of hardworking Americans across his district and across our country.

Mr. Speaker, something is wrong in this country. Families go to the grocery store and they can't afford milk or eggs or cereal that their kids like. Poor and working-class people are struggling under the weight of inflation. They can't make ends meet, and at the same time, the richest 1 percent and corporate CEOs are still taking home record profits.

A recent poll confirmed that two-thirds of Americans think: one of the biggest problems facing us today is that a handful of corporations have too much power. The numbers back this up.

Despite rising costs that are squeezing poor and working people across the country, corporate profits are bigger than ever. It is a simple story of corporate monopolies price gouging consumers.

Let's start with eggs because I like to eat eggs every morning. I think there are a lot of people who like eggs and look at the price of eggs. It is a staple.

Before the pandemic, the price of a dozen eggs hardly ever went over three bucks, but in 2022 and 2023, we saw record-high prices for eggs.

Now, according to Farm Action, this price increase was because dominant egg producers used inflation and avian flu as a cover-up to extract profit margins as high as—wait for it—40 percent on a dozen eggs.

This should come as no surprise because there is a long record of collusion in the egg industry. In 2023, a jury found that Cal-Maine and other egg producers actually did collude to fix egg prices.

Let's look at diapers, another issue that is so big for so many families across the country.

Bloomberg reported in July 2021 that the cost of Pampers nearly doubled from 25 bucks for 200 diapers to \$40 for 168 diapers, and that price increase was just in 6 months. More money for fewer diapers.

It is true that there was a shortage of some diaper materials during the pandemic, but—guess what—those shortages stopped, and you didn't see the prices stabilize. You didn't see the prices of key materials coming back to normal.

When you go to the store and you see diaper brands like Huggies and Luvs and Pampers, the real story is, turn them around and see who they are owned by because all of these different brands that are on your grocery shelves are owned by only two companies: Procter & Gamble and Kimberly-Clark, accounting for about 70 to 80 percent of the market. Even as the cost to make diapers has gone way down, these companies are still keeping the prices high, and they are reporting record profits.

Mr. Speaker, I will go to healthcare because it is another place where my constituents and people across the country are talking about the high cost of healthcare. We have seen big insurers, private equity, and other big corporations buying up hospitals and other healthcare providers. My home State of Washington has been particularly affected. A handful of healthcare systems now control 90 percent of the hospital beds in the State of Washington.

Some studies have found that these mergers are especially bad for people in rural areas because it actually causes smaller clinics to eliminate services like obstetrics or pediatrics, or even to close entirely. All of this has led to unprecedented corporate control over healthcare in my home State and across the country.

People across the State and across the country are seeing the negative effects of this increased corporate power in their daily lives. A family physician who worked at a clinic in my district testified that the quality and availability of care decreased after the clinic was bought by a large national healthcare network. Another witness testified that the price that her insurer paid for monthly infusions to manage her chronic illness nearly tripled from \$24,000 to \$74,000 per visit without any increase in the quality of care.

The president of the Washington State Nurses Association testified that he had seen increased costs and decreased access to care for his patients. All of these stories confirm what we now know: Corporate greed in healthcare or in any industry raises costs and makes life harder for Americans.

It does not have to be this way. As elected officials, it is our job to ensure that government is keeping these corporations in line and keeping prices low for the American people.

I will tell you a story about what government can do when we fight corporate power. In 2015, two grocery store chains merged: Albertsons and Safeway. They wanted what corporations always want in these big mergers and that is more money for themselves, their CEOs, and their shareholders. They said that the deal would be better for people in my home State of Washington and across the country. They claimed that the merger would pass on savings to consumers and not line the pockets of CEOs, but what actually happened?

Well, here is what actually happened: Instead of streamlining, dozens of stores were closed. Those closures created food and pharmacy deserts, making it harder for many people in already underserved communities to get fresh food or get their prescriptions. Older adults, students, people with disabilities, people in rural communities, low-income residents, those are the ones that suffered the most. Workers at the stores that closed, by the way, also lost their jobs. Despite all of those

corporate promises, workers and consumers were the ones who suffered. That is what happens when government does not challenge corporate power and monopolies. We lose.

When Albertsons announced in 2022 that it was going to merge this time with Kroger, people were rightly worried. They were worried that the prices would go up, they were worried that there would be fewer choices and deserts in their communities, and that more grocery stores would close. When asked about the merger, one Washingtonian told *The Seattle Times* that she was worried that her local store would close. She said: If there are no other grocery stores that I can walk to, I don't know what I am going to do. This is my store. Another said that he worried that the merger would make it so that these guys' prices would go sky-high. Workers worried that it would be harder for them to bargain for better pay and working conditions, that store closures would mean layoffs, and that their families would face uncertainty and hardship once again.

This time something was different. My colleagues and I urged the Biden administration to challenge the proposed deal, and the Federal Trade Commission agreed that we could not allow another bad merger to go through.

The FTC and many State attorneys general, including in my State, challenged the deal. While that challenge is still in court, we have delayed and will continue to work on blocking this bad deal.

This is just one of the stories of what can happen when an administration, when a government takes on corporate greed the way that the Biden-Harris administration did, the way that Democrats have done on everything from egg prices to collusion by landlords driving up rental prices.

I will be honest, I am worried that the Trump administration may not keep up these fights against corporate power, especially as we see the proposed cabinet being stacked with people who have close ties to Wall Street. We certainly saw the last Trump administration conduct the largest corporate tax giveaway in history, putting hundreds of millions of dollars into the hands of big corporations like Verizon and Facebook and Amazon while shorting regular Americans.

We have seen the extreme conservative appointees on the Supreme Court accept lavish gifts from their big business buddies, while overturning government efforts to clamp down on corporate power.

We cannot allow the next administration to repeat these mistakes. We need to hold their feet to the fire. We need to make sure that they are working in the interest of all Americans, not just big corporations and the wealthy. We don't want a situation where the wealthiest in this country, once again, get gold bars and working people get maybe 8 weeks of groceries. That is bread crumbs. That is not what middle-

class working people and poor people across America deserve.

That is why I have a lot of real solutions to these problems. My Stop Corporate Capture Act would give the people, not big corporations, a say in government. My Stop Anticompetitive Healthcare Act would give the government the power to challenge hospital mergers and protect access to quality healthcare. Of course, my Ultra-Millionaire Tax Act would make sure that the ultra-wealthy pay their fair share.

When we take on corporate power, we win for the working people. When we lower prices, we win for working people. We allow people to put food on their table. We can raise wages, so Americans don't have to work three jobs to get by. We can stop corporations from being so big that they don't care if they are failing consumers, and we can make sure that government works for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague Representative DELUZIO from Pennsylvania for his leadership on this issue and on so many issues facing us today.

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank the gentlewoman from Washington for her strong leadership and fight against these horrible mergers that are anticompetitive that we are all paying for and for so much fight on behalf of working people across this country.

We know that when corporations throw their weight around, all too often our constituents are hurt, small businesses are hurt, and workers are hurt. It is also dangerous at times. We know that when there are monopolies, our supply chains are weaker. There is more likely to be something that happens that might hurt us.

I am reminded of the baby formula shortage we saw in this country in the early part of 2022. It was set off because Abbott Labs, a company that dominates that industry, had a recall of its formula due to dangerous bacteria outbreak in one factory. Multiple babies died.

They had to shut down their factory in Michigan. It was a horrible situation. Shutting down just one factory, one, caused a nationwide shortage. In many places, store shelves were bare. Families were scrambling across the country, particularly families with babies that had special dietary needs. Delaware, Kansas, and Tennessee reported to be the hardest hit States. We felt it in places like Pennsylvania. My then-young son wasn't quite a year old. My own family worried about whether we could find formula and thank goodness we could.

There is research saying that some of those impacts might be still ongoing, that infant health suffered during this shortage, that babies may still feel the effects of that. Our supply chains can never be so weak that one single factory can cause such havoc all over the country.

It is not just that these powerful companies make our supply chains

weaker, they distort our democracy. They weaken faith in our elections. They corrupt with the money through our elections and our campaigns.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ), who I know is a hard fighter for campaign finance reform and to protect this democracy.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman DELUZIO for convening this Special Order hour, and I am grateful it is on a topic that I believe is so critical to so many of the conversations that we are having right now.

You are talking about babies still impacted. You brought me back to thinking about what it was like for me growing up. I grew up in Humboldt Park in the city of Chicago. I saw my immigrant parents work pretty long hours in minimum wage jobs. My dad worked two jobs, my mom worked two jobs, and somehow she also managed to give a lot of time to her local church.

What they couldn't afford was childcare. My mother worked first shift so my dad could work third shift, and they could figure out how to make sure that their kids always had someone at home. That meant that my parents could barely ever see each other.

My parents' experience is not very different from the reality of so many others right now. I witnessed the struggles of my community to secure stable housing, to ensure quality education for their children, and to raise a family with the rising cost of living.

Let me be very clear: Working people are still struggling. The cost of living in America is too damn high. Too often I hear my constituents, my neighbors talk about having to make a decision: Can I go to the grocery store and buy the eggs and the milk, try to get some spinach, try to get the bread, pay the \$2,200 a month for a two-bedroom apartment in Chicago, and then afford my inhaler?

Mr. Speaker, oftentimes what ends up happening is that people have to choose between being able to feed their children and their healthcare, feeding their children and an inhaler in one of the richest countries in the whole world. Why is it so hard for us to move a working people's agenda in Congress? You would think there is more of us that come from working class than ever before. Some of us actually understand what it is like to have to help our parents who are probably making \$100 too much for Medicaid so they need help covering their healthcare.

□ 1830

There are more of us here who are working class, but somehow a working people's agenda in this place doesn't seem to be a priority.

We ask ourselves: Why don't the American people trust that we are working for them?

Well, let me answer that question. When unchecked corporate power and greed in the marketplace meets un-

checked corporate money in politics, well, we have a problem. It is the families in Illinois' Third, Fourth, Fifth, in your own districts, who end up suffering because of it.

We know that price gouging, price-fixing, predatory algorithms, and corporate monopolies put profits and production over people. It is why I joined my colleagues in sending a letter, that Congresswoman JAYAPAL was just talking about, opposing the Kroger-Albertsons merger, because we have to resist the consolidation of corporate power if we are going to protect working people.

I am also a proud cosponsor of Congresswoman OMAR's Shrinkflation Reduction Act which would enhance price transparency for consumers and combat the deceptive practice of shrinkflation.

I go to my local grocery store. I can literally see the difference between what people in my community are paying and what someone else in a community that has four grocery stores pays. They usually pay 25 percent more. We need the kind of accountability that bills like this will bring.

Shrinkflation practices hide behind the language of inflation, but we know that actually consumer exploitation is intended to defraud us so corporations can continue to profit, while providing less product.

We know how corporations are able to get away with these practices. It is because they use their profits to buy the same exact people who are responsible for holding them accountable. Yes, I said it. Big money in politics, whether poured into elections or directly in the pockets of corrupt public servants, give special interests and corporations outsized influence in our democracy.

So when a good bill comes before us, when a good bill comes to the committee, somehow we can't actually debate the bill because it is a good bill. It should pass. These corporations have the power to buy elections and buy elected officials.

Our democracy is weaker and our communities suffer when the voices of working families are buried under the influence that millions can buy. We see it too often. It is why we need bills like H.R. 1118, the DISCLOSE Act, to end the scourge of dark money buying our democracy.

I am a cosponsor of the act that Representative PAPPAS introduced because it does a couple of things. It requires super-PACs and dark money groups to disclose donors who have given \$10,000 or more during an election cycle. It requires those spending money on ads to disclose their donors. It cracks down on the use of shell corporations to hide the identity of a donor.

If you are donating to an elected official or candidate, the public should know who you are. The DISCLOSE Act bill does just that. If our democracy is not for sale, which it shouldn't be for sale, then mega-donors should not be

attempting to buy our democracy. It means we have to bring the full power of the Federal Government through regulations, through accountability, and through transparency to fight for working people, for our constituents.

It is also why I think it is so important that we are cosponsoring legislation like Congresswoman JAYAPAL's bill, which is the Stop Corporate Capture Act, H.R. 1507. This bill institutes reforms to rightsize the influence of corporate interests over regulatory process, it increases transparency of government rulemaking decisions, and it establishes a mechanism for the public to hold agencies accountable.

We have to do everything possible so that the American people trust that those of us that are in the people's House are actually here for them because the reality is that they don't.

They do see us as people who are here to enrich ourselves, people who are here to hear ourselves speak. Working families demand accountability, and they have given us a mandate. They are asking us for bold solutions to economic justice, and it means taking on corporate greed.

As we get closer to an administration that has promised to weaken the pillars of our democracy more than ever, I think it is going to be critical that Progressives and every Democrat, frankly, every elected official that is here for working families, get together to unite and address corporate greed. If we don't, we will continue to see what we see now, which is corporations becoming wealthier than wealthy can possibly be, while poor people continue to have to choose between healthcare and feeding their children.

I thank Congressman DELUZIO for the opportunity to speak today. I thank him for bringing up such an important, critical issue. I look forward to working with him in the next Congress.

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois for her powerful words.

This democracy is not for sale. That should not be something that is controversial in this Chamber or anything else. Our constituents expect us to fight for all of them.

One of the places that we have seen this consolidation, this concentration, this raw power really hurt folks is in agriculture. We see it because we know that food production is a key step in that grocery supply chain, and we know we hear from our constituents that the cost of groceries is too high. We are all paying too much for food because of this consolidation that we see in agriculture. Folks are getting ripped off. They are tired of it.

This increased consolidation also puts the squeeze on smaller, local farms, family farms, small businesses, people often deeply rooted in their communities, in my community, the communities of so many of the Members of this Chamber.

This summer I visited a farm in my district and met with farmers from the

Beaver/Lawrence Pennsylvania Farm Bureau roundtable. Some of them are livestock producers. They sell their meat or poultry to be packed and processed. The meatpacking and processing industries are some of the most heavily consolidated in the country, and they have very little competition.

For the past decade, the four largest meatpacking and processing corporations in the United States have maintained about two-thirds of the country's market share. Some independent research has found this consolidation to be even higher with the largest four firms holding up to 85 percent of the market share in beef processing and around 60 percent in poultry. That is not very competitive. It doesn't meet the spirit of competition that we want and need for American capitalism to succeed.

I heard at that meeting in Beaver County, that compared to larger competitors, these folks had to wait longer to get their livestock in, to be taken in by these giant processing corporations. They are having a hard time negotiating fair prices and fair compensation.

We are all going to pay for the squeezing of those farmers and those small businesses. It may also be a violation of Federal law, the Packers and Stockyards Act.

After hearing from these constituents, these farmers, I wrote to the Agriculture Secretary and called for action. That high level of consolidation, once again, is driving up costs for all of us. That market power also means that processors have increased buying power that they can use to dictate prices to smaller farmers who struggle to stay afloat.

Mr. Speaker, we need a strong agriculture industry. We need family farms that make it to that next generation. We have got to promote competition for the food industry, for the farm, the grocery store, every part of that supply chain.

That also means we need antitrust enforcement with some teeth, with some muscle behind it, and with real consequences for violations. This next Congress and administration should be willing to do that work, to take on rip-off monopolies, and to create an environment that fosters competition.

That is the spirit of American capitalism that I think we all want and that our constituents expect of us. It is one where small businesses and farms can grow and thrive.

Mr. Speaker, one place we have really seen small businesses feel the squeeze are local pharmacies. If you walk across any Main Street in most of our districts, any of our districts, they are great small businesses that anchor our communities. They may be multi-generational businesses. Pharmacies are one of those places that people like; pharmacists get to know their patients. Those are relationships that are important for people's health, and they add to the vibrancy of our communities.

People suffer when they lose competition, when we lose those small businesses across our communities. I visited Towne Drugs in Aspinwall, an independent local pharmacy. I was there with other pharmacists, as well as small business owners. I heard stories about how pharmacy benefit managers, or PBMs, are frequently steering customers toward their own chain pharmacies. It hurts the bottom line of independent pharmacists.

Many of these PBMs are often vertically integrated, where they have a mail-order pharmacy, a retail pharmacy, and maybe an insurance business on top of that PBM or pharmacy benefits manager business. They often charge high or ridiculous fees for paperwork errors as a way to not pay those pharmacists and those pharmacies full price.

I heard about inconvenient higher prices for customers. I heard about patients being steered toward more expensive medications or specific pharmacies dealing with relationships and networks and all the rest.

In Pennsylvania this year alone, estimates are around 80 local pharmacies have closed. Those are options that are now gone. It is not just smaller, independent pharmacists. The big chains are feeling the squeeze, too. It means fewer options and worse service for patients who need a prescription, who need to get their drugs filled. It is not good for our economy.

Mr. Speaker, once again, it is that out-of-control corporate power that is making people's lives worse, hurting small businesses, hurting patients, hurting our communities and our Main Streets.

We need action on PBM reform. I am a cosponsor of several measures here including the HELP Copays Act, and the PATIENTS Act. These are just some examples of bills that I think this Chamber should pass in advance to fight back, to protect local pharmacies, to protect patients, to protect competition that we need in the healthcare economy.

We have got to keep up that fight against this out-of-control corporate power to lower healthcare costs, a place that we hear from our constituents all the time, and to protect small businesses.

Another example here where we see corporate power making life worse is not the healthcare problem. We see it in the Golden Arches, McDonald's. People don't think of McDonald's as a small business. Of course, it is a big corporation. It operates as a franchise system. Many franchise owners are small business owners.

Yet, the internet reminds us that those franchise owners for a long time did not have the ability to fix their own ice cream machines. You would see the out-of-order signs. It was impossible to get a McFlurry. The reason why is only the technicians licensed by the company that was making McDonald's soft-serve ice cream machines

were allowed to do the repairs. They limited the number of technicians so there were long waits for servicing. That is why those machines were broken. That is why you couldn't get a McFlurry. This shouldn't be that be hard.

Finally, we saw the Federal Trade Commission take action and call out the bad guy here. Now the U.S. Copyright Office has issued a new set of exceptions, allowing restaurants to repair their own copyrighted equipment used in commercial food preparation at the retail level. That means finally McDonald's soft-serve ice cream machines should be getting back online. Those repairs should be moving. We will see those McFlurries flying through again.

Again, this is that same problem, the right-to-repair policy, which is what we are talking about. A right to repair is about the freedom across industries to fix stuff and not let big companies and corporations gatekeep the information that people need to fix things.

The American people work hard. They have ingenuity. We know how to make repairs. This is about freedom in our economy. This is about making sure that small business owners, whether it is auto shops, in this case McDonald's franchise owners, can make repairs.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is fundamentally American to see that competition and to make sure that we are not seeing gatekeeping over who can fix things, whether it is a tractor or an ice cream machine.

We have also seen powerful companies use that power—not just greed—power to jam us with fees, junk fees that are often very deceptive. Hidden at the end of a transaction, you see an advertised price. All of a sudden, there are fees at the end of the transaction as you go to check out, from tickets to flights to hotels, credit card fees, food delivery apps. This has become pervasive in our economy.

I was on one of the main streets in my district, Lincoln Avenue in Bellevue, about a year or so ago, talking with small businesses about these junk fees.

I heard from the general manager of a pizza shop who told the story of how his customers in the business were suffering because of third-party delivery apps. They were seeing inconsistency between what was available on the menu and what customers were seeing. They were seeing big fees taken out of their orders. Customers were mad because service was getting worse. It wasn't working out for his business.

In fact, I went next door to the ice cream shop. I told them what I was there to work on at the pizza shop. They told me the same story. These apps were hurting their small business, as well.

□ 1845

In fact, that pizza shop had to re-name. They hired their own delivery

driver to bring it in, which was an expense, but it made their business better.

It tells you how impactful and bad those hidden fees are on a small business owner like a restaurant, like a pizza shop, that they were willing to defend their reputation, defend their business, make an investment, hire in-house, and change the name. Ultimately, it was worth doing that because of these predatory junk fees that we see from middlemen.

It is unfortunately, though, the newest version of a story we have seen for far too long: a big corporation hurting a small business, and third-party middlemen using these hidden fees to deceive customers into paying more. Again, it might be tickets, a flight, or a hotel. Those junk fees often have very little connection to the service or the product being provided.

I think they are a lose-lose for our local economy and working families, but those junk fees might be a great profit source for a third-party middleman or a powerful corporation.

I will give an example, and most sports fans will be familiar with it, Mr. Speaker. This past summer, I used StubHub to buy tickets to a Pittsburgh Pirates game. It was actually Paul Skenes' debut. I was pretty excited to see him show up for the Buccos. I took my family. We got jammed and slammed with junk fees, like everyone else who buys tickets these days.

The fees were more than a quarter of the overall ticket price. Those fees are often hidden until the very end of the transaction. It is not the advertised price.

Companies like Ticketmaster, which is owned by Live Nation, control the market from tickets to venues to music promotion. Live Nation directly manages more than 400 artists and controls about 60 percent or so of promotions of major concert venues across America. They control more than 265 concert venues in North America alone.

Through Ticketmaster, Live Nation controls about 80 percent or more of major concert venues' primary ticketing for concerts. That is not competitive. It is not a competitive market, Mr. Speaker.

What are they doing with that power? They are driving up prices with things like junk fees. They are making activities like concerts and going to a game out of reach for too many families. These are important events, games, competitions.

I mean, my goodness, I am from western Pennsylvania. A Steelers game, a Pens game, or a Pirates game is a big deal for people. We love our teams. I know I am not alone in that in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker. Fans are all paying for this.

When these powerful companies cut exclusive deals that hurt venues, that restrict other venues, that rip off performers, it hurts a lot of people and hurts the fans. This behavior seems to

be more than just a rip-off. It is probably also illegal.

The Justice Department has filed suit to split up Ticketmaster from Live Nation. That case remains pending in the courts.

Folks are tired of getting ripped off. They are tired of congressional inaction here. They expect us to take on this corporate power.

We know that when massive corporations are allowed to take on small businesses and deceive their customers, we all pay for it. Western Pennsylvania certainly knows that story. We are not alone in that.

As I heard that day in Bellevue and across my district, small businesses are strong. They are resilient. They are flexible. They adapt. They need our help here in the Congress. It is about their workers, and it is about our communities. I know that we can step up to it. We have to do more.

According to a 2019 study, 85 percent of Americans experience a hidden or junk fee for service. That was in 2019. That was before the COVID pandemic, where we saw much more reliance on, say, food delivery. I know we have to do more.

I will quote the general manager from that pizza shop that day who told me: "These fees may seem small, but they really add up."

That is what it is all about, Mr. Speaker, those fees hurting folks, hurting small businesses that we have to stand up for, that we have to fight back on.

Mr. Speaker, I want to also talk about our national security, which is maybe not a place we think that consolidation affects us, but it does.

I have the great privilege, Mr. Speaker, to serve on the Armed Services Committee. I wore the uniform earlier in my life, before I came to this Chamber. I will tell you, we have challenges with the defense industrial base. We need it to be strong and resilient to meet the challenges not just of today but of tomorrow.

When it comes to our defense industrial base, the suppliers, the manufacturers that make stuff here, we need to have them do better. We need to better protect public money and make sure our Department of Defense is ready and equipped to answer whatever our country might require of our servicemembers. We have seen the same trends across our economy in our defense industrial base.

In 1990, there were more than 50, 51, prime contractors in our defense industrial base. That number now is down to five. That is heavy consolidation. You see it right here, 51 to 5. These are the companies that make ships, missiles, rockets, you name it, all the things that we need that are central to our national security and our defense. We have gone from 51 to 5.

This reduction is depriving the American people of competition for key elements of our defense. I hear it from military leaders in the committee. I

have seen it in reports that the Pentagon has penned that too often the current defense contractors are delivering not on time. They are behind schedule, and the costs are too high. The quality isn't what it should be, what the American people expect.

We have to fight back against this consolidation, Mr. Speaker. I think we need more competition in our defense industrial base. It is ripping off our military, which means ripping off the American people. There is public money we have to protect.

I think there is support building in this Chamber on both sides of the aisle to strengthen competition here to make sure our defense industrial base is stronger and to protect public money.

I have taken action along with colleagues. This year's National Defense Authorization Act, the defense bill, included my Best Price for Our Military Act. That is an important measure. It is a bipartisan bill. It closes a timing loophole that defense contractors are using to delay providing critical certified cost and pricing data to the Pentagon.

My bill now requires these contractors provide this data before contract agreement so that we can see whether we are getting the best deal or whether we have to go back to the negotiating table. It lets officers do a more informed analysis and be better stewards of public money.

I hope to see this included in the final version of the defense bill that we will pass and send to the President.

I know defense contractors and others lobbied to increase the threshold point where they are required to report their pricing data to the Department of Defense under the Truth in Negotiations Act. In 2018, this threshold jumped from \$750,000 up to \$2 million. That meant, below that threshold, they didn't have to provide that data. That is less oversight. I think we need more.

The goal of our Defense Department is to provide security, defense for all of us, for the national interest of the United States. It never should have and doesn't have the goal to enrich giant defense corporations that produce products that are too often behind schedule, overpriced, and don't meet the quality that we expect, that we in the Congress require.

We need to ensure that our sailors, soldiers, airmen, marines, and guardians are equipped with the very best. That is patriotic, that we protect public money.

Strengthening oversight enforcement within DOD, taking on price gouging, working with the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice Antitrust Division, all of that is about fostering more competition that we need in our defense industrial base.

Corporate power doesn't just hurt competition in defense. It doesn't just lead to higher costs. It does those things, but it puts our safety at risk. We saw it with the impact to families

who were worried about finding baby formula, infant formula. We see it in sectors of the economy all over the country that when corporate power grows too strong, it can put us at risk. It can treat us and our communities like collateral damage in the way of their profits.

We saw that on February 3, 2023, a Norfolk Southern train derailed in East Palestine, Ohio, across the border from my district and my constituents in Beaver County, Pennsylvania. We saw it on the news, a flaming pile of train cars, a horrible derailment caused by incompetence and greed at that railroad.

We saw brave first responders rush in to help. That is what people do, they rush in to help and serve others. They didn't know what chemicals they were dealing with, which is its own problem. The local communities felt like they were left out of the loop. They didn't know what was happening.

Then, we saw a decision to do a controlled release, sending a toxic fireball into the sky that we now know was chemicals, including vinyl chloride. That was later deemed to be unnecessary.

The findings of the National Transportation Safety Board, the NTSB, included concerns that Norfolk Southern and its contractors intentionally misled the on-site incident commander and local and State officials, pressuring them to order the vent and burn that sent that fireball flying into the sky. They were toxic chemicals. That is corporate power run amok. It hurt my constituents, and it hurt our neighbors in Ohio.

It seemed to me that railroad and its contractors pushed that vent and burn because they cared more about their profit than our safety. They cared about getting rail operations moving more than they cared about making sure we were safe. That is unacceptable.

It is not just my community in western Pennsylvania and our neighbors in Ohio. We know there are tracks across this country. Communities like mine live near and along the tracks. This happens again, and it happens a lot in this country, unfortunately. We have to make rail safer. We have to bring down the rates of derailments and require more of these railroads.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), one of my colleagues who I know is a strong supporter of rail safety. He is with us to make sure that we protect communities like ours.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Representative DELUZIO lending his voice on the House floor to speak to some of the injustice out there. Certainly, representing a district that has immense amounts of rail, it is important for us to address safety, consumer ridership, and also the economy.

Over these past months and years, we have seen far too many hardworking Americans struggling to get by and crippled by costs.

Recent data shows that more than one-quarter of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck. We need to be sensitive to all of these perspectives as they relate to working families.

Meanwhile, corporate greed and wealth disparity are at an all-time high. One of the countless recent examples of billion-dollar corporations putting profits over people's lives came during and after Hurricanes Helene and Milton made landfall, wreaking death and destruction across the southeastern United States. In their wake, complaints of price gouging poured in as families trying to flee the devastating storms reported skyrocketing costs for airline tickets, gas, hotel rooms, and more.

Despite many States having anti-price-gouging laws—these vary from State to State—the largest corporations can often easily avoid liability. That is why, last month, I joined a dozen of my Democratic colleagues in a letter led by Senator ELIZABETH WARREN calling for a Federal anti-price-gouging law to protect American consumers.

Unchecked corporate greed has hurt everyday Americans for far too long. Democrats are ready to face this issue head-on. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem that President-elect Trump and Republicans share the same commitment. Rather than working with us to drive down the cost of living and make big corporations pay their fair share, they have announced their plans to expand the Trump tax scam.

Expanding this unpopular law will only further cement massive tax breaks for Trump's billionaire buddies like Elon Musk while sticking the working-class people who voted for him with higher costs on everyday goods through his half-baked tariff scheme.

Experts from both sides of the aisle have said plainly that if these GOP policies are implemented, they will send prices surging and claw back any progress we have made to stem inflation. These are not the types of policies that the American people signed up for.

Republicans and Democrats alike need to stand together to enact a bipartisan tax plan that would lower taxes for working- and middle-class families while ensuring everyone pays their fair share, including Trump's billionaire buddies.

If they aren't willing to join us in this effort to support middle-class Americans, we will fight back however we can, and that is a promise. Of course, it involves all sorts of angles that speak to the doability for working families, making certain that regulations speak to the needs of consumers for rail safety, growing the economy, and providing efficiencies so that American families are justly served.

We need to do a lot of business in the upcoming session, and we need to do it with American families in mind, those working families who struggle in the economy. We need to make improvements and let fairness be our guide.

I thank Congressman DELUZIO for his leadership on behalf of working families and on behalf of safety. I know we both have districts that require that sort of laser-sharp focus. It is an honor to serve with him. I thank him for raising his voice and boldly speaking for justice for our American consumers.

□ 1900

Mr. DELUZIO. I thank the gentleman from New York for his strong words and his commitment to his constituents, to safety, for hardworking people having a shot at the American Dream, which fundamentally is what I think we all want here.

We heard from Members representing districts across the country, a broad ideological spectrum of folks tonight, all talking about ways that corporate power has hurt their communities or hurt their constituents—it has hurt competition—and expressing their willingness, our shared willingness, to fight, to fight back for our constituents.

I represent a competitive district. I will say, Mr. Speaker, I have the best district in the country. I might get some argument from my colleagues about that. This is a place, like so many others, where folks want the American Dream to be strong. I think every Member here would say the same of their constituents.

If you work hard, you play by the rules, the American Dream is within your reach. That is what we are trying to do. I have been laser focused, as have so many of our colleagues here, about lowering costs, taking on corporate power to protect small businesses and workers, fighting against lousy trade deals that hurt places like western Pennsylvania, making stuff more in this country, more manufacturing, cracking down on junk fees, on price-gouging. That is really hurting folks and really hurting our Main Streets.

These economic priorities, they are good policies, and it is popular because the American people want us to fight for them. They don't want to get ripped off. They want to see real American capitalism that is marked by competition.

The survey data here is clear. This is a poll from ABC News and The Washington Post from July, 85 percent of Americans say higher costs are a very important issue, one of the single most important issues they feel that we should confront.

There is a tendency by some in politics to try and please everybody. Okay. You know, I am a little sick and tired though of folks around here, whether they are in this Chamber or out in the think-tanks looking for a win-win in every situation.

You know what? Sometimes, there isn't.

Sometimes there is a toxic fireball shot up into the sky near your community when there are small pharmacies getting killed, when there are junk fees

hurting your constituents. Sometimes there is a bad guy, and you have got to fight them.

The American people want us to fight for them. I am proud to see so many of my colleagues join me in that fight. The goal here is simple, and it is popular. Make life better. Make it less of a rip-off. Take on the corporate power that has been hurting so many of us.

I think that is the path back to the American Dream, along with strengthening and revitalizing our American manufacturing. Sometimes you call it the villain. I know we need more competition across our economy. We need to be unafraid of the fight, and we have to do it.

We are ready to go to the mat for the American people, for our constituents, to strengthen the American Dream. That is the vision. That is my vision. I know I am not alone in that. It is one that I know will resonate in the Rust Belt, the Sun Belt, the Coast, all over this country.

I thank my colleagues, my caucus members who joined me, I appreciate your leadership.

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

RECOGNIZING PATRICIA BRADSHAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 30 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Patricia Bradshaw for her upcoming and well-deserved retirement after her distinguished career with the Central Intelligence Agency.

Patricia began her career with the Central Intelligence Agency in 1984 as a records clerk, where it quickly became apparent that she would have an excellent career with the Agency.

Working up the ranks within the Office of Security from her time as a security clearance investigator and adjudicator, to serving the Agency overseas in physical and technical security, she eventually reached the pinnacle of the Agency as the Director of the Office of Security.

Over the course of her career, Patricia exemplified the epitome of the American Dream, even without obtaining a college degree. Her story is undeniable proof that with hard work and dedication to your craft, the limits of your achievements are boundless.

All Americans should be immensely grateful to Patricia Bradshaw for her unwavering service and dedication to our Nation.

I thank Patricia for her patriotism. On behalf of a grateful Nation, we hope she enjoys her well-earned retirement.

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

HONORING DAVID HOBSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TURNER. 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 subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable man. Dave Hobson was a beloved friend and leader. His life was marked by service, commitment, and an unyielding dedication to his country.

I saw firsthand how much Dave loved Ohio and the Miami Valley during our time together in the House of Representatives. Whether he was advocating for veterans or working to strengthen our national defense, Dave's efforts were always driven by a love for his country and a commitment to improve the lives of others.

The impact of Dave's legacy is felt across Ohio's 10th Congressional District, particularly at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base where the street Hobson Way is named in his honor and at Clark State College, which named its Beaver Creek Center, Dave Hobson Hall.

Dave believed that public office was a sacred trust, and he upheld that trust with every action he took. Beyond his remarkable political career, Dave was a devoted family man, a mentor, and a friend.

Dave was grateful, and we are grateful for his life, the life he lived, and the legacy that he left behind. He will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I now recognize my friend and colleague, the dean of the Ohio delegation, Ms. KAPTUR.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a very grateful, but heavy heart, along with all of our Ohio colleagues and those beyond Ohio as we honor the life and memory of our distinguished and affable former Ohio colleague, Congressman David Hobson.

Dave passed away on the 6th of October, 2024, having served in our people's House from 1991 to 2009, but he first sharpened his spurs in the Ohio Senate serving from 1982 to 1991. Dave was a true patriot, and a fine public servant first.

His lifetime of service to the people of greater Springfield and Ohio was marked by results and perseverance. Dave was a practical and visionary leader dedicated to accomplishing tangible results throughout his decades of generous public service. To his colleagues, he was a personal friend whose impact will be felt for generations.

Dave embodied a joy of life and devoted his life to his family and serving America. His 18-year tenure in Congress was marked by his enthusiasm, remarkable perseverance, and relentless commitment to achieve results, including moving the needle forward for

energy independence for our Nation. He understood America's role in the world, as Congressman TURNER has referenced.

He rose to significant roles, including ranking member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and chair of the Subcommittee on Military Construction. He distinguished himself with unwavering dedication to the defense and sustainment of our country.

Dave Hobson never forgot his roots in Ohio. What markedly set David apart was his precious ability to work across the aisle. This is a legacy other Members must learn from. He not only valued bipartisanship, he actually thrived on it, and it made his life and our work much more interesting and actually effective. We should look for more ways to find the big middle.

David's achievements from the shores of Normandy to Springfield, Ohio's, betterment are a testament to his profound tenacity, legacy of service, and leadership.

I shall miss his visits, both during when he served and when he retired from here, his generous counsel, his humor, and his knack for identifying new paths forward. He always had a new invention to bring in.

David's wit and humor brought light to our discussions, and his insights were cutting edge. I, along with all our colleagues, will sorely miss his visits, his laughter, and his unceasing efforts to improve the living conditions for all Americans. He lived, I think, by the adage: You attract more butterflies with honey than with vinegar.

Today, we all extend our deepest sympathies to his beloved wife, Carolyn, his children, Susan, Lynn, and Doug, his family, constituents, and friends.

As we remember Congressman and Chairman David Hobson tonight, let us carry forward his exemplary spirit of service and dedication, and may his soul rest in eternal peace and may his legacy continue to inspire generations to come.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Ohio, (Mr. LATTA), who is also my friend.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of our former colleague, friend, and fellow Ohioan, Congressman Dave Hobson.

Before I talk about Dave's life of service, I think it is also important to reach out and talk about Dave himself. I don't think Dave had an enemy. I think Dave worked well with everyone, and I know that when people asked for assistance, he was always there.

I also know this, that when I needed help, Dave was there to help me, and I can't ever say thank you enough. I always told Dave how much I appreciated what he did to help me.

As has been mentioned, but I will mention again because I think it is important, Dave was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, received his bachelor of arts from Ohio Wesleyan University and law degree from the Ohio State University.

Dave went on to serve honorably in the Ohio Air National Guard from 1958 to 1963 and was also later inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

As my colleague had mentioned before, Dave served our men and women in uniform, served our veterans, and was always there to make sure that they received the help that they needed and the benefits that they deserved.

Dave served as an Ohio State senator from 1982 to 1990, and then from there, began his service here in the United States House of Representatives from 1991 to 2009. He did dutifully serve the Ohio Seventh District.

I know I was proud to call Dave a friend and a colleague. As we honor his life and legacy today, I extend my heartfelt sympathies to the Hobson family.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama, (Mr. ADERHOLT), who is also my friend.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, this certainly is a great tribute to a great man. Of course, it is with a heavy heart that we stand here this evening on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, which, as you know, we have all stood with Dave on this floor many, many times.

This evening, we come together to recognize his life, his legacy, and what Dave Hobson really meant to this institution. Serving alongside Dave Hobson on the Appropriations Committee, I saw firsthand that he was a hard worker. He was a problem solver, but more than that, we developed a friendship that we maintained even after he retired from Congress.

Dave showed everyone the best of Ohio, but his service was not only to his State but also to this Nation. That dedication will touch generations, in my opinion, for many years to come.

I have fond memories of serving with Dave on the Appropriations Committee. As a new member, I was on the subcommittee that he chaired. That was the Military Construction Subcommittee of Appropriations.

While Dave was the chairman and while he led the committee, as a new member I got to serve as his vice chair. Of course, that doesn't mean a whole lot because Dave called the shots, as you know Dave. He, of course, obviously, valued my input as he did everyone on the Committee.

During our time at MILCON there on the Appropriations Committee, I think we did a lot of good things for the soldiers around the world. I had a chance to meet with a lot of soldiers during that time.

As we work through this loss, I think about his wife, Carolyn, who my wife, Caroline, and I got to know well during the time that they were in Washington. Of course, our heart goes out to not only Carolyn, but also to the entire family, the children, and so many of his grandchildren and family that, unfortunately, I never had a chance to meet, but I know that he talked about them quite extensively when he was here in Washington.

As I say, as we work through this loss, we can take comfort in the words of Matthew 5:4, which says: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative ADERHOLT and all of our colleagues who joined together to remember our dear friend and former Member of this body, Congressman Dave Hobson.

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

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 5464. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Guntersville, Alabama, as the "Colonel Ola Lee Mize Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

H.R. 5861. An act to extend reemployment services and eligibility assessments to all claimants for unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6324. An act to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7333. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in West Palm Beach, Florida, as the "Thomas H. Corey VA Medical Center".

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-6101. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions [EPA-HQ-OAR-2023-0434; FRL-10246.1-03-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AW02) received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6102. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Rubber Tire Manufacturing Amendments: Extension of Comment Period [EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0392; FRL-5949.1-02-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AV70) received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6103. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Federal Plan Requirements

for Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units That Commenced Construction on or Before June 4, 2010 and Have Not Been Modified or Constructed Since August 7, 2013 [EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0664; FRL-5960-02-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AT28) received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6104. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Texas: Incorporation by Reference of State Hazardous Waste Management Program [EPA-R06-RCRA-2021-0330; FRL-9522-01-R6] received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6105. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval; North Carolina; Second Period Regional Haze Plan [EPA-R04-OAR-2022-0786; FRL-10405-R4] received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6106. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Second Period Regional Haze Plan [EPA-R04-OAR-2023-0220; FRL-10407-02-R4] received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6107. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Second Period Regional Haze Plan [EPA-R05-OAR-2021-0545; FRL-12100-02-R5] received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6108. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Shelby County, Tennessee; Revisions to Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction Rules [EPA-R04-OAR-2023-0361; FRL-12238-02-R4] received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6109. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; ID; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference [EPA-R10-OAR-2024-0449; FRL-12269-01-R10] received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6110. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Tennessee: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions [EPA-R04-RCRA-2024-0451; FRL-12278-01-R4] received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6111. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Connecticut; New Haven and Fairfield Counties Second 10-Year Limited Maintenance Plan

for the 2006 24-Hour PM2.5 Standard [EPA-R01-OAR-2024-0117; FRL-12283-02-R1] received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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. 3290. A bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to ensure transparency and oversight of the 340B drug discount program; with an amendment (Rept. 118-757). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3887. A bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program of payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-758). 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. MCCLELLAN:

H.R. 10173. A bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to authorize grants for toxic substances remediation in schools, to reauthorize healthy high-performance schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN for herself, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California):

H.R. 10174. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a program to support the research, development, demonstration, and deployment of zero-emission vessels and retrofit or replacement of existing vessels with zero-emission technologies and charging or fueling infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on 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.

By Mr. BERA (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mrs. KIM of California):

H.R. 10175. A bill to authorize United States participation in the Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BERGMAN:

H.R. 10176. A bill to authorize the Bay Mills Indian Community of the State of Michigan to convey land and interests in land owned by the Tribe; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BICE (for herself, Mr. MOORE of Utah, and Mr. BEAN of Florida):

H.R. 10177. A bill to prohibit the award of Federal grants to applicants submitting duplicative or fraudulent applications, to require the Director of Office of Management and Budget to establish a tracking and

deconfliction system for Federal grant applications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. OGLES):

H.R. 10178. A bill to protect the right of law-abiding citizens to transport knives interstate, notwithstanding a patchwork of State and local prohibitions that burden citizens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CARAVEO (for herself and Ms. PETERSEN):

H.R. 10179. A bill to direct the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to award grants to States to develop and expand the industrialized construction of innovative residential dwelling units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. PFLUGER, Mrs. CAMMACK, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 10180. A bill to amend the National Marine Sanctuary Act to prohibit requiring an authorization for the installation, operation, maintenance, repair, or recovery of undersea fiber optic cables in a national marine sanctuary if such activities have previously been authorized by a Federal or State agency; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. CHU, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. HORSFORD):

H.R. 10181. A bill to exclude the imposition of duties and import quotas from the authorities provided to the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. GOTTHEIMER (for himself, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SOTO, and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK):

H.R. 10182. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to waive the 10-percent additional tax on early distributions from qualified retirement plans in the case of withdrawals for family caregiving expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana):

H.R. 10183. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide for the delegation of authority to Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama to manage certain expanded submerged lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. HAYES (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 10184. A bill to establish an Educational Equity Challenge Grant program administered by the Department of Education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington (for himself and Mr. KIM of New Jersey):

H.R. 10185. A bill to provide authority to contribute to the NATO Innovation Fund; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. MACE (for herself, Mr. RULLI, and Ms. GREENE of Georgia):

H.R. 10186. A bill to prohibit individuals from accessing or using single-sex facilities on Federal property other than those corresponding to their biological sex, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 10187. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify Medicare rural hospital flexibility program grants; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SCHRIER (for herself, Ms. MANNING, and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 10188. A bill to expand cost-sharing reductions with respect to qualified health plans offered through an Exchange, and for other purposes; 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 Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. FROST, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana):

H.R. 10189. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education, in collaboration with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to establish an interagency advisory Commission on Advancing Restorative Justice in Elementary and Secondary Education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 10190. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to study the feasibility of establishing a Juneteenth Museum on Galveston Island, Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.J. Res. 224. A joint resolution Relating to the disapproval of the Presidential report with respect to the indebtedness of the Government of Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR (for himself, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. SELF):

H.J. Res. 225. 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 "Advanced Manufacturing Production Credit"; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COHEN:

H. Res. 1584. A resolution directing the Committee on Ethics to preserve and release records of the Committee's review of the alleged misconduct of Matthew Louis Gaetz II of Florida while serving as a Member of the House of Representatives; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H. Res. 1585. A resolution electing a Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives.

By Mr. BOST:

H. Res. 1586. A resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of Mid-America Transplant; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GARBARINO (for himself and Mr. SHERMAN):

H. Res. 1587. A resolution honoring the 100th anniversary of mutual funds; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AMO, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BERA, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BUSH, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CHU, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. DAVIDS of

Kansas, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DELUZZIO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. ESPALLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. FROST, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LIU, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SORENSEN, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H. Res. 1588. A resolution supporting the goals and principles of Transgender Day of Remembrance by recognizing the epidemic of violence toward transgender people and memorializing the lives lost this year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. OMAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H. Res. 1589. A resolution advancing racial justice and the global rights of people of African descent in the next decade; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KEAN of New Jersey:

H. Res. 1590. A resolution expressing support for the designation of November 20, 2024, as "Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

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. MCCLELLAN:

H.R. 10173.

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

Article 1, Section 8, U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Grants to remediate toxic substances and support healthy environments in schools and child care facilities

By Ms. BARRAGÁN:

H.R. 10174.

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:

Authorizes a Zero-Emission Vessel Innovation Fund at the Maritime Administration

to support the research, demonstration, and deployment of zero-emission vessels.

By Mr. BERA:

H.R. 10175.

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

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Global Health

By Mr. BERGMAN:

H.R. 10176.

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:

Authorizes the Bay Mills Indian Community to convey land and interests in land owned by the Tribe.

By Mrs. BICE:

H.R. 10177.

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

Clause 1 and 18, of Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Reducing duplicative and wasteful Federal government spending.

By Mr. BIGGS:

H.R. 10178.

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

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To protect the right of law-abiding citizens to transport knives interstate, notwithstanding a patchwork of State and local prohibitions that burden citizens.

By Ms. CARAVEO:

H.R. 10179.

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

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS
CLAUSE 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to award grants to States to develop and expand the industrialized construction of innovative residential dwelling units, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 10180.

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

Congress is granted the authority to introduce and enact this legislation pursuant to Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Strengthens national security and global connectivity by safeguarding the United States' submarine cable infrastructure.

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 10181.

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

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Trade

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 10182.

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

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to waive the 10-percent additional tax on early distributions from qualified retirement plans in the case of withdrawals for family caregiving expenses.

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana:

H.R. 10183.

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 amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Act for resource management.

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 10184.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish an Educational Equity Challenge Grant program administered by the Department of Education.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington:

H.R. 10185.

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

Article I, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is: Defense

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 10186.

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 prohibit individuals from accessing or using single-sex facilities on Federal property other than those corresponding to their biological sex

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:

H.R. 10187.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is: Health Care

By Ms. SCHRIER:

H.R. 10188.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is: health Care

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 10189.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: [The Congress shall have Power . . .] To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill would authorize the Secretary of Education, in collaboration with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to establish an interagency advisory Commission on Advancing Restorative Justice in Elementary and Secondary Education.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas:

H.R. 10190.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to study the feasibility of estab-

lishing a Juneteenth museum on Galveston Island, Texas.

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.J. Res. 224.

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

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is: Foreign Affairs

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.J. Res. 225.

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

Article 1 Section 8: "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;"

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation would express congressional disapproval of the Internal Revenue Service rule titled "Advanced Manufacturing Production Credit."

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 7: Mr. FONG, Mr. STEIL, and Ms. GREENE of Georgia.

H.R. 41: Ms. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 621: Mr. LOUDERMILK.

H.R. 856: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 927: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H.R. 953: Mr. TORRES of New York.

H.R. 1230: Mrs. McIVER and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1325: Mrs. HAYES, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FROST, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. BALINT, and Mr. PAL-LONE.

H.R. 1668: Mr. STEIL.

H.R. 2380: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 2441: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 2825: Mrs. HAYES, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 2923: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

H.R. 3351: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. BACON, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 3422: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 3633: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 3910: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 4335: Mr. BAIRD and Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 4435: Mrs. CAMMACK.

H.R. 4619: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 4721: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.

H.R. 4726: Ms. HAGEMAN.

H.R. 4986: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 5003: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 5005: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 5012: Mr. MCGARVEY.

H.R. 5030: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 5169: Mrs. KIM of California and Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 5563: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 5566: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 5614: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 5685: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 5789: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 6124: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 6516: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 6751: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. POSEY, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mrs. BICE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. BURGESS, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. MILLS, Mr. SMUCKER,

Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. PALMER, and Mr. PENCE.

H.R. 6835: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 7082: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 7137: Mr. BERA.

H.R. 7248: Ms. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 7573: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 7671: Mr. FULCHER and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 7755: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 7770: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE and Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 7779: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 7807: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 7808: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.

H.R. 7833: Mrs. SPARTZ.

H.R. 7842: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 7944: Mr. CARL.

H.R. 7958: Ms. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 8028: Ms. BALINT.

H.R. 8061: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia,

Mr. CROW, and Mr. BERA.

H.R. 8147: Mrs. HOUCHIN.

H.R. 8331: Mr. MILLS and Mr. MAST.

H.R. 8370: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 8458: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 8706: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. ESTES.

H.R. 8714: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 8753: Mr. MOSKOWITZ and Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 8865: Mr. BENTZ.

H.R. 9096: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 9165: Ms. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 9218: Mr. ESTES.

H.R. 9266: Ms. SCANLON and Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 9268: Mr. TORRES of New York.

H.R. 9273: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. NEAL.

H.R. 9299: Ms. JACOBS and Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 9382: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 9501: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 9573: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 9674: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 9725: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 9794: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 9868: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 9902: Mr. COSTA, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 9904: Mr. BAIRD.

H.R. 9922: Mr. RULLI.

H.R. 9950: Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 9997: Mr. MENENDEZ.

H.R. 10033: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 10073: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. SORENSEN, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. HARRIS, and Mrs. SPARTZ.

H.R. 10110: Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 10150: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 10156: Mr. PERRY.

H. Res. 609: Ms. TENNEY.

H. Res. 1350: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey and Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H. Res. 1449: Ms. MENG.

H. Res. 1479: Mr. BERA.

H. Res. 1516: Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. LANDSMAN.

H. Res. 1565: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H. Res. 1579: Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. HUNT, Mr. BRECHEEN, and Mr. RULLI.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

H.R. 6598: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 6887: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.



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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024

No. 172

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the giver of every good and perfect gift, during this Thanksgiving season, we pause to express our gratitude for the blessings You daily bestow.

Lord, thank You for family, friends, life, health, and strength. We praise You for the gift of Your salvation that provides us with a future and a hope. We are grateful for Your prevailing providence and Your promise that, in everything, You are working for the good of those who love You.

Today, use our lawmakers as instruments for Your glory. Where there is hatred, let them plant love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope.

We pray in Your marvelous 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, November 20, 2024.

To the Senate:

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

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WELCH 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 Rebecca L. Pennell, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Congress writes the Nation's laws, and the executive branch sticks to enforcing them. That idea is actually not new. It is written plainly into our arti-

cle I powers right in the Constitution. But half a century of ceding legislative authority to an unelected bureaucracy has thrown this balance off-kilter.

Earlier this year, of course, the article III branch quite clearly restored the boundaries on freelance regulatory interpretation in the executive branch. But there is more work to be done to rein in Washington bureaucrats' expansive interpretation of their powers over working Americans, and fortunately Congress has a powerful tool called the Congressional Review Act that does exactly that.

To great effect, Senate Republicans used the CRA to scrap a slew of bureaucratic rules after 8 years of runaway regulation under the Obama administration. Republicans worked to end a coal-mining rule that threatened hundreds of thousands of workers, including many in Kentucky. We took a hammer to a pair of far-reaching and aggressive Obama-era education rules, and we dramatically scaled back DC bureaucrats' control of lands that should be managed with local input.

Between 2017 and 2018, Republicans used the CRA 16 times to impose an ambitious regulatory housecleaning that gave farmers and miners, landowners and job creators, small businesses and builders the certainty and confidence to stay producing on American soil.

We did all of this with hardly any Democratic support. So it is not surprising that, under the Biden administration, Democrats have worked relentlessly to resurrect the Obama administration's regulatory regime, from student loan socialism to job-killing energy policies, to blatant infringements on property rights. Literally, on day one, President Biden signed an Executive order that began tearing down the regulatory certainty that Republicans had restored.

Now, with just over a month left in the year, the Biden administration's 2024 regulations alone amount to the

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



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second highest annual total by pages in the *Federal Register*. On the whole, President Biden's agenda has imposed regulatory costs that, by one estimate, surpass \$1.8 trillion. That is trillion with a "t."

So it is safe to say Congress once again has an opportunity. Two weeks ago, the American people gave Republicans a legitimate, crystal-clear mandate, and come January we ought to use it to hit the brakes on runaway regulation.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICIAL REPORTERS OF DEBATES

Mr. President, now, on another matter, I would like to take some time today to salute the outstanding Senate staff whom my team and I have relied on during our time in the Republican leader's office.

First, I would like to offer more fulsome thanks to the Official Reporters of Debates, the ears of the Nation here on the floor—always listening, carefully recording, and much to the relief of my staff, meticulously reconciling remarks as prepared with remarks as delivered.

The Official Reporters are integral to the life of the Senate and central to the construction of the historical record. But, by definition, they fly under the radar, blending almost intentionally into the fabric of this Chamber.

So I take particular pleasure today in asking to record in all caps, as the live transcript goes, my sincere gratitude to each of the Senate's Official Reporters of Debates for their essential work.

TRIBUTE TO REPUBLICAN SECRETARY AND CLOAKROOM STAFF

Mr. President, now I will turn to a final group of floor staff who deserve our sincere thanks.

In both the Democratic and Republican cloakrooms, you will find consummate professionals for whom loyalty, service, and deep institutional knowledge are calling cards. Much as I know the Democratic leader leans on the work of Gary Myrick and the Democratic cloakroom staff, I would like to brag for a few minutes on the Senate's Republican Secretary and the staff of the Republican cloakroom.

During my time in the Senate, I have been the majority leader, and I have been the minority leader. The majority is better. But whether it is designing the roadmap for a Republican majority's agenda or trying to amend or slow down a Democratic majority's agenda, I wouldn't want to navigate the Senate's arcana without a procedural expert like the Republican Secretary, Robert Duncan, by my side.

Duncan, in the footsteps of distinguished predecessors, has been an indispensable adviser to me and my staff. The entire Republican conference rightly trusts in his deep knowledge of the rules and precedents that govern this institution, and his calm manner projects confidence in even the thorniest procedural battles.

I am so grateful to Duncan for his rock-solid counsel. And, of course, a

portfolio as broad as the cloakroom's draws on the strengths of Duncan's entire team: the watchful eye of Assistant Secretary Chris Tuck, whose procedural ingenuity steers the Senate out of jams and whose sharp wit brings much needed humor to long days on the floor; the air traffic control of floor assistants Tony Hanagan, Brian Canfield, and their recently departed colleague Katherine Foster, whose deep relationships with Senators and staff across the conference keep important business moving swiftly and in good cheer; the agile readiness of cloakroom assistants Max Boyd, Maddie Sanborn, and Charlotte Ueland, whose record-keeping, conference-wide communications, and stewardship of the Republican pages make the cloakroom's most essential functions appear to happen as if magic; and the managerial savvy of administrative assistant Noelle Ringel, who wears a dizzying array of hats to keep the entire operation humming.

Cloakroom staff spend nights, weekends, and every working day making the jobs of Senators easier. Their pride in a very unique set of professional skills makes them more of a family than coworkers, and I know that sentiment extends entirely across the Republican conference.

So to each of you, thank you for the hard work you do so extraordinarily well.

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. SCHUMER. 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 MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

GLOBALFOUNDRIES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, when I wrote and led passage of the bipartisan Chips and Science Act, I often spoke about days in the not too distant future when this legislation would bring manufacturing back to the United States, strengthen our national security, and deliver big for New York, particularly Upstate New York.

Today, I am proud to say, is precisely the kind of day I had in mind when I helped write the bipartisan Chips and Science Act. Today, semiconductor company GlobalFoundries finalized a \$1.5 billion award—that is \$1.5 billion with a "b"—to build a new, cutting-edge, massive chip factory in Malta, NY, and expand production in the Capital Region of New York. This award was made possible precisely because of the law I wrote and passed.

This chips award is now locked in. The agreement is signed, sealed, and delivered—in fact, ready to deliver a better future for Upstate New York and for America. Importantly, this funding is protected for years to come.

GlobalFoundries' announcement is exciting for several reasons. First, it

means thousands of new, good-paying manufacturing and union construction jobs are on the way to the Capital Region, as GlobalFoundries triples its production in Saratoga County. When we wrote the Chips and Science law, we wanted to make sure that it was union labor that built these factories.

Mr. President, the funds will also modernize a GlobalFoundries facility in Vermont, you will be happy to know. These are jobs that will help transform the region, jobs that even the children and grandchildren of workers today will hold decades from now. When your kid gets one of these jobs, you are not going to think, oh, it will be gone in 5 years, because this is a growing, burgeoning industry. Semiconductor chips are the future of our modern economy.

So it is a great thing for optimism for our future, for those ladders up that we so believe in here in America.

Second, this funding will help create a strong domestic supply of essential chips that America needs for our national and economic security. The chips made by GlobalFoundries are critical to the auto industry, to national defense, to artificial intelligence, all the way down to our smartphones. If we want to keep prices low and prevent shortages, one of the best things we can do is build chips here at home. This funding will help make that happen.

Most importantly, as I said, the \$1.5 billion award is cemented for New York and for America as long as GlobalFoundries meets its project milestones. Upstate New York, the Capital Region, can rest assured that the funding announced today will be there in the years to come.

So today is a great day for the Capital Region, a great day for New York, and a great day for American leadership in the global semiconductor industry.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, now on judges, today, the Senate will keep working to confirm more of President Biden's judicial nominees. It has already been a very productive week here in the Senate.

We began on Monday by confirming Judge Kidd to serve as a circuit court judge to the Eleventh Circuit. He is the 45th circuit court judge confirmed under President Biden. Yesterday, we kept going. We confirmed two more district judges to seats in Oregon and the District of Columbia and invoked cloture on the third.

We will continue going forward today. This morning, we will vote on the confirmation of Rebecca Pennell to be district judge for the Eastern District of Washington State. We will then immediately turn to a cloture vote on the next judicial nominee, Amir Ali to be district judge for the District of Columbia.

We will continue working on judges throughout the day and into this evening. We have a lot of excellent nominees to work through. So I ask my

colleagues to be flexible, to be ready to stay late, and to keep the votes moving quickly. We did that the other night, and we got a lot of votes done relatively fast.

I have spoken at length about how proud I am of the nominees this majority has confirmed to the bench. The over 200 judges we have confirmed have a sweeping range of experiences and areas of expertise. One of our nominees, for example, has argued and won three historic civil rights cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. Another judge confirmed early in Biden's term built her career as an expert in worker protections and represented factory workers and grocery store workers and taxi drivers and nurses. She is now a circuit court judge. We have also had consumer protection lawyers elevated to the bench, including one nominee whose job was to go after healthcare fraud and deceptive marketing of pharmaceutical and medical devices. I have been proud to support nominees to the Second Circuit who have been leading voting rights attorneys. And the experiences go on and on. Our nominees have represented children who have faced abuse and individuals wrongly convicted and more.

At the end of the day, of course, what matters most in a nominee is whether or not they can render impartial judgment based on precedent and rule of law, but it is also important that judges come from different walks of life.

Judges should not operate like cold, unthinking machines, nor is the work of justice a mere theoretical exercise. Judges are better off when they can interpret the law while putting themselves in the shoes of those over whom they preside, from the privileged to the impoverished. Judges are more likely to reach an equitable and prudent ruling if they can appreciate how their decisions will play out in society. That is more likely to happen if our benches are comprised of jurists from many different experiences from many different walks of life.

I thank my colleagues for their good work this week, and we will keep working today.

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. THUNE. 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.

The Republican whip.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, it has been clear for a while now that an enduring legacy of the Biden-Harris administration will be the historic immigration crisis at our southern border. And I don't use the word "historic" lightly, but it is appropriate, because

President Biden and Vice President HARRIS have presided over 4 years of recordbreaking illegal immigration at our southern border.

That is right: The 4 highest years of illegal immigration ever recorded at our southern border have occurred on President Biden's and Vice President HARRIS's watch.

I say occurred on their watch, but, of course, this recordbreaking illegal immigration didn't just occur on their watch. The Biden-Harris administration created this crisis. On the day he took office, the President began dismantling President Trump's border security policies, and illegal immigration began surging in response—and kept on surging.

Between official U.S. Customs and Border Protection encounters and known "got-aways"—individuals the Border Patrol saw but was unable to apprehend—there have been somewhere around 10 million—10 million—migrant encounters at the southern border during this administration.

Now, to put that number in perspective, that is larger than the population of the vast majority of U.S. States, and that is just the individuals we know about.

There are undoubtedly individuals who have made their way into our country over the past 4 years who have been neither seen nor apprehended.

The past 4 years have displayed the problems with unchecked illegal immigration. Shelters are overwhelmed. Border cities are overwhelmed. Blue cities far from the border are overwhelmed. The Border Patrol is stretched thin.

Agents pulled off field work to process the massive amounts of migrants, and the list goes on.

And, of course, it is essential to remember the situation at the border doesn't just affect the border. As I said, cities far from the border have struggled to deal with an influx of migrants.

Criminals who have made their way illegally into the country have committed crimes far from the southern border. And the effects of cross-border illegal activity are felt all around the country.

My State of South Dakota is about as far from our southern border as you can get, but law enforcement officials consistently tell me, in larger and smaller communities, that the deadly drugs they are dealing with have entered the country across our southern border.

And then there are the national security issues. The June arrest of eight Tajikistan nationals with suspected ties to ISIS who had illegally entered the country, as well as the identification of more than 400 migrants who used an ISIS-affiliated smuggling network to enter the United States, are just two examples of the kind of threats that we face—and the dangers of the chaos that President Biden and Vice President HARRIS have allowed to rage and have unleashed at our southern border.

Since October 2020, 387 individuals on the Terrorist Watchlist have been apprehended attempting to cross our southern border between ports of entry. Mr. President, 387 individuals on the Terrorist Watchlist. Those are the ones we caught. How many have come in who have been unobserved? How many terrorists or other dangerous individuals have made their way across without being apprehended?

Immigration officials are currently preparing for a possible final surge before President Trump takes office, a clear sign, if one were needed, that migrants regard President Biden as the open border President.

But final surge or no final surge, the days of this border crisis are numbered. Securing our border and removing those who have entered our country illegally are at the top of President Trump's priority list, and the Republican Congress is committed to doing everything it can to help, for the sake of our security and for the sake of our rule of law.

We sometimes forget that aspect—the rule of law. But the area of immigration should not be an exception to the principle that the law has to be respected. Immigrants have played, and will continue to play, a vital role in this country. And that won't change. But immigration has to be legal.

We need to end the notion that illegal pathways are a viable way to take up residence in this country, and we will end that notion under President Trump.

The Biden-Harris administration heralded the start of a border crisis. The Trump-Vance administration will herald the end of it. Two more months. Two more months.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF REBECCA L. PENNELL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Washington Court of Appeals Judge Rebecca Pennell to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington.

Judge Pennell's significant career as a litigator for nearly two decades and her experience as a Washington State appellate court judge will make her an excellent addition to the Federal bench.

After graduating from the University of Washington and Stanford Law School, Judge Pennell served as a law clerk to Judge Robert H. Whaley on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, the court to which she has been nominated.

Following her clerkship, Judge Pennell worked as a Skadden fellow assigned as a fellowship attorney at TeamChild in Yakima, WA. She then continued her career in public service as an attorney at the Federal Defenders of Washington and Idaho for 16 years. As a public defender, she tried approximately 13 trials, handled more than 100 cases in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and helped to establish two reentry drug courts within the Eastern District.

Since 2016, Judge Pennell has served as a judge on the Washington Court of Appeals, Division Three, where she has authored more than 568 opinions.

Judge Pennell has the strong support of her home State Senators, Mrs. MURRAY and Ms. CANTWELL. In addition, Judge Pennell was rated unanimously “well qualified” by the American Bar Association.

I urge my colleagues to support Judge Pennell’s nomination.

Mr. THUNE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. 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.

The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask that we commence with the rollcall vote immediately under unanimous consent.

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

VOTE ON PENNELL NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Pennell nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 289 Ex.]

YEAS—50

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Heinrich | Rosen |
| Bennet | Helmy | Sanders |
| Blumenthal | Hickenlooper | Schatz |
| Booker | Hirono | Schumer |
| Brown | Kaine | Shaheen |
| Butler | Kelly | Sinema |
| Cantwell | King | Smith |
| Cardin | Klobuchar | Stabenow |
| Carper | Lujan | Tester |
| Casey | Markey | Van Hollen |
| Coons | Merkley | Warner |
| Cortez Masto | Murphy | Warnock |
| Duckworth | Murray | Warren |
| Durbin | Ossoff | Welch |
| Fetterman | Padilla | Whitehouse |
| Gillibrand | Peters | Wyden |
| Hassan | Reed | |

NAYS—48

| | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Barrasso | Crapo | Kennedy |
| Blackburn | Daines | Lankford |
| Boozman | Ernst | Lee |
| Britt | Fischer | Lummis |
| Budd | Graham | Manchin |
| Capito | Grassley | Marshall |
| Cassidy | Hagerty | McConnell |
| Collins | Hawley | Moran |
| Cornyn | Hoeben | Mullin |
| Cotton | Hyde-Smith | Murkowski |
| Cramer | Johnson | Paul |

| | | |
|----------|------------|------------|
| Ricketts | Schmitt | Tillis |
| Risch | Scott (FL) | Tuberville |
| Romney | Scott (SC) | Vance |
| Rounds | Sullivan | Wicker |
| Rubio | Thune | Young |

NOT VOTING—2

| | |
|-------|------|
| Braun | Cruz |
|-------|------|

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Ali nomination cloture motion be waived.

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 senior assistant executive 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. 539, Amir H. Ali, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Raphael G. Warnock, Gary C. Peters, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Peter Welch, Mark R. Warner, Christopher A. Coons, Tammy Duckworth, Benjamin L. Cardin, Debbie Stabenow.

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 Amir H. Ali, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 290 Ex.]

YEAS—50

| | | |
|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Baldwin | Casey | Helmy |
| Bennet | Coons | Hickenlooper |
| Blumenthal | Cortez Masto | Hirono |
| Booker | Duckworth | Kaine |
| Brown | Durbin | Kelly |
| Butler | Fetterman | King |
| Cantwell | Gillibrand | Klobuchar |
| Cardin | Hassan | Lujan |
| Carper | Heinrich | Manchin |

| | | |
|---------|----------|------------|
| Markey | Rosen | Van Hollen |
| Merkley | Sanders | Warner |
| Murphy | Schatz | Warnock |
| Murray | Schumer | Warren |
| Ossoff | Shaheen | Welch |
| Padilla | Smith | Whitehouse |
| Peters | Stabenow | Wyden |
| Reed | Tester | |

NAYS—48

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Grassley | Ricketts |
| Blackburn | Hagerty | Risch |
| Boozman | Hawley | Romney |
| Britt | Hoeben | Rounds |
| Budd | Hyde-Smith | Rubio |
| Capito | Johnson | Schmitt |
| Cassidy | Kennedy | Scott (FL) |
| Collins | Lankford | Scott (SC) |
| Cornyn | Lee | Sinema |
| Cotton | Lummis | Sullivan |
| Cramer | Marshall | Thune |
| Crapo | McConnell | Tillis |
| Daines | Moran | Tuberville |
| Ernst | Mullin | Vance |
| Fischer | Murkowski | Wicker |
| Graham | Paul | Young |

NOT VOTING—2

| | |
|-------|------|
| Braun | Cruz |
|-------|------|

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 48.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Amir H. Ali, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I would like to start by thanking Senator WARNOCK for letting me jump ahead in the speaking order today. I appreciate it. I am only going to take a couple of minutes.

Yesterday, in the press report, apparently, I had reported what I said at lunch for the news about me talking about a simple concept. I don’t know. I think the American people are on board with me. We have to show up for work, right? I think we have to.

The reason we had 18 votes on Monday night is because some of my colleagues on my side of the aisle—folks, this is not a partisan—it is partisan. It ended up focusing on some of my colleagues. You have to show up for work. We have got work to do here. And I understand there are all kinds of good reasons. But there is no excuse to let CHUCK SCHUMER force these judicial nominations down our throat.

We have got to show up for work. What happened on Monday night only occurred because Republicans were not here. They are my colleagues. They are my friends. But they are business associates first who have a job of making sure that we prevent CHUCK SCHUMER from driving a lot of these judicial nominations that, if we are here, won’t be successful.

The only reason we were here until midnight on Monday night is because some of my colleagues didn’t show up. I am just saying, folks, this is pretty

simple. I have spent most of my career in business. If my senior staff didn't show up or my former partners at Pricewaterhouse didn't show up, we would find them another job.

We get this job, whether we want it or not, unless we resign. You can't fire us in the midterm or in the middle of our terms. But I can express my concern with giving CHUCK SCHUMER an easy way to beat Republicans who want to vote against and potentially defeat some of these very liberal judges.

So all I am saying—so that the press gets it right—people put words in my mouth at a private lunch. That is OK. People do that around here. I don't. But let me say what I said at lunch: 90 percent of success is showing up. If we were here on Monday night, we wouldn't have been here until midnight because we would have defeated CHUCK SCHUMER's opportunity to do it then.

If we are not here every single day—I had somebody ask me: Well, when do I need to be there for that Fourth Circuit nominee? When is that vote going to occur?

I said: When you are not here.

We have got to show up, folks. The American people expect us to show up for a job. These are my friends. These are my colleagues. These are people I work together with. But they let me down on Monday. They better not let me down for the rest of the session or every time we fail because we failed to show up. I will be back down here to remind my colleagues that the American people and the people who elected us in our great States want us to do our jobs. You can't do your job if you are not here.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from Georgia.

DISASTER RELIEF FUNDING

Mr. WARNOCK. Madam President, I rise today calling on the U.S. Senate to immediately—immediately—approve the supplemental disaster assistance request sent to us by the President earlier this week so we can get Georgians and Americans all across our country the support they so desperately need following two recent storms: Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Sadly, these storms are becoming more frequent and becoming more destructive. And we will see again and again the need of the Senate to respond with the urgency that this demands.

I was pushing for additional disaster assistance for Georgians reeling from past storms before Hurricane Helene landed in our State; namely, following Hurricane Idalia last year and Debby in August of this year.

My office was on the frontlines of the Federal response to Hurricane Helene in Georgia, and I was proud to work with a bipartisan group with my colleagues, including Senator TILLIS and Senator BUDD of North Carolina, to kick-start this disaster funding process.

I want to thank the President for listening to the people of our State in ex-

pediting this request. I want to thank the Senate Appropriations Committee Chair PATTY MURRAY for acting on this priority today. It is something she and I have talked about over the last several weeks.

Since these storms tore through Georgia and much of the Southeast, we have seen light in darkness as communities come together to help one another, neighbors supporting neighbors.

I was down in Augusta a few weeks ago, and it was tough to see that devastation. But part of that light piercing the darkness could be seen in the eyes and in the effort of Robert Lanier of Lanier's Meat Market. I was driving. We were going down the street. I had my staff do a U-turn. And there was Robert Lanier, local business owner—Lanier's Meat Market—literally providing free food and water to his neighbors. The very food that he sells every day to take care of his family, he was giving it away to his neighbors—a light shining in the darkness.

I saw this in Homerville, Soperton, and Gibson, where my office hosted community resource clinics to connect Georgians to Federal officials and resources, helping some 200 Georgians in the process.

In Quitman and in Valdosta, my team and I hit the road to deliver food, healthcare supplies, and water to our neighbors in need.

I spent time with smalltown mayors all across our State that were desperately in need of a response.

And to date, FEMA has provided over \$229 million in individual and household assistance to Georgians in need and continues to operate numerous disaster recovery and other assistance centers across the State.

I am proud of the great work being done, and I applaud the public servants and the community leaders who make it all possible. But in my travels and in my conversations with these smalltown mayors, with Georgians, for folks especially in our rural areas, it is clear that more needs to be done, and that help cannot come soon enough.

In Ray City, I joined President Biden to survey a damaged pecan grove. An estimated one-third of the State's pecan crop was destroyed as well as cotton. Over 100 poultry houses were damaged or destroyed, and 8 million acres of timber in America's No. 1 forestry State were impacted. All told, we are talking about more than \$6 billion in total damages to Georgia's agriculture sector.

Too many of our farmers have taken too many hits with these storms over the years, which is why I pushed the President to send to Congress a request for additional funding immediately so we can give a lifeline to our hurting agriculture industry.

At its peak, Helene left more than 1 million Georgians without power, 300 boil water advisories across the State, over 200,000 homes with some level of damage, and countless communities facing a long road to recovery.

Most tragically, 228 individuals perished in Helene's devastation; 34 of them were Georgians, 6 of them were children. And so as we pray with our lips for those we lost, we must pray with our legs to help those still reeling and recovering from this devastation.

While Congress was out of session last month, because I understood the urgency, I called on the Senate to come back to Washington to pass additional disaster assistance funding. Weeks have passed since then, but the urgency remains.

While it may not be in the headlines, Georgians who were at the center of this devastation are living this every single day.

While I am here to remind my colleagues of the moral urgency to act, I know families and farmers back home still recovering. They are the ones who understand the dire circumstances, clearly.

There is one family in Augusta, GA, a married couple with two young elementary school-aged kids, who, following Helene—listen—are still residing in a house deemed 95 percent damaged. It is practically unlivable, their home. But they are still waiting on Federal support to move to either a temporary or a long-term housing solution.

Imagine that, waking up every day in a home that is 95 percent damaged. And as they navigate the stress and the trauma of this turmoil, the father continues showing up to work. He goes to work every day in order to provide for his family and then returns to their damaged home, waiting on us to show up to work and get the job done.

If we expect hard-working Georgians to do their job in the midst of a disaster, they should expect us to do ours. It is reasonable service. It is the least we can do.

The disaster assistance proposal before us would deliver a lifesaver for so many families, providing over \$20 billion to help farmers address crop and orchard losses; more than \$600 million to help them rehabilitate damaged land; \$375 million to support rural communities with housing, power, water, healthcare, and more; and \$40 billion for FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund—the primary source of Federal assistance for Georgians impacted by Hurricane Helene.

There is also critical funding to fix our damaged roads and highways, support our small business harmed by the storms, and invest in public water and sewer system upgrades.

The only question is, What are we waiting for? There is no time for games, no time for delay, no time for partisanship, or politics. We must center the human beings, members of our families who are impacted by our policy, and the time to act is now.

We must approve this additional funding with bipartisan and bicameral support. And I will continue to do all I can until we get this done, and every dollar we allocate gets to the taxpayers. After all, this is the taxpayers'

money and hard-working families trying to pick up the pieces of their lives. This is the work we must do, and it cannot happen soon enough.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, I rise today to talk about the road ahead for Western North Carolina after the devastation of Hurricane Helene. And I acknowledge and appreciate my colleague from one of the Mountain States, Georgia—particularly Northern Georgia—and am reminded that we are rebuilding together.

For us here in North Carolina, Hurricane Helene represented one of the worst natural disasters to ever strike my home State—and I have seen a lot of natural disasters in North Carolina.

From Hurricane Helene, at last count, more than 100 people just in our State have been killed; hundreds more were injured; and some are still missing. Thousands of North Carolinians lost their homes. They lost their businesses.

And for small mountain communities in Western North Carolina, this horrific ordeal began Friday morning of September 27. When the storm hit an already rain-soaked area, the situation escalated into life and death within moments.

In the small town of what is the now-famous Bat Cave, NC—population 180—the town's fire chief, Steve Freeman, was at home with his wife. In advance of the storm, Steve parked his first car, a 1967 Mustang. He put it up on higher ground on a ridge above the family's shed. At around 8:45 a.m., he and his wife heard their house shake. He ran to the back of the house; he looked out the window, and he found that the car had already been swept downhill into the shed. Seconds later, he watched their Ford pickup get flipped upside down by the torrential flooding. Then he heard more rumbling noises, followed by shaking; and outside, he saw a mudslide barreling down towards the rest of the holler.

He ran for cover, but the collapsing shed took his feet out from under him and washed him several yards into a backhoe, where his head was pinned between the loader and what was left of the shed. His wife, who was watching in horror, thought that he was dead. But, in a moment he credits to the grace of Almighty God, Steve had just enough room to get his head out, and he went back inside to his wife. They escaped the area.

Steve later said:

I had my near-death experience, and that's when I knew God was here for me.

What is even more extraordinary is that, after this harrowing experience, the chief, Steve, began working for the safety of his community. Others might have called it quits, but he went to work. He and his firefighters—they mapped out the area, and they started digging people out.

Chief Freeman is one of hundreds of heroic North Carolinians who leapt

into harm's way to help others. That is the thing about the people of Western North Carolina: They are not just tough; they are mountain tough.

I had the pleasure of going to undergrad at Appalachian State in Boone years ago, and I have got lifelong friends who still call the region home. But if you spend any amount of time up there, you learn just how strong these people are in the mountains: These are proud and self-sufficient people. They are generous people.

For instance, take the story of Ethan Fowler of Slick Rock. He lives in Henderson County, and he volunteered to help rescue folks who were trapped. When he saw the storm debris that needed clearing in his neighborhood, he jumped on his own heavy machinery, and he did the job. Locals went up to him, and they offered to pay him; they offered him compensation for his work.

And Ethan replied:

It's just fuel.

He went on to personally help direct the National Guard and Federal officials as they arrived to clean up Gerton, Bat Cave, Lake Lure, and Chimney Rock.

This story and countless others like it are a perfect testament to the people of North Carolina. They are some of the most resilient people around. They don't look for handouts; they don't complain. The truth is they need us right now. Our government must be there to help them.

That is why it is incredibly disturbing to hear reports on the ground that they are still struggling to get in touch with representatives from FEMA. Now, of course, I don't want to denigrate the hard work of many of these hard-working officials who are trying to do the right thing, but when you hear the same story of a scatter-shot response and when you hear that same story over and over again, you know that something is dreadfully wrong.

You also know that something is wrong when we hear from a whistleblower at FEMA who claims that Federal officials directed a colossal event of avoidance against households with flags or yard signs supporting President Trump. This sort of weaponization of the government against people in their time of need is disgusting, and it is wrong, and there is going to be accountability for it.

As we hold these Agencies accountable, we in Congress have work to do, and no time to waste. So I am again calling on this body to quickly approve a supplemental bill to help fund the long-term recovery for the citizens of North Carolina. Congress should take up this bill without any further delay. Those of us from the region, regardless of party, I believe, support this.

Now, I realize that coming from someone like me—a dedicated fiscal conservative asking for this—it might sound, to some, out of place, but disaster relief is one of the essential functions of this government. Times like

these are precisely why we shouldn't overspend or waste taxpayer dollars in more prosperous times. Like any family or small business, we ought to be saving for a rainy day.

Ladies and gentlemen, that rainy day is today. In Western North Carolina, the temperatures are falling fast. Many people in my State are in real danger of facing a winter without heat because the storm destroyed the area's only kerosene station. We have people living in shelters with only the clothes on their backs because the hurricane wiped out their homes.

We have small shops, hotels, and restaurants that rely on tourism to operate, and some of those folks will be forced to shutter their businesses forever.

We have large sections of a major U.S. interstate highway that are still impassable and small mountain roads that are damaged beyond repair.

We have communities that are mourning the unimaginable loss of members of first responders and law enforcement.

We have some towns that I visited in the last month, like Hot Springs, Marshall, Burnsville, and Swannanoa, that are buried by flooding and mudslides, and there are towns like Chimney Rock that are mostly gone. Every day that I was present in the region, I was stunned by the enormity of the damage. It was unlike anything that I had ever seen.

This is not a situation where our government has the luxury of hand-wringing or deferring action for another few weeks or after another long recess. The citizens in my State—they need help and they need it now. This is why these men and women pay their taxes. This is their right as Americans, and we can't leave them behind. I believe, after having many conversations around the State, that that is their greatest fear: of being forgotten.

I will make my promise not to ever forget them, and my promise to the people of Western North Carolina is this: I will do everything in my power to see that you have the Federal resources you need to recover and to rebuild. I stand ready to work with my Senate colleagues and President-elect Trump to cut through the delays and provide the people of Western North Carolina with the resources they need as quickly as possible. We owe it to these fellow Americans to help them and help them now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, on Monday, President Biden submitted to Congress an emergency supplemental funding request for nearly \$100 billion to help communities across the country recover from disasters.

Whether it is Lahaina, Maui, or Burlington or Davenport or Asheville, every community that has had the misfortune of being struck by a disaster deserves help. No one is ever fully prepared for a tornado or a flood or a fire,

but everyone has to go through the long and difficult and painful process of rebuilding—rebuilding their lives, rebuilding their homes, rebuilding their stores, rebuilding their communities—which is why every time a disaster has devastated our fellow Americans, Congress has recognized the need for help and stepped up to fulfill our responsibility to provide that help. We don't first check to see if it is a blue or a red or a purple State or county.

And, today, disaster survivors in almost 40 States, including my own, are counting on us to do exactly that. They have had their lives turned upside down, and in the wake of awful death and destruction, they are trying to find some semblance of stability and peace in their lives. But, to recover quickly and fully, they need our help. It has been more than 15 months since Lahaina burned down to the ground—in a matter of hours—by ferocious fires. More than 4,000 homes were destroyed, and yet, as of today, just one home has been rebuilt—one home. There are 4,000 homes gone, 12,000 people without a house, 2,200 structures incinerated—1 home rebuilt.

Even before the fires, Lahaina was a working-class town where people were mostly renters, and while a disaster of this scale is catastrophic for any community, the financial burden inflicted on these survivors is especially, especially acute. Everyone is doing the best that they can to recover. They are working so hard. They have pulled together so much. They have so much courage and compassion and persistence. They have plowed through every barrier put in front of them. They have saved each other's lives. They are trying to rebuild this beautiful, historic, pluralistic, joyful, multicultural town, but they need our help.

This is a core responsibility of the United States Federal Government. There are certain things that we should be arguing about; there are lots of things that we should be arguing about. Among those things is, What does the Federal Government do, exactly? What is the Federal Government's role, exactly, in education? in healthcare? in transportation?

One thing we cannot argue with each other about is this: when your fellow Americans are in a situation where their counties, their churches, their communities, their States are just simply overwhelmed and cannot recover without the resources of the Federal Government, that the Federal Government steps up and does their job.

So we are about to wrap this week up before the Thanksgiving break, and then we have a tight, little work period to get a hell of a lot done. The one thing we cannot leave undone in December—the one thing we cannot leave undone in December—is disaster aid not just for the people of Maui but for people all across the country. If the Federal Government is for anything, it has to be for this.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

REPUBLICAN OBJECTIVES

Mrs. MRS. CAPITO. Madam President, a few weeks ago, the American people spoke loud and clear. They rejected the policies that we have been seeing through this current administration. But, today, I rise to talk about the vision my Republican colleagues and I have for this future and the many solutions that we are eager to get back to work on that I believe will help get this country back on track.

First things first, this newly formed Republican Senate majority is ready to close the previous chapter. It is a chapter I think that none of us really want to go through again. Soon, the Resolute Desk will change hands, and the Senate, under the guidance of my friend and colleague and soon-to-be majority leader JOHN THUNE, will get to work. And we have the full support of the incoming President, President-elect Trump.

The American public wants to see real action. Back home in my State of West Virginia, people have conveyed to me that they are ready for real representation—a government of, by, and for the people. Senate Republicans will deliver responsive and responsible solutions for the American people.

The task ahead is this: unshackling the American economy, securing the border, unleashing our American energy, reducing crime and lawlessness, and restoring American strength and deterrence on the world stage. These are the issues on which the voters placed their faith in us.

I also believe that central to this mandate for this new American leadership is the idea that people really did feel better and preferred their lives under the Presidency of President Trump. I know for sure I did.

So as the Senate fulfills its responsibility to pass legislation to get this country back on track, let's look no further than the previous Trump administration for the roadmap.

President Trump unleashed American energy production, rolling back burdensome permitting rules and red-tape. Republicans slashed regulations that canceled pipelines. We erased barriers to our new ones. America sits on the greatest treasure trove of natural resources in the world, and a Republican-led energy policy will not squander that.

West Virginia knows the difference between good and bad energy policy all too well. We are an energy State. We have been blessed with a lot of natural resources, and we know that our economy and people's jobs and people's lives and people's families depend on us unleashing that energy. The jobs that President Trump saved—a lot of those jobs—were West Virginia energy jobs. So we can get back to a cheaper, more secure, and more reliable world by unleashing American energy once again.

The Republican solution is “America First” energy policies that can result

in energy dominance and our own self-reliance—no more depending on fuels from dictators who hate America or no more reliance on green energy from Chinese Communist Party-backed supply chains.

It is going to take an “all of the above” approach, including opening up projects like our recently just opened Mountain Valley Pipeline so that we can deliver energy in markets, promoting carbon capture and sequestration to use our vast coal resources, nuclear energy, and renewables, as the market sees fit—and they are growing.

In a few months, I will be chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. I am really excited about this opportunity, and I cannot stress enough how important these items are to the agenda.

My Senate Republican colleagues and I are prepared to bring forward legislative solutions to help fuel American growth, and I hope our Democratic colleagues will join us in moving these solutions forward in the next Congress.

On the economy, residents from my State—and the entire country—are still reeling from the elevated costs on all things, from housing, energy, food, and almost every other everyday essential.

Personal finances are stretched so thin right now. For instance, in my State of West Virginia, West Virginians are spending, on average, an additional \$930 a month, or more than \$25,000 a year, due to inflation, since 2021. Actually, that is a total of \$25,000 since 2021.

The plan to get the American economy back on track is a tried-and-true formula of energy dominance—repealing burdensome regulations—and lowering taxes. It is pretty simple. You should keep more of your own paycheck, and the government should stay out of the way.

I am looking forward to taking up legislation proposed by me and my other Senate colleagues toward these ends, including an extension and reauthorization of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that we passed in 2017—including some of the most pro-growth tax reform policies that we have seen—as well as other potential budget solutions.

Crime and the border go hand in hand. Under President Trump's first administration, both were managed. But now they are not. Look no further than the example of the addiction crisis, a direct product of lawlessness and the free rein of Mexican cartels.

Just a few days ago, last Friday, I convened State and community leaders in West Virginia for a summit focused on combating the addiction crisis. The correlation between wide-open borders and the raging drug crisis was mentioned repeatedly at this summit, especially during the presentation and discussion with our law enforcement panel.

Here is the fentanyl crisis by the numbers: CBP seized 27,000 pounds of

fentanyl in the fiscal year 2023. That is only a fraction of the real amount that crosses our border. Keep in mind that a minuscule amount of fentanyl can have a deadly effect.

Of the over 107,000 drug overdoses that occurred in the United States in 2023—I will repeat that number: 107,000; that is almost double the size of the capital city of Charleston in West Virginia, where I live—almost 75,000 of those involved fentanyl.

This out-of-control drug trafficking must end. It is a lawless scourge that takes more West Virginians per capita than in any other State in the Union. In sheer numbers, the death toll and calamity eclipse any other modern drug epidemic.

We know what works because the rise in fentanyl overdose deaths stalled under President Trump. The bottom line, we have got to close the border and end the lawlessness.

Yet again, Republicans have the roadmap. We did it once, and we can do it again. A heightened sense and appreciation for law and order from the border to the inner cities, to everywhere back home will feature prominently in this next Republican administration.

President Trump presided over a relatively peaceful period of history unmatched in our national history. After crushing ISIS, the Trump-led world order went largely untested by the world's dictators and demagogues. The same cannot be said about the world today.

China manipulates the Biden administration every day, while burrowing deep into our critical infrastructure and growing its military. Iran and its terrorist proxies wage war against our ally Israel. And, of course, there is the ongoing war in Ukraine. This is the world under the Biden-Harris administration's watch.

In what seems like the most trying confluence of geopolitical struggles in a generation, America must lead through strength. Indecision and weakness have emboldened our adversaries.

Republicans can start the next Congress by restoring deterrence against Iran and reinstating Trump's maximum-pressure campaign. We should cut off Iran's funding sources so that they can't continue to support these attacks against our U.S. servicemembers.

Just last week, the Houthis fired at least eight drones, five ballistic missiles, and three anti-ship cruise missiles against our U.S. Navy ships. It was barely even news because this is now just a regular occurrence under this current administration.

This administration apparently has no clue that our troops are under constant attack on land and sea, since our current Vice President, in her campaign, said that she didn't think any U.S. forces were in combat.

America must protect our servicemembers and put Iran on notice that their weapons-dealing business is over.

More broadly, a unified Republican government will be prepared to restore

our military strength, refocus our DOD on lethality, and restock our critical munitions.

I have detailed but a few of the ideas and solutions to this dangerous, costly, and disordered world that we are inheriting. It is a challenge fit for a strong government and even stronger leadership, and it is good that we have a change for who is in charge.

Until then, I suggest the best course of action this body can take is to work diligently on the outstanding priorities that we have in front of us. I am talking about the NDAA—the National Defense Authorization bill—the government funding bills, and the farm bill. That way, the next Congress can stand at full attention, ready to advance policies to make our country safer, stronger, and a more resilient place.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, 2 weeks ago, President Trump was re-elected, and the Senate Republicans reclaimed the Senate majority. As we prepare for the 119th Congress, I join my colleagues today to discuss Republican solutions to the challenges our Nation faces.

Among these important efforts, we will work with President Trump to unleash more American energy and not only make our country energy independent once again but actually make the United States energy dominant. We will do that by cutting the redtape that has handcuffed our energy industry. And instead of strangling regulations, we are going to boost innovation. That is the right kind of approach for energy policy in our Nation.

Energy security directly impacts our economic and national security. That is why we must act on day one to reverse the Biden administration's regulatory onslaught. From the very beginning of his tenure, President Biden has sought to curtail American energy. I would like to take a moment to recap some of these harmful regulatory policies.

Just last week, the Biden administration finished implementing a new natural gas tax. Think about that: a tax on natural gas at a time when the country has been fighting inflation. That natural gas tax was authorized as part of the Democrat partisan tax-and-spend bill.

Importantly, I intend to introduce a Congressional Review Act resolution of disapproval to block the Biden administration's new natural gas tax rule, and we will work with President Trump to repeal it. Again, this is part of reducing an inflation that affects every single American.

This costly tax comes in addition to new burdensome rules and higher fees on Federal energy production imposed by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management.

But the Biden administration isn't just increasing costs for producers. They are working to outright prevent

the development of vast amounts of taxpayer-owned energy resources on public lands.

This year, BLM issued a new public lands rule enabling radical environmental groups to lock away more of our energy reserves under a so-called conservation leasing approach. In my State of North Dakota, the Biden administration is proposing to close off leasing to 45 percent—45 percent—of Federal oil and gas acreage and 95 percent of Federal coal acreage.

Let me repeat that. In my State of North Dakota—we are one of the largest energy producing States in the country. We are an energy powerhouse for this country. In my State, the Biden administration is proposing to close off leasing to 45 percent of Federal oil and gas acreage and 95 percent of Federal coal acreage. At the same time, the Biden administration's regulatory agenda is making electricity more expensive and less reliable. Think about that. We need more electricity, not less. These policies not only increase the price of the electricity that we get, but it prevents us from producing more electricity.

Under President Biden, the EPA has issued overreaching power sector regulations that inflict utilities with billions of dollars in compliance costs. Worse still, these burdensome regulations could force the premature retirement of reliable coal-fired baseload powerplants, and we need that baseload to maintain the integrity of the nationwide electric grid.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation, or NERC, and multiple independent grid operators are sounding the alarm of a coming reliability crisis.

Each of these actions by the Biden administration was specifically designed to make traditional energy more expensive and to produce less of it. That is why, in partnership with the incoming Trump administration, we will take off the handcuffs of our energy producers and empower them to increase supply and bring down prices for American families and businesses.

I would also like to thank President Trump and offer my congratulations to Governor Doug Burgum of North Dakota on his nomination to serve as Secretary of the Interior and the head of the newly formed National Energy Council. The Department of the Interior is incredibly important in North Dakota and Western States, overseeing more than 247 million acres of Federal land and approximately 30 percent of the Nation's minerals.

As Governor of my home State of North Dakota, Doug has the right background and experience to lead the Department of the Interior and all of the new administration's energy efforts. He has been a great partner as we have worked together to make North Dakota an energy powerhouse for our country, and I know he will bring that experience to bear in a positive way for our country. He understands the importance of productive multiple use of

our vast Federal estate for energy development, grazing, recreation, tourism, and all of the multiple uses we enjoy.

I look forward to continuing our efforts together, and he will be in a tremendous position to help us roll back the harmful policies of the last 4 years and unlock our country's energy potential. That means making the best use of our Nation's abundant energy resources—including our vast oil, gas, and coal reserves—while advancing new innovations to produce more energy with better environmental stewardship. That is the right way to do it.

Like I said at the beginning, we are not just going to make our Nation energy independent; we are going to make our Nation energy dominant.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, after 4 years of Biden-Harris failures, our country is set to make an incredible comeback with Republican control of Congress and the White House starting next year. At the top of our agenda will be securing the southern border. Until then, though, the Biden-Harris open border remains a threat to our families, our communities, and our country. Congress should waste no time in taking action to protect this Nation.

Since taking office, the Biden-Harris administration has apprehended—get this number—nearly 400 suspected terrorists at the southern border. Now, that is a 3,000-percent increase compared with all 4 years of the Trump administration. They also released nearly 100 individuals on the Terrorist Watchlist into the country.

Unfortunately, these are just the terror suspects that we know about. Under this administration, there have been more than 2 million known “got-aways,” illegal aliens who have entered this country. They evaded apprehension by law enforcement. We do not know who they are, we do not know where they have gone, but we know that they are here from the Border Patrol accounts.

Now, on top of all of this—400 suspected terrorists, a 3,000-percent increase over the Trump years, nearly 100 that are on the Terrorist Watchlist, and the 2 million “got-aways”—there are more than 1.7 million what are called special-interest aliens who have come from countries that pose a national security threat to our Nation, including Iran.

Of course, this is the same regime that helped plan the horrific October 7 terrorist attack on Israel that claimed the lives of more than 1,200 people, including 46 American citizens. Iran-backed Hamas terrorists also took more than 250 people hostage, including a dozen American citizens, 4 of whom remain in captivity. No one connected to these barbaric attacks should be allowed in this country. Yet, under

President Biden and Vice President HARRIS, that risk remains sky high.

Earlier this year, Canada began issuing visas to Gazans with little to no vetting, meaning aliens with potential ties to Hamas could enter our country not only from the southern border but also the northern border. Instead of addressing the threat, however, President Biden issued an Executive order earlier this year that prevents many illegal aliens from Hamas-controlled Gaza from being deported.

A growing terror threat would be bad enough, but under this administration, we have also seen tens of thousands of criminal illegal aliens reach our border. These are people who have committed crimes, some of the worst imaginable—homicide, sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, and more.

As a result of this influx, we are seeing a surge in violent gang activity across America, including in my State of Tennessee. Just last week, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation warned that the violent Venezuelan gang we are all hearing about, Tren de Aragua, is ramping up its human trafficking operations in Tennessee's largest cities. This is the same gang that has taken over entire apartment complexes from San Antonio to Colorado for drug dealing, sex trafficking, and other violent crimes.

Make no mistake, our country cannot afford 2 more months of this administration's broken immigration policy. By the way, that is why you are seeing all this influx, all the numbers we have talked about: the 400 suspected terrorists, the nearly 100 that have been released into this country, 55,000 criminal illegal aliens, people that are convicted of these crimes, 2,200 gang members. Why does it happen? Because this administration's border policy is an open border. That is their policy.

Last week, reports emerged that human traffickers and these human trafficking cartels in Mexico are telling everybody: You better be running to that border right now and get in before Biden leaves office.

(Ms. ROSEN assumed the Chair.)

Thankfully, the Senate can pass legislation today that would secure our border and protect our country from terrorists and criminals. Here are some pieces of legislation I have:

The PRINTS Act, which I introduced last year, would combat trafficking by giving Border Patrol the authority to fingerprint noncitizens under the age of 14 so we can protect them from being trafficked.

The CONTAINER Act, which I introduced in January, would empower border States like Texas to place temporary barriers on Federal land in order to protect their communities.

The CLEAR Act, which I introduced in March, would ensure that State and local law enforcement officials have the tools they need to help the Federal Government deport criminal illegal aliens.

The bipartisan No Immigration Benefits for Hamas Terrorists Act, which I recently introduced alongside Senator ROSEN, who is currently serving as the Presiding Officer, would ensure that no migrant tied to Hamas and the horrific terrorist attack on October 7 is ever allowed to set foot in this country.

The bipartisan Border Smuggling Crackdown Act, which I introduced last week alongside Senator OSSOFF, would ensure human smugglers are held accountable for every life they endanger.

With the growing threat of an illegal immigration surge ahead of Inauguration Day, the Senate should pass these bills immediately and send them to President Biden's desk.

FCC COMMISSIONER BRENDAN CARR

Madam President, over the last 2 weeks, President Trump has started to assemble an incredible team to help get our country back on track starting January 20. To be sure, President Trump's recent pick to lead the Federal Communications Commission, Brendan Carr, will be essential to that effort.

As the senior Republican on the Commission, Carr has led the FCC's work to ensure that every Tennessean and American has access to high-speed internet regardless of their ZIP code.

In fact, on just about every issue the FCC handles, Commissioner Carr has been a crucial advocate for freedom, internet access, and national security. His track record speaks for itself. Across his 7 years on the Commission, he has fought to stamp out internet censorship and to protect free speech, to end the disastrous net neutrality rules that give government bureaucrats needless control over internet carriers, reining in Big Tech, addressing communist China's threats to our digital infrastructure, and many more issues have been on his get-it-done list.

In the year ahead, I look forward to working with Commissioner Carr on each of these issues, especially on expanding rural broadband, building out a clear spectrum pipeline, and keeping children safe online.

On that last issue, I especially appreciate Commissioner Carr's efforts. With 32 State attorneys general urging—begging—Congress this week to pass the Kids Online Safety Act, we know there is strong momentum to finally establish safeguards for children online. On this issue and so many more, one thing is clear: Commissioner Brendan Carr is the right person for the job to lead the Federal Communications Commission.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, over the past few months, we heard from both sides of the aisle about how American families need more support. We have heard discussions about the child tax credit, childcare costs, and dozens more issues that affect parents and their children.

Earlier this year, Senator VANCE summed up nicely what could be a mission statement for Republicans to use on this issue. He said:

We want to provide more options so that people are raising families in a thriving and happy way in this country.

Madam President, my colleagues and I are here today to talk about Republican solutions. And I want to talk specifically about one solution to the family leave problem that has not just Republican but also bipartisan support.

Across America, only 27 percent of workers in the private sector have access to paid family leave. The other three-fourths have to choose between making ends meet and taking care of their families, whether that is welcoming a newborn or nursing an aging parent. That is not a choice that Americans should have to make.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have proposed a few ideas to solve this problem. Some of them advocate for a new nationwide government entitlement program, some advocate for a mandate that would force businesses to pay out of pocket for their employees' leave.

Neither of those options is practical or politically realistic. Our Nation is already trillions of dollars in debt and a mandate, well, that would squash small businesses that simply don't have the resources to survive while paying an employee who is not at work.

But there is a solution, a way to offer employees paid time off without creating a new mandatory program or forcing businesses to suffer huge losses. What I am talking about here are the mom-and-pop businesses especially, Main Street businesses that maybe they have one employee, two employees, maybe five.

And we have a solution. There is a way to offer employees paid time off without creating a new mandatory program or forcing those small businesses to suffer losses. We can provide tax benefits to businesses that offer employees paid leave, which will, in turn, free up resources that businesses can use to pay the salaries of their workers on leave. This is a tried-and-true method. It works. I know because I have done it before.

In 2017, Senator ANGUS KING and I created the first nationwide paid family leave policy in the history of the United States. We created a tax credit for employers who voluntarily offer up to 12 weeks of paid leave to their employees, and President Trump signed it into law. But that tax credit is going to expire, and it is going to expire at the end of 2025.

To ensure that businesses can keep offering paid leave, we need to make sure that we make that credit permanent as well as make it easier for businesses to qualify for it and to use it. So that is why Senator KING and I have, again, introduced the Paid Family Medical Leave Tax Credit Extension and Enhancement Act. Our bill makes

that credit permanent, and it also expands it. It supports additional options for financing paid leave, such as paid family leave insurance. It also allows employers to begin offering paid family medical leave to workers sooner after being hired.

Our bill also includes a strategy for educating businesses and employees about the option to receive this credit so that more people know about it. It requires the Small Business Administration and the IRS to conduct targeted outreach and technical assistance for those who need it, which will raise awareness of the credit and expand the number of Americans who have paid leave.

This is a Republican solution, and it is one that everyone can get on board with. It already has a track record of bipartisan support here in Congress, and we have the perfect opportunity to pass this tax credit yet again in the new year.

As my colleagues on the Finance Committee begin working on tax policy for 2025 and onward, I would urge them to remember America's families; remember how much they need access to paid family leave and remember what they voted for this past November—an administration who will look out for parents and for kids. We have a solution for America's paid leave problem. It is just a matter of expanding it and enacting it.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. KAINÉ. Madam President, shortly, I will ask for unanimous consent to confirm Mark G. Eskenazi and Amanda Wood Laihow to serve as members on the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

Just a word about the Commission. The Commission is an independent Agency that plays a vital role in ensuring safe and healthy workplaces and working conditions for American workers.

What the Commission does is it provides fair and timely adjudication of workplace safety and health disputes between employers, employees, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. So this independent body adjudicates claims between the Federal OSHA employers and employees.

However, the three-member Commission has lacked a quorum since April 2023, which means that for 18 months, they have been unable to adjudicate these claims between employers and employees in OSHA.

Amanda Wood Laihow is a reappointment. She first served on the Commission from January 2020 until April of 2023, when her term expired. Mark Eskenazi was nominated a few months ago in June of 2024. They both received very strong bipartisan support in the HELP Committee, on which I sit, for their nominations, and I urge my colleagues to join me in confirming these

well-qualified candidates by enabling this important adjudicatory body to have a quorum so that they can take up claims by workers and employers.

For that reason, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 374 and 785; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Reserving the right to object. On November 5, the American people spoke and demanded change. They demanded a wholesale revamp from the top to bottom. I am committed to working tirelessly to enact these reforms in Congress and, just as important, to confirming new nominees to carry out the next administration's agenda.

President Trump is in the process of selecting his administration even today. It would be a colossal mistake to hamstring him now in the lameduck session before he even had a chance to review these nominations.

I will be objecting to this unanimous consent request today because we must preserve options for President-elect Trump and his administration to nominate his own choices for this Commission and others, not rubberstamp President Biden's and Leader SCHUMER's preferred candidates on their way out the door.

It is important to point out that should these nominees be confirmed, Democrats will hold a 2-to-1 majority over the Commission and its decisions, which is something that would only further constrain the next administration's commitment to dramatic and needed change.

I look forward to considering nominees to the Commission in January once President-elect Trump has had the opportunity to decide on his own nominees to serve in these roles.

For these reasons, I object.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINÉ. Madam President, let me just say I do not believe it is President-elect Trump who is being hamstrung by stopping these nominations; it is workers and employers. Unless the President-elect has a current claim pending before the Committee, he is not being hamstrung by creating a quorum. The absence of a quorum is hurting American workers, and I regret that my colleague objects.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Texas.

DEFENSE PRIORITIES

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, under the misguided leadership of the Biden administration, our credibility—America's credibility—on the world stage has crumbled. Simply put, our friends no longer trust us, and our enemies no longer fear us.

The Biden administration's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan signaled to our adversaries and our allies alike that the United States could not be trusted.

With deterrence a mere memory, this gave the green light to Vladimir Putin to continue his ambitions in Ukraine and launch a full-scale invasion after invading Crimea in 2014.

This administration took it a step further, though, unfreezing billions of dollars in Iranian assets and allowing Tehran to pour even more money behind the Houthis, Hezbollah, Hamas, and Shia militias, its terrorist proxies operating throughout the Middle East. Of course, the administration did this with full knowledge of Iran's nuclear ambitions. But they didn't stop there. By removing the designation of the Iranian-backed Houthis as a terrorist group—a decision which the President later only partially reversed—President Biden practically invited them to start attacking international commerce in the Red Sea.

The dominoes were set, and now we are seeing them fall. Iran and its proxies have been emboldened and launched the most deadly terrorist attack on the people of Israel on October 7. Then there is North Korea, which has sent more than 10,000 troops to Russia, and some intelligence estimates that they might be willing to provide up to 100,000 soldiers in the coming months as part of Russia's effort to capture Ukraine.

Then, in the South China Sea, in another part of the world, the People's Republic of China—dominated and run by the Chinese Communist Party—continues to assert excessive and illegal maritime boundary claims, at times using force against our treaty ally, the Philippines, when they have attempted to resupply their ship, the *Sierra Madre*, near the Second Thomas Shoal.

So perhaps it should be no surprise to anyone, given the absence of effective American leadership, that President Xi, the President of China, has ordered the Chinese military, the People's Liberation Army, to be ready and capable to take Taiwan by force in 2027, 2 years from now.

If China's aggression in the Indo-Pacific goes unchecked, President Xi and the Chinese Communist Party will continue to threaten, intimidate, and ultimately invade China's neighbors. The CCP, Chinese Communist Party, will likely escalate its economic war against the United States by blackballing us from the biggest market in the world and starving our country of

critical supplies, including critical minerals.

It is no secret that China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea are now working in concert to undermine the United States and our allies. It is no exaggeration to say we are perhaps at the most dangerous environment, geopolitically, since World War II.

And we know from history that the beginning of wars becomes only clear in retrospect. We know that from the runup to World War II. This is a dangerous period and environment. So the United States must reestablish deterrence and must show the world that we are serious about confronting these threats and the reality head-on.

And while I admit this paints a rather grim picture, I am confident that the United States is headed toward a new chapter of "peace through strength," as Ronald Reagan said, this time with President Trump as our Commander in Chief.

I am glad to see President Trump has selected military veteran Pete Hegseth as the next Defense Secretary, Representative MIKE WALTZ as the National Security Advisor, and our friend and colleague Senator MARCO RUBIO as Secretary of State. And I am proud that my fellow Texan and my former colleague in Congress John Ratcliffe has been selected to direct the Central Intelligence Agency.

I am looking forward to working with these terrific individuals to reverse the disastrous policies of the Biden administration, but we all have our work cut out for us. But I am confident that, in these individuals, President Trump picked the right people for the job.

The first and most significant task at hand will be shoring up our Armed Forces, specifically the U.S. Navy. A revitalization of the Navy will be critical to deterring Chinese aggression in the Indo-Pacific as well as keeping AUKUS—our partnership with Australia and the UK—alive and well.

In order to pose a credible threat to the CCP, in order to maintain deterrence—which is our ultimate goal—we need to adequately resource the Navy as well. This starts with our shipbuilding capabilities. Secretary-designate Hegseth should waste no time in working with Congress on a shipbuilding plan.

We also stand ready to work with the Trump administration on a plan to reinvigorate our aging shipyards, which are struggling to attract and retain necessary talent. The Pentagon can streamline its specifications for building maritime assets, ensuring that they are linked to warfighting requirements.

Another priority must be improving military recruitment. I am pleased to see Secretary-designate Hegseth's commitment to ending the politicalization of our military. Given the Biden administration's needless focus on what divides us instead of what unites us, it is really no surprise that the number of

Americans voluntarily joining our military is at an alltime low. Reducing the diversity, equity, and inclusion bureaucracy will have the benefit of freeing up resources necessary to aid recruitment and rebuilding. By ending these culture wars and reorienting the Pentagon toward a commitment to excellence as a top priority, we will be better positioned to recruit a talented military ready to deter aggression anywhere around the world.

And the Pentagon must come to terms with our depleted arsenal of critical munitions. This includes replenishing our stock of long-range anti-ship missiles, joint air-to-surface standoff missiles, and the advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles.

Secretary-designate Hegseth can do this cost effectively by returning to policies that the Pentagon has disregarded in recent years. Mandatory fixed-price commercial contracts promote cost savings for the taxpayer. Contrast this with the Department of Defense's current model of cost-plus contracting, which has stifled innovation and allowed private sector contractors to outsource R&D costs to the taxpayer.

So we have a lot of work to do as a Congress and as a nation to bolster our commitment to our allies and shore up deterrence against our adversaries. But by reversing the damage done over the last 4 years by the Biden-Harris administration, we will be well on our way to a world where America's friends trust us once again and our enemies fear us once again.

I look forward to working with Secretary-designate Hegseth, Secretary-designate RUBIO, and President Trump to move this country in a better direction. I am confident that working together with that goal in mind we can work toward a safer and more peaceful world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

DREAM ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise today to discuss an issue I have been working on for 23 years, the plight of America's Dreamers. I first introduced the DREAM Act more than two decades ago with Republican Senator Orrin Hatch, who was then the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

This bipartisan bill would provide a pathway to citizenship for young immigrants who were brought to the United States as children and allow them to remain in this country, the only home many of them had ever known.

Dreamers grew up alongside our kids, with the same hopes and dreams of getting their first job, their driver's license, even going to college. Many have gone on to serve our Nation as doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers, and first responders. Some have shown their loyalty to this country by serving in the Armed Forces.

Yet without congressional action, Dreamers spend every day in fear of

their lives being uprooted by the threat of deportation. Twelve years ago, in response to a bipartisan request from myself and Senator Richard Lugar, President Obama established the DACA Program.

DACA has protected more than 830,000 young people from deportation, all of whom were brought to this country as children, some as young as a few months old.

Now, I realize for many of us the outcome of this month's elections was not what we wanted, fought for, or voted for. However, my priority of providing a safe pathway to citizenship for Dreamers has not changed because of the election. No matter who sits in the Oval Office, I will work with the President in good faith to help provide these young adults a chance, finally, at the American dream.

I would like to share the story of a talented Dreamer. He is willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for this country. He is the 146th story of Dreamers that I have highlighted on the Senate floor. His name is Chieh Wi Chen, brought to the United States from Taiwan when he was 11 years old, grew up in New York City, and believed in the importance of community and country. He eagerly registered for Junior ROTC in high school, enlisted in the Army in 2016, and earned his associate's degree in criminal justice from Queensborough Community College.

He was on Active Duty for 4 years, stationed at Fort Jackson, which was then known as Fort Lee, before being deployed to countries including Saudi Arabia and South Korea.

While he was deployed in South Korea, Chieh was able to take his oath of allegiance to the United States and become a citizen. Today, as an Army veteran, he is a proud owner of his own tea shop, creating jobs for others and supporting the local economy.

DACA opened a path for Chieh that allowed him to pursue the American dream. DACA was always intended as a temporary stopgap until Congress finally got around to fixing this broken immigration system in America. In Chieh's case, DACA was the stepping stone he needed to finally serve our Nation and reach his full potential.

Yet, since President Obama established the program, Republicans have waged a relentless campaign to overturn DACA and deport these Dreamers back to countries they never remember. Now this program is hanging by a thread in the courts due to legal challenges from Republican State attorneys general, and DACA recipients are forced to live with uncertainty every day.

Last September, a Federal judge in Texas declared the DACA Program illegal. Though the decision left in place protections for current DACA recipients while it is on appeal, Dreamers live in constant fear that the next court decision will upend their lives. The litigation has also prevented at least 100,000 additional Dreamers from registering for the program.

Madam President, our military is facing the most serious recruitment challenge in modern time. Only a quarter of Americans meet recruitment standards that would qualify them to serve in the military without receiving a waiver.

We have seen time and again that DACA holders and Dreamers are ready and willing to serve America, to risk their lives for this country. But despite the success of veterans like Chieh, DACA holders can no longer enlist in the military, even though they went to school in the United States, pledged allegiance to our flag for decades, and know no other country.

During his first term, then-President Trump tried to shut down the DACA Program, but his effort was blocked by the Supreme Court.

On a personal note, the first time I ever met Donald Trump was just minutes after he had been sworn in as President of the United States for his first term. I had a chance at a luncheon to walk up and shake his hand and congratulate him and to ask a question. My question to him was: What are you going to do about the Dreamers? What about these kids who are here in the United States, brought here as children who want to be part of our future—what will you do about them, Mr. President?

He said: Don't worry. We'll take care of those kids.

Sadly, in the 4 years of the first term of President Trump, that didn't happen. The opposite did. Many efforts were made by his Department of Justice and other Agencies to stop the DACA Program and to stop any effort to create a Dreamers Program. That is a sad reality.

I urge my colleagues to meet with these Dreamers personally. That is all I ask. Whether you support DACA or support the Dream Act, meet with them and hear their stories. Understand that decisions were made by their family which may have violated the law, but they were kids at the time those decisions were made. They have proven with their own personal lives and commitment that they truly want to be part of the future of America.

Are we better served because this man decided to enlist in the military and protect our country? Of course. His return to Taiwan would be at the expense of the safety and security of the United States.

Dreamers like Chieh have earned the right to put down roots, start their families, further their education, and continue to contribute to America. It is time for Congress to do something on a bipartisan basis and pass the Dream Act. It is not only the right thing to do; it is long overdue.

NOMINATION OF AMIR H. ALI

Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Amir Ali to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Mr. Ali received his B.S.E. from the University of Waterloo and his J.D.,

magna cum laude, from Harvard Law School. He then served as a law clerk to Judge Raymond C. Fisher on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in Pasadena and Justice Marshall Rothstein on the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa.

Following his clerkships, Mr. Ali joined Jenner & Block LLP as a litigation associate in the firm's Washington, DC, office, where he focused on complex civil litigation, regulatory litigation, and appeals. Since 2017, he has worked for the Roderick & Solange MacArthur Justice Center in Washington, DC, where he currently serves as president and executive director. His practice at the firm has included civil and criminal litigation at all levels of Federal and State judiciaries, as well as work before Federal administrative Agencies. Notably, Mr. Ali has served as the lead counsel on merits briefing in four U.S. Supreme Court cases, and he has argued three of them.

In addition to his legal practice, Mr. Ali has directed Harvard Law School's Criminal Justice Appellate Clinic since 2019. He has also taught at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, Harvard Law School, and Georgetown University Law Center. His nomination has received support from groups and individuals from across a wide range of ideologies and backgrounds, and the American Bar Association rated him as "well qualified" to serve on the district court.

Mr. Ali's significant litigation experience in private practice and at a non-profit law firm makes him an outstanding nominee—and ensures that he will be a valuable addition to the district court. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting his nomination.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the rollcall vote begin immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON ALI NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Ali nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Braun).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 291 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Heinrich | Reed |
| Bennet | Helmy | Rosen |
| Blumenthal | Hickenlooper | Sanders |
| Booker | Hirono | Schatz |
| Brown | Kaine | Schumer |
| Butler | Kelly | Shaheen |
| Cantwell | King | Smith |
| Cardin | Klobuchar | Stabenow |
| Carper | Lujan | Tester |
| Casey | Manchin | Van Hollen |
| Coons | Markey | Warner |
| Cortez Masto | Merkley | Warnock |
| Duckworth | Murphy | Warren |
| Durbin | Murray | Welch |
| Fetterman | Ossoff | Whitehouse |
| Gillibrand | Padilla | Wyden |
| Hassan | Peters | |

NAYS—49

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Grassley | Risch |
| Blackburn | Hagerty | Romney |
| Boozman | Hawley | Rounds |
| Britt | Hoeben | Rubio |
| Budd | Hyde-Smith | Schmitt |
| Capito | Johnson | Scott (FL) |
| Cassidy | Kennedy | Scott (SC) |
| Collins | Lankford | Sinema |
| Cornyn | Lee | Sullivan |
| Cotton | Lummis | Thune |
| Cramer | Marshall | Tillis |
| Crapo | McConnell | Tuberville |
| Cruz | Moran | Vance |
| Daines | Mullin | Vance |
| Ernst | Murkowski | Wicker |
| Fischer | Paul | Young |
| Graham | Ricketts | |

NOT VOTING—1

Braun

The nomination was confirmed. (Ms. BALDWIN assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to legislative session.

The Senator from Vermont.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE—S.J. RES. 111

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, pursuant to section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, I move to discharge the Committee on Foreign Relations from further consideration of S.J. Res. 111, relating to the disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Israel of certain defense articles and services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to discharge from the Committee on Foreign Relations, S.J. Res. 111, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Israel of certain defense articles and services.

Mr. SANDERS. I would ask unanimous consent to dispense with further reading of the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2

hours of debate equally divided between proponents and opponents.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, thank you very much, and let me thank the leadership for their cooperation in setting up this debate.

Today, we will be voting on three joint resolutions of disapproval, or JRDs, to block the sale of certain offensive weapons to Israel. These resolutions are S.J. Res. 111, to block the sale of 120-millimeter tank rounds; S.J. Res. 113, to block the sale of 120-millimeter high-explosive mortar rounds; and S.J. Res. 115, to block the sale of JDMs, the guidance kits attached to many of the bombs dropped in Gaza.

I would note to my colleagues that these resolutions are strongly supported by more than 100 civil society groups, including pro-Israel groups, like J Street; some of the largest labor unions in this country, including the SEIU, the United Auto Workers, and the United Electrical Workers; humanitarian groups, like Amnesty International and Doctors of the World; and religious groups, like the United Methodist Church and the Friends Committee; and many, many other organizations.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the list of these supporting organizations.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S.J. RES. 111, S.J. RES. 113, AND S.J. RES. 115 ARE SUPPORTED BY MORE THAN 118 CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS.

That includes labor unions like the SEIU, the United Auto Workers and the United Electrical Workers; pro-Israel groups like J Street; humanitarian organizations like Amnesty International, ActionAid USA and Doctors of the World; and religious groups like the United Methodist Church, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and Emgage Action.

FULL LIST OF ENDORSING ORGANIZATIONS

1. Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
2. United Auto Workers (UAW)
3. United Electrical Workers (UE)
4. J Street
5. About Face: Veterans Against the War
6. Action Corps
7. ActionAid USA
8. American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
9. Americans for Justice in Palestine Action (AJP Action)
10. Amnesty International USA
11. Arab American Institute
12. Association of US Catholic Priests
13. Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)
14. Center for Economic and Policy Research
15. Center for International Policy
16. Center for Jewish Nonviolence
17. CommonDefense.us
18. DAWN
19. Doctors of the World
20. Emgage Action
21. Friends Committee on National Legislation
22. Human Rights Watch
23. IfNotNow Movement
24. Indivisible
25. Just Foreign Policy
26. Justice Democrats

27. MADRE
28. Oxfam America
29. Oxfam America Action Fund
30. Peace Action
31. People's Action
32. Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft
33. Refugees International
34. ReThinking Foreign Policy
35. The Episcopal Church
36. The Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy (TIMEP)
37. The United Church of Christ
38. The United Methodist Church—General Board of Church and Society
39. The United Methodist Church—General Board of Church and Society
40. Uncommitted National Movement
41. United We Dream
42. US Campaign for Palestinian Rights Action (USCPRA Action)
43. Win Without War
44. Working Families Party
45. Doctors Against Genocide
46. 18 Million Rising
47. Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Mankind
48. American Baptist Churches USA
49. American Friends Service Committee
50. Arab Resource & Organizing Center Action (AROC Action)
51. Arms Control Association
52. Avaaz
53. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
54. Center for Constitutional Rights
55. Center for Victims of Torture
56. Center National Council of Churches
57. Charity & Security Network
58. Children Not Numbers
59. Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy
60. Civic Shout, Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT)
61. CODEPINK
62. Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
63. Control Arms
64. Defending Rights & Dissent
65. Demand Progress
66. Democracy for America Advocacy Fund
67. Democratic Socialists of America
68. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
69. Extend
70. Faith Strategies
71. Franciscan Action Network
72. Freedom Forward
73. Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)
74. Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ
75. Hindus for Human Rights
76. Institute for Policy Studies, New Internationalism Project
77. Israel/Palestine Mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
78. Jewish Voice for Peace Action
79. Law For Palestine
80. Leadership Team of the Felician Sisters of North America
81. Legacies of War
82. Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
83. Medglobal
84. Medical Mission Sisters, Justice Office
85. MENA Rights Group
86. Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
87. Middle East Children's Alliance
88. Middle East Democracy Center (MEDC)
89. Migrant Roots Media
90. MPower Change Action Fund
91. Muslim Peace Fellowship
92. National Council of Churches
93. National Iranian American Council Action
94. Nonviolence International
95. Nonviolent Peaceforce
96. Our Revolution
97. Pax Christi USA

98. Peace Direct
99. Presbyterian Church (USA)
100. Progressive Democrats of America (PDA)
101. Quixote Center
102. RootsAction.org
103. Saferworld (US)
104. Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross
105. Society of Helpers
106. The Borgen Project
107. The Human Dignity Project (THDP)
108. The Religious Nationalisms Project
109. Transnational Institute
110. United Church of Christ Palestine Israel Network
111. United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR)
112. Washington Report on Middle East Affairs
113. Women for Weapons Trade Transparency
114. Women's March
115. Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER)
116. World BEYOND War
117. Yemen Relief and Reconstruction Foundation
118. Yemeni Alliance Committee

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I would also point out that poll after poll shows that a strong majority of the American people oppose sending more weapons and military aid to fund Netanyahu's war machine. I would also mention, interestingly enough, that according to a poll commissioned by J Street—this is a pro-Israel organization—62 percent of Jewish Americans support withholding weapon shipments to Israel until Netanyahu agrees to an immediate cease-fire.

These resolutions are aimed at offensive weapons that have been used to devastating effect against civilians in Gaza and Lebanon. They would not affect any of the systems Israel uses to defend itself from incoming attacks.

From a legal perspective, these resolutions are simple, straightforward, and not complicated. Bottom line: the U.S. Government must obey the law—not a very radical idea—but unfortunately that is not the case now.

Every Member of the Senate who believes in the rule of law, that our government should obey the law, should vote for these resolutions.

The Foreign Assistance Act and the Arms Export Control Act are very clear. The United States cannot provide weapons to countries that violate internationally recognized human rights or block U.S. humanitarian aid.

Let me repeat that because that is the essence of this entire debate. Not complicated. The U.S. Government cannot provide weapons to countries that violate internationally recognized human rights or block U.S. humanitarian aid. That is not my opinion; that is what the law says.

According to the United Nations, according to much of the international community, according to virtually every humanitarian organization on the ground in Gaza, Israel is clearly in violation of these laws.

Under these circumstances, it is illegal for the U.S. Government to provide Israel with more offensive weapons. These joint resolutions of disapproval

are Congress's tool to enforce the law, and that is exactly what we must do.

It has been more than 13 months since the October 7 Hamas terrorist attack on Israel, an attack which killed 1,200 innocent people and took 250 hostages, including Americans.

As I have said many, many times, Israel had the absolute right to respond to that horrific Hamas attack, as any other country would. I don't think anybody here in the U.S. Senate disagrees with that. But Prime Minister Netanyahu's extremist government has not simply waged war against Hamas; it has waged an all-out war against the Palestinian people.

Within Gaza's population of just 2.2 million people—and I want people to conceptualize that that is about the size of New Mexico, 2.2 million people—more than 43,000 Palestinians have been killed and more than 103,000 injured, a population of about the size of New Mexico. And 60 percent of those who have been killed and injured are women, children, or elderly people.

According to satellite imagery, two-thirds of all structures in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed—two-thirds of all structures. Think about that. Two-thirds of all structures have been damaged or destroyed. That includes 87 percent of the housing, 84 percent of health facilities—84 percent of health facilities—and 70 percent of sanitation plants. Right now, there is raw sewage running through the streets of Gaza, and it is very difficult for the people there to obtain clean drinking water.

Every one of Gaza's 12 universities has been bombed. They have got 12 universities; every single one of them has been bombed, as have many hundreds of schools. For 13 months, there has been no electricity in Gaza.

During the last year, millions of desperately poor people in Gaza have been repeatedly driven from their homes and forced to evacuate time and time again with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. So let's imagine millions of people driven from their homes, told to go here, told to go there, and going from one place to another. Families in Gaza have been herded into so-called safe zones, only to face continued bombardment. They are told to go to this area, and the bombs start falling, and the children start dying.

The children of Gaza have suffered a level of physical and emotional abuse that is almost beyond comprehension, abuse that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. These children today—as we speak, right now—are hungry, they are thirsty, they cannot access healthcare. And all around them, they have witnessed death and destruction. That is what the children of Gaza have experienced, and Gaza is a very young population.

And as horrific as that situation is, what has happened over the last year, what is taking place today, right now, this moment as we discuss this issue, it is even worse, if that is imaginable. As a result of Israel blocking desperately

needed humanitarian aid, the volume of aid getting into Gaza in recent weeks is lower than at any point since the war began. More aid is needed; less aid is getting through. The result? Many thousands of children are facing malnutrition and starvation. Let me repeat that: Many thousands of children today are facing malnutrition and starvation. This is not my observation; this is what the leaders of the 19 most important humanitarian organizations on the ground in Gaza, including the American head of UNICEF, Cathy Russell, and the American head of the World Food Programme, Cindy McCain, wife of our former colleague John McCain—that is what they say, according to their recent report:

The situation unfolding in North Gaza is apocalyptic . . . Basic, life-saving goods are not available. Humanitarians are not safe to do their work and are blocked by Israeli forces and by insecurity from reaching people in need.

And they continue:

[As a result,] the entire [Palestinian] population in North Gaza is at imminent risk of dying from disease, famine, and violence.

These are the 19 major humanitarian organizations operating in Gaza right now, including several of the major ones led by Americans. And Israel's recent decision to ban UNWRA, the backbone of the humanitarian response in Gaza, will only make a horrific situation even worse.

Madam President, I have met with doctors who have served in Gaza treating hundreds of patients a day without electricity, without anesthesia, without clean water, including dozens of children arriving with gunshot wounds in the head. I have seen the photographs and the videos. And we have some of them here. I have seen—I have heard from UNICEF who estimates that 10 children lose a leg in Gaza every single day. There are now more than 17,000 orphans in Gaza.

Let me quote from a New York Times opinion piece of October 9, 2024—a little more than a month ago—where American doctors and nurses in Gaza—these are Americans working in Gaza—describe what they saw on the ground.

Merril Tydings is a nurse from New Mexico, and she said, "These people were starving." She is talking about healthcare workers, her colleagues.

These people were starving. I learned very quickly to not drink my water or eat the food I had brought in front of the health care workers because they had gone so many days without.

Without food. Without water.

Dr. Ndal Farah from Ohio said:

Malnutrition was widespread. It was common to see patients reminiscent of Nazi concentration camps with skeletal features.

Abeerah Muhammad, a nurse from Dallas, TX, said:

Everyone we met showed us pictures of themselves before October. They had all lost 20 to 60 pounds of weight. Most patients and staff looked emaciated and dehydrated.

Dr. Nahreen Ahmed from Philadelphia said:

Every patient I treated had evidence of malnutrition. For example, poor wound healing and rapidly developing infections.

Dr. Aman Odeh from Texas said:

Mothers on the maternity ward delivered prematurely because of malnutrition, stress and infection. Milk production was poor due to lack of hydration and adequate food supply.

Dr. Mike Mallah from Charleston said:

All of my patients were suffering from malnutrition, 100 percent.

What is important to understand—and I am not sure that many of my colleagues do—is that the Israel of today that we are dealing with is not the Israel of Golda Meir or Yitzhak Rabin. This is a government now controlled not only by rightwing extremists but by religious zealots. National Security Minister Ben-Gvir, who oversees the police, has been convicted in Israeli courts on terrorism charges. He is the head of the police. Finance Minister Smotrich, in charge of the occupied West Bank, is also an extreme racist and has called for the expulsion of Palestinians from the land. That is the current Israeli Finance Minister.

In January, Prime Minister Netanyahu said of Gaza: We provide minimal humanitarian aid if we want to achieve our war goals.

At the start of the war, the Israeli Defense Minister said—and I hope people hear this. The Israeli defense minister—ex-minister:

We are fighting human animals and we act accordingly . . . there will be no electricity, no food . . . no fuel. Everything [is] closed.

Former Israeli Defense Minister. That is what he said and, in fact, by and large, that is exactly how this war has been waged.

What this extremist government has done in Gaza is unspeakable, but what makes it even more painful is that much of this has been done with U.S. weapons and American taxpayer dollars. In the last year alone, the United States has provided \$18 billion in military aid to Israel—\$18 billion dollars. And, by the way, a few blocks from here, people are sleeping out on the street. And we have also delivered more than 50,000 tons of military equipment to Israel—50,000 tons.

In other words, the United States of America is complicit in all of these atrocities. We are funding these atrocities. That complicity must end, and that is what these resolutions are about. It is time to tell the Netanyahu government that they cannot use U.S. taxpayer dollars and American weapons in violation of United States and international law and our moral values.

Despite receiving 18 billion from U.S. taxpayers in the last year and being the largest historical recipient of U.S. foreign aid, the Netanyahu government has completely ignored—completely ignored—the repeated requests of President Biden and the U.S. Government.

It is time to make clear to Netanyahu that he cannot take Amer-

ican money, take American arms, and continue to blind U.S. foreign policy goals.

The U.S. Government wants a ceasefire for a hostage deal. Netanyahu has prevented a deal to preserve his coalition.

The U.S. Government wants more humanitarian aid to reach the desperate people in Gaza. Netanyahu is blocking that aid.

The U.S. Government wants to contain regional escalation. Netanyahu has refused diplomatic off-ramps and launched several reckless attacks without consulting the United States.

The U.S. Government wants to stop settlement expansion and settle the violence in the West Bank. Netanyahu and his Ministers have driven record settlement expansion and armed extremist settlers.

The U.S. Government wants a plan for postwar governance in Gaza. Netanyahu will not engage.

And by the way, blocking these sales would also be in keeping with actions taken by some of our closest allies. The United Kingdom suspended 30 arms export licenses after concluding there was an acceptable risk they could be used in violation of international law. Germany, Italy, Spain, Canada, Belgium, and the Netherlands have taken similar steps. U.N. bodies have called for an end to the armed shipments fueling the conflict.

Time and time again, I have heard Members of the U.S. Senate come to this floor to denounce human rights violations taking place around the world. I have heard well-founded concerns about China's brutal reception of the Uighur ethnic minority. I have heard rightful outrage about Putin's brutal attacks against Ukraine and bombing of civilian installations. I have heard genuine concern about Iran's outrageous crackdown on peaceful protestors. I have heard repeated condemnations of Saudi Arabia's terrible treatment of women and political dissidents.

And on and on it goes. A lot of folks come to the floor to talk about human rights and what is going on throughout the world. But what I want to say to all those folks: Nobody is going to take anything you say with a grain of seriousness. You cannot condemn human rights around the world and then turn a blind eye to what the U.S. Government is now funding in Israel. People will laugh in your face. They will say to you: Are you concerned about China? Are you concerned about Russia? Are you concerned about Iran? Well, why are you funding the starvation of children in Gaza right now?

We must pass these resolutions from a legal perspective. The U.S. Government must obey the law. We must pass these resolutions from a moral perspective. The United States must not provide support to a government which has created one of the worst humanitarian disasters in modern history.

We must pass these resolutions for our own best foreign policy interests. If

we do not demand that the countries we provide military assistance to obey international law, we will lose our creditability on the world stage.

With that, I would like to yield to Senator MERKLEY of Oregon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, in 1978, between my junior and senior years in college, I hitchhiked through Israel and the West Bank. I made Israeli friends. I was invited to stay at a kibbutz. I explored the old city of Jerusalem. I negotiated the ancient tunnel built by King Hezekiah in the face of advancing armies. I climbed a snake path to the top of Masada. I swam in the Sea of Galilee and the Red Sea and the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.

I was so impressed by the energy for building a new nation, for planting forests, for making the desert bloom with new irrigation systems, constructing cities and roads.

And, in addition, peace was on the horizon. Nine months before my visit in November 1977, Anwar Sadat had visited Jerusalem to address the Knesset and pursue a path to peace.

And then, just weeks after I left, he was shaking hands with Menachem Begin and Jimmy Carter at Camp David, and a peace treaty was signed the following year in March.

I was all in on America standing in partnership with this new nation perched on a little sliver of land surrounded by hostile neighbors. And I voted here in the Senate time and again for economic support for Israel, for military support for Israel.

I have believed in the vision that it was the right way to help Israel thrive, the best path to peace and security. As many of us reasoned, if Israel's economy was thriving and their military strength ensured their security, they could, with confidence, negotiate a secure and peaceful future with their neighbors. They could, with confidence, negotiate parameters for a Palestinian State so the Palestinians could thrive as well.

Not so long ago, just over a decade, I traveled to Israel with former Senator Mark Begich of Alaska and Kay Hagan of North Carolina, and we met around a little table with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. And at that time, now 12 years ago, he expounded eloquently on his thesis that the only path for Israel's peace and prosperity was two states for two people.

In the dozen years since, much has changed. Prime Minister Netanyahu has become a public and vocal opponent of a Palestinian State. Israel has engaged in a de facto annexation of the West Bank, land essential for a Palestinian State. They have done this through settlements. They have done this through legalizing outposts. They have created innumerable checkpoints. They have created settler-only roads.

In addition, Netanyahu has formed his government now with Bezael

Smotrich, as Minister of Finance, someone who has said the Palestinian people do not exist and called for a Palestinian town to be erased; Itamar Ben-Gvir, Minister of National Security, celebrated Baruch Goldstein's slaughter of 29 Palestinians at the Cave of Patriarchs massacre in 1994.

Today, the policies of the Netanyahu government are very different than the policies 12 years before. Under this government, attacks by Israel's West Bank settlers against Palestinian villages have become more frequent, violent, and often condoned by the Israeli Defense Forces.

Events on October 7, a year ago, took a terrible turn. Hamas terrorists attacked Israeli communities. They slaughtered 1,200 Israeli men, women, and children. They abducted 240 hostages, and the whole world was with Israel. We recalled 9/11. We grieved with Israel. We grieved with the Jewish communities in our home State. And we defended Israel's right to respond with a campaign targeted at destroying Hamas.

But I am here on the floor today because the way a war is conducted matters. And Israel's bombing campaign, described by President Biden as indiscriminate, has reduced Gaza to rubble and ruin. This destroyed most of the infrastructure needed for survival: schools, hospitals, homes, the power system, the communications phone system, the internet system, the water system, the transportation system.

Most significantly, the bombing campaign has killed tens of thousands of women, children, and seniors. It has seriously injured more than 100,000 Palestinians living in Gaza.

And Israel has chosen to restrict humanitarian aid. The consequences of that are that food and clean water are woefully short; medical supplies are minimal; and the specter of starvation haunts Gaza. The indiscriminate bombing and the obstruction of humanitarian aid violate the laws of war.

Now, President Biden and his team have consistently pressed the Netanyahu government to change tracks. They recognize that it is difficult in the setting in Gaza where Hamas imbeds itself but even so have argued to Israel that the campaign against Hamas could be much more targeted with far fewer civilian casualties. But the Netanyahu government has rejected this appeal. And Biden and his team have pushed to open the gates to Gaza, have Israel open the gates to Gaza, and to massively increase humanitarian aid. And, again, the Netanyahu government has rejected this appeal.

In mid-October, just last month, Secretary of State Blinken and Secretary of Defense Austin renewed their appeal. They warned the Netanyahu government that they must increase the amount of humanitarian aid within 30 days to comply with U.S. law. And they wrote in that letter that the amount of assistance entering Gaza in September

was the lowest of any month in the last year.

They laid out in this letter a whole series of horrific conditions that need to be addressed, just as they had argued for the same for the previous year. The result of that has simply been minimal to no action.

In November, a major evaluation was summarized in a letter by the principals of the Inner Agencies Standing Committee. These are groups like the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Oxfam and UNICEF and the World Food Programme, headed by Cindy McCain, and the World Health Organization.

These leaders who have folks on the ground, who have lots of experts evaluating the situation, they recognize this. They summarized that the situation unfolding in North Gaza is apocalyptic. And they go on to talk about the schools serving as shelters having been bombed, about rescue teams being deliberately attacked, and more.

As I described at the start of my remarks, I have, since my first trip to Israel in 1978, been all in on the special partnership between the United States and Israel, on economic support, on security support, in the belief that our partnership would maximize Israel's confidence in pursuing peace and security. But the actions of the last decade have shattered that analysis.

The Netanyahu government is systematically undermining the possibility of a Palestinian State through its settlement checkpoints, its outposts, its settler-only highways. It is conducting its war campaign in Gaza in a fashion that is producing massive civilian deaths and injuries, conditions that aid organizations consistently described as the worst they have seen anywhere in the world.

I believe that not only is this horrific for the Palestinians, but this is absolutely not in the best interest of Israel's future. The actions of the Netanyahu government are burning through a massive reservoir of good will that was overflowing after October 7. It is undoing the improved relationship with Arab neighbors won through the Abraham Accords.

It is damaging because of our connection to Israel through military arms, our advocacy and legitimacy campaigning for human rights around the world.

So I ask you, what do you do when a good friend, a partner, heads off on a disastrous course?

President Biden and his team responded by providing proposals and encouragement to get back on course, but those were rejected. So now we must weigh in here in this Chamber. And many in this Chamber may say: Let's just continue the past; let's not see the horrific circumstances in Gaza; let's not observe the systematic takeover of the West Bank; let's ignore all that and continue with this very different right-wing government without ever raising an eyebrow.

I disagree. I think that true partners do not stand idly by when their partners go way off track in destructive ways and, thus, that we should not continue to provide the munitions that we are voting on today.

We cannot remain silent in the face of Netanyahu's strategy. We must not continue to provide offensive weapons that make the United States complicit in the deaths of tens of thousands of Palestinians and the injury of 100,000 more innocents. Thus, I will choose to honor American law and respect international law and support Israel's best, long-term interests to thrive by voting to block these three weapons transfers up for consideration today.

I was fabulously impressed by Israel when I hitchhiked around the country in 1978—impressed by their can-do spirit, impressed by the future of peace with Egypt and the possibility of peace with every neighbor. I look forward to seeing that vision of peace and security realized, and my vote today supports that vision.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. ROSEN. Madam President, since Hamas launched the deadliest terrorist attack in Israel's history more than a year ago, Israel has consistently faced a barrage of threats from Iran and its terrorist proxies. Earlier this year, we all saw how Iran launched two separate missile and drone attacks directly at Israel, and, just this week, Israelis were wounded and killed after Hezbollah launched more rockets at northern Israel.

The resolutions we are debating today would not only hurt Israel's ability to defend itself against these attacks; they would embolden Iran—I will repeat—they will embolden Iran and its terrorist proxies to continue and even to increase their vicious and deadly attacks. In doing so, they could prolong this war even further at a time when we are close to securing a deal in Lebanon.

I know some on my side of the aisle are going to support these resolutions because they disagree with the current Israeli Government, but your decision whether or not to help Israel defend itself is not and cannot be a political one. Government leaders and politicians, well, come and go, but our commitment to Israel's security must be ironclad, and restricting much needed arms to Israel because you don't agree with everything the current government is doing will leave our ally vulnerable to future terror.

I will repeat. Governments and leaders come and go. Will our support for our ally remain?

Israel has an absolute right to defend itself, and the aid provided by America is critical. I know some of you who are planning to vote for these resolutions agree, but you may be worried about the need for these offensive weapons that the resolutions would block. So let me explain.

Israel cannot rely on missile defense alone to protect its citizens. It also

needs to have the ability to destroy enemy threats before they can be deployed and to respond to attacks that have already been launched. It is this strategy that Israel successfully executed in the last few months in Lebanon, where it preemptively destroyed Hezbollah rocket launchers minutes—just minutes, moments—before they were set to fire on Israel. And by providing Israel with these weapons, which are more precise and more accurate, we can actually help it defend itself while also minimizing civilian casualties.

I know many of you here are torn. You want to do the right thing, and I am here to tell you that voting against these resolutions is the right thing. Banning the sale of arms will hurt Israel. It will send the wrong message to Iran and its terrorist proxies that America is abandoning its ally and that the terrorists can now act with impunity.

Let me repeat. The message to terrorists will be, again, that they can continue to act with impunity. Terrorists like Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, and others will continue to receive that message loud and clear, and I can promise you that they will plan accordingly.

So, if we are serious about preventing another atrocity like October 7, if we are serious about limiting civilian casualties, if we are serious about sending a message to terrorists around the globe, I urge all of you to vote no on all three resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, I rise in opposition to the resolutions that we have before us.

For 76 years—and, by the way, I agree and associate myself with the remarks of my friend and colleague from Nevada and not so much with my colleagues from Vermont and Oregon, but I respect them individually. I am in opposition to these resolutions before us, and I want to speak for a few minutes as to why.

For 76 years, the United States has stood with the State of Israel, our strongest ally in the Middle East, but, today, Members of this body are sending a message that the United States' support for Israel is in question. It is not. This comes after a difficult year during which this administration has egregiously undermined Israel's ability to defend itself as it fights a several-front war against Iran and our common enemies. The administration has withheld weapons and ammunition. It has issued National Security Memorandum 20, which has held Israel to arbitrary standards and interfered in Israel's domestic politics—all in an effort to placate the far left of the Democratic Party during our own domestic elections.

Today, instead of acknowledging that American support for Israel is still strong, these resolutions seek to say that support for Israel has changed. It

has not. I know these resolutions will fail, and I hope the world will hear me when I say that the people of America support Israel—full stop—but I think it is important to remember how we got here.

This administration foolishly thought we could get along with Iran and beg the Iranians to talk. When the Iranians refused, the administration released billions of dollars in frozen assets in an effort to buy the Iranians off. Meanwhile, the administration reversed U.S. sanctions policies that had cut off the flow of money to the Iranians. The Iranian ghost fleet, which Tehran uses to evade sanctions, grew from under 80 ghost ships moving oil to now over 300 ships. Awash with money and knowing the administration would not challenge Iranian bad behavior, Iran knew it could start this war in Gaza without consequences.

Rather than focusing on Iran's behavior, these resolutions before us today are the predictable evolution of the administration's horrible and failed policies that seek to both appease the critics of Israel and isolate the Jewish State in the international community at a time of its greatest need. The departure from the regular process for moving arms sales and the administration's repeated threats to halt assistance to Israel invited these resolutions that are now before us. Withholding arms sales signals to the terrorists that American support for Israel is conditional and encourages Iran's proxies to extend the war in Gaza, further risking civilians and incentivizing Hezbollah to continue its attacks on Israel from the north.

We must stand with Israel as it confronts these threats. Voting in favor of these resolutions would have significant foreign policy implications far beyond the Middle East. U.S. allies across the globe will lose confidence in the United States as a dependable security partner. Partners straddling the fence between the United States on the one hand and China and Russia on the other are watching this and watching closely. They will certainly draw the conclusion that the United States is a fickle friend that cannot be relied upon to follow through on its commitments in the hour of their greatest need.

To make it worse, these resolutions highlight that, instead of confronting our adversaries and their bad actions, the United States will, instead, call on our friends to simply take it and to threaten them if they do not just take it.

The support for Israel has traditionally enjoyed broad, bipartisan support. I know that is true today. As such, I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote no on these resolutions and to deliver a strong voice of support for Israel.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, I want to show my support for what my

colleague just said, Senator RISCH, who made perfect sense. This is a consequential vote, and we all know how it is going to end, but let me tell you why it is consequential.

A lot of people are watching what we are doing here today, and they are trying to get a signal to understand, like, where we are all coming from. Let me tell you where I am coming from. I am coming from the idea that, if you want to end the war between Israel and the Palestinians, we need to replace Hamas with somebody who doesn't want to kill all the Jews.

Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, killing more Jews than at any time since the Holocaust. What were they up to in their pledge to destroy the Jewish State? They are religious Nazis. If you don't believe me, listen to what they have said. It was barbaric. They slaughtered entire families. They decapitated children. They raped women in front of their own families. And they filmed it to create hard hearts throughout the world and the region. The Nazis hid their crimes. Hamas filmed it so you could see it. Why?

October 7, in large part—not completely—was designed to stop efforts to have Saudi Arabia and Israel recognize each other and virtually end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

I have been to the region seven or eight times since October 7. I went with a group of five Republicans and five Democrats right after October 7 to deliver two messages. I went to Saudi Arabia, the biggest power in the Islamic world, and I went to Israel.

To our friends in Israel, I said: We will give you—at least from my view—the ability to make sure there is no second Holocaust. And the weapons we have provided to Israel have resulted in the destruction of Hamas.

There is no way forward for the Palestinians until you reform the P.A., which is run by a bunch of corrupt old guys, and make sure Hamas never comes back.

The most radicalized population on the planet are the young people in Gaza. From the time they are born to the time they die, they are taught to hate and kill the Jews. Look at their education system. How do we change that? Somebody other than Israel has to come in and take over Gaza and reform the West Bank and give the Palestinians a better life. It will not be the United States. We can't do that. It certainly isn't going to be Israel. Well, who would it be? It would be the Arab world.

The Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia has a vision for his country and the region that I buy into. We have had our problems in the past, for sure, but women can drive, which is a big thing, even though it doesn't sound like it. Women can go out to dinner without a male escort. It doesn't sound like a big thing, but it really is, and 38 percent of the people working in Saudi Arabia are young women. So he has a vision to change his country and to build on the Abraham Accords.

President Trump and his team were able to get six Arab nations to recognize Israel—the United Arab Emirates and others—which was a huge deal, and we have a chance to build on it.

So, for the last 2½ years, I have been going over to Saudi Arabia and Israel, working with the Biden administration, to try to build out the Abraham Accords. The big prize would be to have Saudi Arabia make peace with Israel, take over Gaza and the West Bank with other people in the region, and give the Palestinians a better life: rebuild Gaza; create an honest government to replace a corrupt government; give them sovereignty, self-government, the ability to live dignified lives; and to give Israel security.

October 7 was designed by Hamas to stop what was imminent. I am here to tell you that, on October 6, by the way, there were discussions about how to roll out the normalization deal. Then, along comes October 7. Ever since that day, we have been dealing with this horrible situation—the rape and torture and destruction of 1,200 Jewish people, the response by Israel that has resulted in thousands of people being killed—a lot of terrorists but a lot of children, a lot of innocent people.

There are a lot of photos being presented.

I ask unanimous consent to display two photos, if I may.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRAHAM. This is a photo of Hiroshima—two photos, actually. This is what happens when you drop a nuclear weapon on people. It is not good.

Now, why did we do that? After Pearl Harbor, we and the civilized world went to war against the Nazis and Imperial Japan. Millions of people lost their lives, but it was the goal of the United States to defeat Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan, and we were able to do that.

Out of the ashes of that terrible, horrible war, we now have two democracies. Japan and Germany are good allies of the United States. They are productive members of the international community. It took a generation-plus to change the radicalization of the German population to the Nazis and the same in Imperial Japan.

What will happen is, if we can find normalization between Saudi Arabia and Israel, there will be hope for the Palestinians like I have not seen before. Those who want a two-state solution, we have to sit down and talk about how you do that after October 7. But I do believe that without resolving the Palestinian issue where the Palestinian people have a hopeful life versus a glorious death, we will never move forward.

I really do believe, after October 7, Israel needs security more than ever. What is the key? The Arabs. The Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, I think, hold the key to this. If we could create a political horizon over the arc of time for the Pal-

estinians that you will have self-governance, that you will be independent, and convince the Israelis that this new entity will not threaten you, that there could never be another Oct 7, then we are well on our way to a new region. This resolution today, no matter how sincere, undercuts all of this.

Israel has had to respond to an attack that was the most vicious since World War II against the Jewish people. I blame Hamas more than any other group for the loss of life in Gaza because they use their own people as human shields.

This commitment of the United States to give Israel what they need to win a war they can't afford to lose has to be uncompromising, but what is not uncompromising is the day after.

We are getting to the point now that, with the destruction of Hamas, we have to think about, how can we prevent them from coming back? Israel cannot occupy Gaza. The West Bank needs to be reformed, but it has to be done with the Arab world leading the charge.

So what I would like to do with President Biden before he leaves office is work with President Trump, the incoming President, and President Biden, the outgoing President, to see if we can find a solution. Can we lock down a normalization agreement between Saudi Arabia and Israel that protects Saudi Arabia, a defense agreement with the United States so they will be in our column and they will have an anecdote to Iranian aggression? Can we, as a part of that, create a political horizon for the Palestinians to have hope where there is despair? Yes, we can.

But now is not the time to send this signal. This signal will be seen by the enemies of Israel and the enemies of peace that if they just stick with it, they will win.

If you want peace, you have to destroy those who hate peace. This is not a Bibi problem; this is a problem where the Islamic terrorists—Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran—want to kill all of the Jews, not just Bibi. Now, why do they want to do that? They are religious Nazis. I don't know why Hitler wanted to kill all the Jews, but he did.

So the Ayatollah has a couple of things in mind: the purification of Islam, which means that Sunni Islam will bend to his will—if you don't believe me, ask the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia. The other goal is to destroy the Jewish State and to drive us out of the Mideast.

The religious doctrine of the Shiites in charge compel them to kill all of the Jews. It is a commandment from God. Here is what I know: That is not what Islam teaches most Muslims, but they believe it. And when we ignored Hitler, we did so not only at our own peril but the peril of millions of people.

What have I learned from Israel? When someone threatens to kill you because you are of a particular race or religion, you should take that seriously.

So how do we end this conflict? We end this conflict with the complete decimation of Hamas, a plan for the day after that will replace Hamas in Gaza, reform the PA, try to get a cease-fire in Lebanon, and reduce the impact that Hezbollah has on the Lebanese people.

All of the Shiite, Iranian-backed militia have as their goal disruption, upheaval, and tyranny. They want to control the region and remake it in their own image. Look at what they are doing in Syria. Look at what they are doing in Yemen. Look at what they are doing in Lebanon.

We have a historic opportunity here to give Israel what they need to finish a war they can't afford to lose, come up with a day-after plan that would replace Hamas with a better life, try to get Lebanon in a better space, and build on the Abraham Accords. This effort by my colleagues undercuts all of that.

You have every right to say anything you want to say in this body, but I have been there a lot, and none of you have gone with me. Making peace is hard. We have not done this together. I have been with Senator VAN HOLLEN to Israel. I have been with Senator VAN HOLLEN before in the region. I think he wants to help the Palestinians, and I don't think he is anti-Semitic. I just think there is an opportunity here.

It is not about Bibi, folks; it is about a strain of Islam that will kill every Jew, including Bibi, and come after us unless they are defeated.

So my goal is not only to reject this idea but to work with President Biden and President Trump and their teams before the next President takes office, to have a day-after plan that will allow Israel to withdraw, and there will be no more October 7ths, and allow Gaza and the West Bank to be rebuilt with dignity and hope. That is my goal. This resolution undercuts my goal.

I would urge you to vote no.

I will be going back next week to Saudi Arabia, and I am going to keep working with the Biden administration and the incoming Trump administration to the last hour, to the last minute of the last day to find a solution.

I would end with this: If we fail to find a day-after plan that allows Israel to withdraw and be secure, and fail to deliver a political horizon for the Palestinians, God help us all. This will repeat itself. Iran will come back. Hezbollah and Hamas will reemerge.

We have a moment in time to change the region and change the world. I would ask all of us to see that moment in this resolution, this counter to what I am trying to achieve. So I would urge a "no" vote because peace and a dignified life for the Palestinians rests with a viable day-after plan.

What is the proper response to people who want to kill you and your family and destroy your way of life? I can tell you what the United States did. We went to war. We dropped two atomic

bombs to end a war we couldn't afford to lose.

What is the right response to those who want to kill all the Jews? Make sure they don't have the capability to do it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I rise in support of the joint resolutions of disapproval that the Senate is considering today on the sales of certain offensive weapons to the Netanyahu government.

To be clear, I do not support an arms embargo on Israel, but I do believe that the United States should pause the delivery of offensive weapons until the Netanyahu government meets the requirements of U.S. law and policy with respect to the delivery of humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza and the use of American weapons there.

This is not about abandoning support for Israel; this is about making sure Americans' support for Israel complies with American laws and policies and values. We would not be on this floor considering these resolutions if that was happening today, and these votes will be the one opportunity that Members of the Senate have to send that message. I urge my colleagues to support them.

Following the Hamas attacks of October 7, I have, as probably every Senator has, supported Israel's right to defend itself—in fact, argued that they have a duty to defend themselves—and end Hamas's control of Gaza, and I am steadfast in that support to this moment. There must be no more October 7ths.

At the same time, U.S. taxpayer-funded assistance should not come in the form of a blank check, even to our closest allies. We need to ensure that U.S. interests, values, and priorities will be respected by foreign governments that receive U.S. assistance. That is why our security assistance to many countries includes various conditions to encourage progress on human rights.

In some cases, as in the case of Ukraine, we have limited the use of certain systems to align with U.S. national security interests. In other cases, including even some NATO allies, we have prevented the transfer of certain advance weapons systems when our policies goals do not align.

The one minimum standard that we must apply to all recipients of American security assistance is compliance with American laws, and it is compliance with that minimum standard that we are talking about here today—nothing more, nothing less. The Netanyahu government should not be exempt from that universal requirement of American law.

The United States has provided billions and billions of dollars of American taxpayer-financed bombs and other offensive weapons systems, but

we have seen Prime Minister Netanyahu repeatedly violate the terms of American security assistance, disregard U.S. priorities, and ignore our requests, only to be rewarded by more bombs and more money. That pattern undermines the credibility of the United States around the world and creates an unacceptable double standard that our adversaries are exploiting.

Two of the conditions that every recipient of U.S. security assistance must meet are, one, they must facilitate and not arbitrarily restrict the delivery of humanitarian assistance into war zones where those U.S. weapons are being used—war zones like Ukraine and war zones like Gaza—and, two, they must use American-supplied weapons in accordance with international humanitarian law, which was well developed after World War II and what Senator GRAHAM spoke to.

The Netanyahu government is violating both of these requirements in Gaza, and by refusing to take action, the President and the United States are complicit in those violations of American laws and American values.

Let's look at the unacceptable restrictions being placed by the Netanyahu government on the delivery of humanitarian aid to desperately needy civilians in Gaza right now. It has been well documented that there was some improvement in the delivery of humanitarian supplies in Gaza last April, around the time that the Biden administration had to submit the NSM-20 report to Congress, but since then, aid levels have been on a downhill slide and then a precipitous drop. The cumulative impact of severe restrictions on the delivery of humanitarian aid has worsened an already catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza. Senator SANDERS spoke to the conditions there.

In fact, that is why President Biden directly called on Prime Minister Netanyahu to increase aid to Gaza on many occasions—most recently in an early October call—and that is why, on October 13, Secretaries Austin and Blinken expressly reminded Israeli Government officials, in a letter that I have here, of their obligations under U.S. and international law. They specifically cited section 620I of the Foreign Assistance Act and National Security Memorandum 20 to facilitate and not arbitrarily restrict the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Here is what our two Secretaries wrote in that letter:

We are particularly concerned that recent actions by the Israeli Government—including halting commercial imports, denying or impeding nearly 90% of humanitarian movements between northern and southern Gaza in September—

And then they go on to list a number of other things—
are contributing to an accelerated deterioration in Gaza's conditions.

Then Secretaries Austin and Blinken laid out a series of key measures against which they said the United

States was going to measure the Netanyahu government's compliance. They mentioned enabling a minimum of 350 trucks per day to enter Gaza. They mentioned instituting adequate humanitarian pauses across Gaza to enable humanitarian activities. They mentioned reinstating a minimum of 50 to 100 commercial trucks per day. They had a long list of items.

So what do eight very respected international NGOs that conduct humanitarian relief in Gaza and monitor it have to say about whether those conditions were met? Well, they have compiled a scorecard. I have got it right here. And what they say on the specific items I mentioned was that the Netanyahu government failed. In fact, the overall report card concludes "Israel Fails to Comply With U.S. Humanitarian Access Demands in Gaza."

In fact, they determined that not only did the Netanyahu government fail "to meet the U.S. criteria that would indicate support to the humanitarian response, but concurrently took actions that dramatically worsened the situation on the ground, particularly in Northern Gaza."

They said that the situation is even more dire today than a month ago. In other words, because of those actions that were taken, the situation was worse than when Secretaries Austin and Blinken sent their letter.

Indeed, an independent Washington Post analysis found that "Israel has largely failed to comply with the three main demands of the U.S. letter."

In that November 12 Washington Post article, they also pointed out the following:

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has refused to publicly disavow the plan, which calls for the military to take control of the north by starving out the civilian population and treating everyone who remains as combatants.

The story goes on to say:

The Israeli Defense Force says it has been given no such orders and is focused on dismantling Hamas, but the ongoing military operation in the north appears to have much in common with the strategy.

It is called the "General's Plan."

A leading Israeli newspaper, Haaretz, editorialized with the following headline:

Netanyahu's Ethnic Cleansing in Gaza Is on Display for All to See.

That is a view that has also been echoed by many Israeli human rights organizations, and I commend them on all the work that they do every day.

And I find it extraordinary that so many of our colleagues come to this floor to talk about human rights abuses across the world. They cite Human Rights Watch. They cite Amnesty International. But when it comes to those organizations writing reports about human rights violations conducted by the Netanyahu government—oh, no—they run away from that.

So let's look at what others have said in terms of monitoring the situation right now in Gaza.

On November 1, the principals of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the leaders of 15 U.N. and humanitarian organizations—including World Food Programme Executive Director Cindy McCain and UNICEF Director Catherine Russell, two American leaders of those organizations—said:

The situation unfolding in North Gaza is apocalyptic.

And they say:

The entire Palestinian population in North Gaza is at imminent risk of dying from disease, famine and violence.

Humanitarians are not safe to do their work and are blocked by Israeli forces and by insecurity from reaching people in need.

They say:

Rescue teams have been deliberately attacked and thwarted in their attempts to pull people buried under the rubble of their homes.

Yet we keep sending more bombs.

In that statement, the U.N. and humanitarian leaders also issued this call:

Member States must use their leverage to ensure respect for international law. That includes withholding arms transfers where there is a clear risk that such arms will be used in violation of international law.

So let's look at the use of American weapons. In its May 10 NSM-20 report to Congress, the Biden administration concluded:

[I]t is reasonable to assess that defense articles covered under NSM-20 have been used by Israeli security forces since October 7 in instances inconsistent with its [International Humanitarian Law] obligations or with established best practices for mitigating civilian harm.

And in that report—and I urge my colleagues to look at it—the administration identified a sampling of cases of civilian harm incidents where U.S. weapons were used. And they said there are some ongoing investigations and we are still waiting for answers from the Netanyahu government.

Well, just a few weeks ago, there was a report that we now have 500 cases of civilian harm where U.S. weapons were used under review.

And if you look at the most recent letter from Secretaries Blinken and Austin, you will see that they reference, at the bottom of their report, the following—and I want to read this because their letter says:

Lastly, it is crucial that our governments establish a new channel to raise and discuss incidents of civilian harm. Our previous engagements have not achieved the necessary outcomes. We request the initial virtual meeting for this channel to be held by the end of October.

This is more than a year into the war, and here you have the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State saying they are not getting enough information from the Netanyahu government to be able to make decisions about whether or not U.S. weapons have been used in violation of international humanitarian law. Yet, despite not getting that information, the administration has continued to send those taxpayer-financed offensive weapons.

And it is very clear that the Netanyahu government continues to conduct operations in Gaza in a way that results in large numbers of civilian casualties, and I think our colleagues know that the fact that Hamas violates international law and does despicable tactics by operating from amongst civilians does not absolve Israel or any other country involved in that kind of situation of the duty to avoid civilian harm and avoid the destruction of civilian infrastructure.

Since President Biden's recent call with Prime Minister Netanyahu last month, we have seen continued high rates of civilian deaths, and human rights organizations continue to document cases of weapons being used in violation of international humanitarian law.

Now, Madam President, that October 13 letter not only warned the Netanyahu government about unacceptable restrictions on humanitarian aid in Gaza and not only warned them about illegal use of American weapons; they also raised two other issues. One, they said that Israel is required by international law to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross access to Palestinian prisoners who were detained without any charges.

Yet, despite them sending the letter, no change there. And that means over 3,000 Palestinian prisoners who have been imprisoned without charge under administrative detention are not—the ICRC does not have access to them.

They also warned in their letter about pending legislation before the Knesset that would cripple UNRWA. And here is what Secretaries Austin and Blinken said. They warn that enactment “of such restrictions would devastate the Gaza humanitarian response at this critical moment and deny vital educational and social services to tens of thousands of Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, which could have implications under relevant U.S. law and policy.”

Within days of the U.S. Government sending that letter, two bills were passed by the Knesset to ban UNRWA.

So what we see, Madam President, is a continuing pattern. President Biden makes certain demands that are routinely ignored without consequence. In fact, they are rewarded. And this is an ineffective use of American leverage to accomplish our policy goals and ensure that American law is abided by.

I want to just mention a couple others, and Senator SANDERS referenced them. But we know that Prime Minister Netanyahu has repeatedly obstructed President Biden's plan for a ceasefire and the return of hostages.

Both in Washington and Israel, I have met with families of hostages who are experiencing unthinkable pain. I just met with the father of a soldier who is being held right now in Gaza as a hostage. They have stressed that Prime Minister Netanyahu has repeatedly obstructed President Biden's plan to bring home their loved ones.

In fact, in his farewell address just 2 weeks ago, former Israeli Defense Minister Gallant noted that one of the key disagreements leading to his firing by Netanyahu was over “our moral obligation and responsibility to bring our kidnapped sons and daughters back home as quickly as possible, with as many alive as possible, to their families.”

He went on to say:

Based on my role, experience, and the military achievements of the past year, with a clear-eyed view of reality, I state that this is achievable but involves painful compromises that Israel can bear, and the IDF can deal with.

There is and will not be any atonement for abandoning the captives.

This is former Defense Minister Gallant, fired by Netanyahu.

I heard Senator GRAHAM speak a lot about the “day after” plan. Well, President Biden has proposed a “day after” plan. It is to have a reformed Palestinian Authority form the nucleus of governance in Gaza. And, indeed, the Netanyahu government, led by Smotrich, not only opposes President Biden's plan, but they have worked to systematically weaken the P.A. by withholding tax revenues that it collects on behalf of the Palestinian people.

What is more, Prime Minister Netanyahu publicly rebuked President Biden's call to create a path to a two-state solution, even bragging that he had long blocked that outcome—something I heard Senator GRAHAM refer to as something that was needed.

So the Netanyahu government has refused to comply with other requests, as well, trying to change the rules of engagement on the West Bank in order to prevent the killing of innocent civilians, including the deaths of some American citizens. And contrary to longstanding policy in American Government, from Republicans and Democrats alike, about not having expanded settlements in the West Bank, something Secretary Blinken agreed was inconsistent with international law, we have seen a record number of settlements expanded by the Netanyahu government—in fact, one when Secretary Blinken was there in Israel.

So, Madam President, the issue here is not whether or not the United States is supporting Israel. The issue is whether or not, as we provide that support, we have a two-way street. A partnership should be a two-way street, not a one-way blank check. And, at a minimum, the Netanyahu government should comply with American law, as we have talked about today. And when they are not, we have an obligation to the American people and American taxpayers to make sure that we withhold that support until Netanyahu comes into compliance.

That is what we are saying here: Just meet the requirements of American law.

And all of us have an obligation to American taxpayers to make sure that

we are not complicit in violating American law and American values.

So, Madam President, that is why I encourage my colleagues to support these joint resolutions to send that message. This is the one opportunity we have to do so.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. I ask unanimous consent for 10 additional minutes for either side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, I rise today to voice my strong opinion to Senator SANDERS' attempt to cut off U.S. military support to our friend and ally Israel.

I don't dare denigrate my colleague's intent here or the motives, but I believe the effect is reckless and I believe it is dangerous and I believe it will lead to the loss of even more lives.

We need to remember some basic facts about the difference between the two sides of the conflict here. Israel is Middle East's only democracy. They have been a force for stability in the region that is historically beset by chaos. They have been America's strongest friend in good times and bad. Israel is an unmistakable force for good.

And then you have the terrorists of Hamas. I mean, even their founding charter calls for the destruction of the State of Israel. Hamas's largest benefactor, Iran, lends its materiel and financial support to this cause each and every day. They intentionally target civilians. They target civilians, and they fire rockets into crowded markets, and they preach not just death to Israel and to the Jewish people but death to America.

And then came October 7. On October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists launched an unprovoked and deceitful series of terrorist attacks inside Israel. The level of barbarism that we witnessed was nothing short of evil incarnate—the mass slaughter of innocent civilians; unmistakable and unspeakable violence against women, children, and the elderly. It was the deadliest massacre of the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

These crimes against humanity were also visited upon American citizens as well. Hamas murdered 46 Americans. They kidnapped 12. Seven U.S. citizens remain hostage in Gaza. The State of Israel has every right to root out the genocidal terrorists who committed these acts and eliminate the threat once and for all.

Israel is carrying out this military action with precision, thanks, in part, to munitions from the United States. For example, one of the systems that we sell to the Israelis is tail kits with GPS receivers. These kits convert unguided free-fall bombs into precision-guided bombs. Put simply, these kits turn "dumb bombs" into "smart bombs."

But Senator SANDERS proposes blocking the sale of these systems to the Israelis. And, apparently, Senator SANDERS would prefer that Israelis use less accurate weapons to eliminate terrorists.

Now, it doesn't take anything more than common sense to realize that this would make collateral damage even more likely. In Senator SANDERS' zeal to undermine our ally, he would make it more likely that Palestinian civilians—who Hamas intentionally uses as human shields—could be killed.

The bottom line is this: Cutting off U.S. support for an ally in their time of need is just unbecoming of our country. To hamstring the very nation trying to defeat the perpetrators of the October 7 carnage is insulting to the Americans who were murdered and those who are still held hostage. It is just wrong in every conceivable way.

All of these resolutions should be soundly rejected, and this body should stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel as they take the fight to Hamas.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I come to the floor to speak on the resolutions we will be voting on shortly to share why I strongly oppose them.

Israel is surrounded by enemies dedicated to its annihilation, from Hamas to Hezbollah, to the Houthis, to most threateningly of all, Iran.

These threats, sadly, have been around for a long time and will persist for many years into the future. Israel needs to protect itself, not just today but also tomorrow and next year and beyond. It has been a cornerstone of American policy to give Israel the resources it needs to defend against its enemies. We should not stray from that policy today.

Many of the arms sales in question today will not reach Israel until years from now. We have no idea what kind of threats Israel will face by then. It could be an even more emboldened Iran or a strengthened Hezbollah or some other threat.

There are few, if any, who imagined the barbaric assault perpetrated by Hamas on October 7. The twisted and hateful ideology that underpins that violence from places like Iran will sadly continue in the region for some time to come. Israel will need to be fully prepared to face those threats. So voting to block assistance today could well very embolden Hamas and Hezbollah and Iran and endanger Israel's security on into the future.

I know there are many in this Chamber who have been strongly critical of Prime Minister Netanyahu's policies. I am certainly one of them, as I have made clear right here on the Senate floor, where I clearly stated the urgent need to diligently pursue a two-state solution.

I have also made clear that Israel must do more to reduce the suffering of innocent civilians in Gaza and do much

more to get humanitarian aid to where it is urgently needed. However, our security assistance to Israel transcends any one Prime Minister or any one government.

This is about Israel's long-term security and honoring a cornerstone of the U.S. policy that we will give Israel—a democracy and a steadfast ally—the resources it needs to protect itself in a difficult world.

There are ways to express criticism and to work on addressing these criticisms without impacting Israel's security.

So this is why I will be voting no. Again, while it is perfectly legitimate to have objections with the Netanyahu government—and I know many of my colleagues wish to express their disapproval—I believe these resolutions are the wrong way and the wrong strategy to voice those objections.

I vote no and urge others to do the same.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. First of all, I want to thank the majority leader not only for his leadership on this issue in his straightforward, direct embrace of the cause of Israel but also your openness for a debate in the Senate about what is the best pathway forward.

Madam President, I also want to acknowledge that I had to listen carefully to the words of Senator SCHUMER, Senator ROSEN, Senator BUDD. They have given eloquent arguments in favor of opposing this resolution. They raised the questions I ask myself: Can I, as a U.S. Senator who is a strong supporter of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state; can I, as a U.S. Senator who is absolutely appalled at what Hamas did on October 7; can I, as a U.S. Senator who attended a presentation by the Israeli Embassy that displayed the horror of the rapes and the assaults on women who were taken captive; and can I, as a U.S. Senator who believes in a two-state solution, vote in favor of stopping the delivery of offensive weapons for Israel to use in Gaza? And my answer is yes. It is for two reasons.

First, we are into our 14th month in Gaza. And what has happened is over 43,000 people have been killed. Many Hamas, including the Hamas leadership, have been killed. Good riddance.

But many, many thousands of innocent Palestinians, including women and children, have been killed. Over 100,000 have been maimed and injured, and 60 to 70 percent of the structures in Gaza have been destroyed. That includes the schools. Young Gazans have not been in school for 14 months. Hospitals have been destroyed. The humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza is unparalleled and is being inflicted on innocent Palestinians.

There is a second reason that I am going to support the joint resolutions. I believe the continuation of the military action in Gaza is not only jeopardizing what hostages still are alive, but it can only make Israel weaker, not stronger.

Their own recently fired Defense Minister said there is no further military purpose of offensive action in Gaza. If there is no further reason for offensive military action in Gaza, why is there a need for the United States to be providing more offensive weapons for the Netanyahu government to be used in Gaza?

That is the question we face.

We talk about the signals that will be sent to Hamas, to Iran, to Israel. There is another reality that can't be escaped, and it isn't answered by inquiring as to what "signals" are being sent. It is what is going to happen to these kids. What is going to happen to these families that are continuing to live under bombardment where they can't be safe anywhere, in part, because Hamas will go anywhere they can to try to use them as human shields.

But even without that—being told that they can be safe here but then are bombed and being told they can be safe there—many of these families have been dislocated six to seven times.

The humanitarian catastrophe is grinding on. It comes, of course, at a cost—enormous cost—to Palestinian families. It has come at a cost to the State of Israel—which we support—with their further isolation in the international community.

So the question before us is: What is the right thing to do, not just by way of limiting and helping humanitarian catastrophe, but what is the right thing for the United States to do with its ally Israel in pursuit of the two goals we have always had with Israel? And that is to advocate and defend and support Israel as a democratic, secure Jewish State. And because we believe this is important to make that happen, that we have an independent, secure Palestinian State, a two-state solution.

So the question that I have is, Will U.S. arms, to be used offensively in Gaza at this time and with this government, enhance American policy that has been the policy of the United States through Republican and Democratic administrations?

Madam President, the answer I have come to, the judgment I have come to as a U.S. Senator is that it would harm our goals for that Jewish democratic state, for the easing of humanitarian suffering, for compliance with international law and the Leahy Law, and for what is a goal that has to be the touchstone of our policy, and that is doing everything we can to achieve a two-state solution for a secure, democratic, independent Israel and a secure, disarmed—not armed—Palestinian State side by side.

I intend to support these resolutions. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, Senator WELCH is my friend, and he is very eloquent. I just listened to his eloquent remarks in support of Senator SANDERS' resolution.

And Senator SANDERS is my friend, but he is wrong. He is wrong. Senator WELCH talked, as he should have, about the right thing to do. The right thing to do and the smart thing to do is not to pass Senator SANDERS' resolution.

I don't know why this is—if I make it to heaven, I am going to ask—but there is some people in this world, they are not mixed up, they are not confused, they are not sick, it is not that their mama or daddy didn't love them enough—they are just bad people. And they hurt other people, and they take other people's stuff. Why? Because they can.

And some of them are running countries, and they hate America. They hate Americans. They want to kill us and drink our blood out of a boot. That is just a fact.

Now, you do not have to be Einstein's cousin to see what is going on in the world. President Xi in China is working with President Putin in Russia who is working with the Ayatollah in Iran. Sometimes they allow Kim Jong Un from North Korea to come along, but mostly as a mascot to get them coffee.

President Xi is running the show, but that doesn't mean that President Putin of Russia and especially the Ayatollah in Iran are not right there by his side.

And what is their objective? Their objective is to have Russia dominate Central and Eastern Europe. Their objective is to have China dominate the Indo-Pacific—about which I will speak in a moment—and to have China dominate Sub-Saharan Africa and to have China have the ability to roam free in South America.

And their objective is to have Iran—the Ayatollah—dominate the Middle East, which it has done until Israel decided to fight back, which it has done through Hamas and Hezbollah and the Houthis rebels. Now that is just a fact.

And one of our best friends in the world—maybe, on some days, our only friend in the world—Israel—patient people, principled people but realistic people—they have decided to stand up to Iran. And in standing up to Iran, we are finding out very quickly they are also standing up to China and Russia. But I will save that subject for another day.

They have decided to stand up to Iran. They have beaten Hamas in Gaza. They are beating Hezbollah in Lebanon. They had to do it despite the obstacles thrown up against them every step of the way by President Biden and Vice President HARRIS.

And if we support them, Israel will beat the Ayatollah in Iran. Israel will cause a regime change. Because I can tell you, the people of Iran—not its leadership—the people of Iran are fed up with their leadership.

We have a duty—not a legal duty, a moral duty—to support our friend Israel. We have agreed to do it. But besides that, we have a moral duty to do it. And my friend Senator SANDERS' resolution would turn our back on one of the few friends that I think Amer-

ica—real friends that America has in the world. And it would precipitate a foreign policy crisis.

I don't say these words very often, but we ought to listen to the words of my friend Senator SCHUMER. He is going to vote against Senator SANDERS' resolution. Senator SCHUMER is right. Even a blind hog finds an acorn now and then. Senator SCHUMER is right: We need to defeat this resolution. It will precipitate a foreign policy crisis.

And it is not the only one we would have in the world. I want to talk for just a few minutes about another crisis that is going on quietly as we speak.

This is the Indian Ocean, as the Presiding Officer well knows, one of the most important parts of the world. Here is China; here is India. China is trying to dominate all of these sea lands for military reasons and for commercial reasons.

Here in the middle of the Indian Ocean is a group of islands called the Chagos Islands. You may not have heard of them; I hadn't before I was alerted of this crisis. America has a military base in the Chagos Islands. There are about 40 to 60 islands. One of the islands is called Diego Garcia. And we built a military base there. And it is not just any military base. It is an extraordinarily important military base.

Our military base is one of the few in the world where our military can reload submarines—hugely important. Our military base on Diego Garcia in the Chagos Islands houses a number of Navy ships. Our military base there houses long-range bombers that we use to carry out missions around the world.

Now, we have to—we and the United Kingdom—I will explain why the UK is involved in a moment—we have to work hard every day to police our military base, not just the base itself, but the land—or, rather—the water surrounding it, because China—China knows how important this military base is to the security of the world. China is constantly sending craft trying to spy on our military base there.

And we and the United Kingdom—again, I will explain in a second the United Kingdom's relevance—are constantly having to patrol and fight off the espionage of China. In fact, China has breached the security of American military bases over 100 times in the last few years. They are very aggressive.

Now, why am I talking about this military base? Because President Biden and Vice President HARRIS, as we are all working here trying—like a bunch of ants on a sugar bowl, trying to wrap up our work for the year, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS are giving away this military base. They are giving it away.

The Chagos Islands is a territory of the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom gave America permission to build our military base here.

Now, the Chagos Islands has a rich history. It has a relationship with another island in the Indian Ocean, Mauritius. And I mention that because to understand what is going on, you have to understand the relationship.

Mauritius and the Chagos Islands used to be partners. The Chagos Islands were what is called a dependency of Mauritius. And Mauritius, many, many years ago, beginning in 1715, was a colony of France. And while Mauritius was a colony of France, Mauritius established a relationship with the Chagos Islands.

And then, beginning in 1814, France said: Look, we are going to cede Mauritius and now the Chagos Islands—where we have our military base—to the United Kingdom. And they did.

Mauritius and the Chagos Islands, 250 years ago, they might have been close, but they are not today. They don't share the same culture. They don't speak the same language. They don't visit each other. In fact, many of the people from Chagos lived in the United Kingdom.

But here is what President Biden is doing and Vice President HARRIS. They say we need to grant independence to the Chagos Islands but not let the people of the Chagos Islands run their country. We need to give the Chagos Islands back to Mauritius. Why? I mean, no offense, but that is cell-deep stupid.

Why? Mauritius and the Chagos Islands don't have a relationship anymore, and we have a military base there.

I will tell you why. The United Nations—the United Nations, and particularly the International Court of Justice, which has no jurisdiction over the United States of America and has no jurisdiction over the United Kingdom and which currently controls the Chagos Islands, they have scolded the United Kingdom.

They said the United Kingdom is a colonizer, and the United Kingdom, the people of the United Kingdom are bad people.

Now, remember, this is coming from the United Nations. This is the same United Nations that has the following countries on its human rights council: Somalia, Iraq, Venezuela, China. That is who thinks we ought to get rid of this military base. OK? I mean, this is not some act of justice here.

But in any event, the United Nations is saying: United Kingdom, you bad people, give the Chagos Islands back—but not let the Chagos Islands be free; they want to give the Chagos Islands back to Mauritius. And President Biden could stop it and so could Vice President HARRIS. But they are for it, all in an effort to curry favor with the people at the United Nations who walk around with their NPR tote bags and their organic broccoli and have great relationships with members of the media who they think write history. Why on God's green Earth would we do that? Why?

China, of course, is delighted. Why is China delighted? Now, the United Na-

tions says: OK, we don't want to be too mean-spirited here; America can keep its military base for 99 years, but you have to sign a lease. And we got to start paying Mauritius to stay there.

China says: Fine. That sounds good to us. Why? Because, No. 1, China has already started currying favor with Mauritius, and No. 2, Mauritius will now be in charge of the security of the Chagos Islands and our military base and the water surrounding it.

China, Xi Jinping, he is as happy as a gopher in soft dirt. He will be hacking the Mauritius security as soon as the trade is made.

Now, President Trump, I hope you are listening to this. My good friend Senator RUBIO, soon-to-be Secretary of State, I hope you are listening to what I am talking about.

What we are debating today is important. I don't mean to say that. And I am not kidding you. I am not going to bubble wrap it. If Senator SANDERS' resolution passes, it will precipitate a foreign policy crisis. But this foreign policy crisis is being perpetrated—or prosecuted right now, and it is another foreign policy crisis, and it is going on all because President Biden—all because President Biden and Vice President HARRIS want to appease the United Nations and China.

President Trump, please, pretty please with sugar on top, pick up the phone and call the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and say: Don't sign that treaty. Don't give away the Chagos Islands. Don't give away America's military base. Don't do it.

If we object, they won't. If we don't say anything, they will.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, over the past year, we have used our voices and influence to press for the protection of civilians in Gaza, for access to vital humanitarian assistance, to bring home the hostages, and to end this conflict. We all know that it is our responsibility to do more, Israel's responsibility to do more, and the international communities' responsibility to do more to protect innocent victims.

But even as we work to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, we must be clear about our commitment—our longstanding, bipartisan commitment—to the State of Israel. It has been the bedrock of our foreign policy in the Middle East, a special relationship that was established in 1948 when President Truman, against the advice at that time of the State Department because there were more Arab States and just one Israel—against the advice of the State Department, President Truman recognized the State of Israel immediately after the United Nations vote.

That special relationship is based upon two countries—Israel and the United States—both democracies, shared values. We share intelligence information, military information, and

much, much more. That special relationship is important to Israel, and it is important to America's national security interest. We both benefit from it.

Part of that special relationship is the United States is committed to making available to Israel the military arms it needs in order to defend itself from the dangers in the region. We have mutual adversaries—Iran and its proxies, Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, and many others. The threats are real. The adversaries are not just Israel's adversaries; they are our adversaries.

Now, to the three resolutions that we have before us and how that relates to this issue, S.J. Res 111 deals with tank munitions. These tank munitions have a delivery date 3 years from now. These are replenishments. This is so Israel has the capacity to defend itself against the future threats that we know are in the region, that are real. It is not engaged in the current conflict in Gaza or Lebanon; it is for Israel's ability to defend itself against the threats that are real in the region.

S.J. Res 113—mortar munitions. The delivery date is about a year and a half from now. Again, it is for the replenishment of their supplies. It is to make sure they are not caught in a situation where they can't defend themselves against future threats.

These are the wrong vehicles for expressing ourselves in regards to the conflict that exists today, but if we are going to talk about the conflict that exists today, then a spotlight should be on Hamas, not Israel.

The third resolution, S.J. Res 115—the JDAMs. This one, I really don't understand. These are precision kits that go on munitions; they are not the munitions themselves. Without the JDAMs, the precision of the munitions is not as great. What does that mean? It means it has a much higher likelihood of missing the target—collateral damage, civilians killed and injured. So it is counterproductive to the safety of the communities. I don't understand why we would want to prevent Israel from having the technology to have precision use of its munitions. To me, that makes no sense at all.

But, as I pointed out, the spotlight should be on Hamas. Why are we in this conflict? October 7—brutal attack by Hamas. We don't hear a lot of talk about that. The hostages. We talk about the release of the hostages; they never should have been taken. Where is the outrage in the international community and where is the outrage here about Hamas holding hostages, some of whom are Americans? That is where the outrage should be.

Hamas uses human shields. Yes, we bereave the loss of innocent life, but Hamas makes it much more likely that there are going to be the casualties of innocent life. They embedded themselves in hospitals and universities and make it so much more difficult for Israel to conduct a military campaign.

Why isn't the focus on the terrorists? Then there is the humanitarian assistance. We have heard from our own State Department people as recently as today that the challenges for humanitarian assistance are made so much more difficult because of Hamas using it as a weapon to deny its own people humanitarian help, making it extremely difficult for the deliveries to take place.

So I am somewhat confused. I don't understand these resolutions as furthering the cause for what the sponsor has indicated. The sponsor says that he disagrees that blocking these offensive arms sales will only embolden terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Hezbollah as well as their sponsors in Iran. But if the U.S. Senate fails to provide the support to Israel now, what else would our adversaries believe? This would be a sign of weakness in our resolve to fight the terrorism in the region. It would be a gift to Iran.

Let me talk about the cost. You hear a lot about taxpayer cost. Canceling these contracts—they have cancellation causes. This will cost the taxpayers money, not save the taxpayers money.

I want to talk lastly about the timing of this, and I want to talk about—let me quote from the message we received from the Biden administration:

These resolutions are particularly untimely and counterproductive as we are working to secure a cease-fire in Lebanon. U.S. officials are in Beirut now working to finalize this deal, a deal that is only possible because of the military pressure Hezbollah is under. Disapproving arms purchases for Israel at this moment would jeopardize those talks and put wind in the sails of Iran, Hezbollah, and Hamas at the worst possible moment.

These resolutions should be defeated. As the administration said, we urge you to oppose the JRDs, which will prolong the wars, not shorten them, put Israel at risk, and inject wind in the sails of Iran and its proxies just as they are facing a historic low point and looking for a deal.

I urge my colleagues to reject all three of these resolutions. Let us continue to work together for peace in the Middle East. Let us work and isolate the terrorists in the region, Iran and its proxies. Let's work with our allies and partners in the region to do exactly that. Let's not make the matter worse by calling into question our commitment to make sure Israel has what it needs to defend itself against the future threats that are in that region.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, let me begin by pointing out—although it may not be obvious here in the Senate—that poll after poll shows that a strong majority of the American people oppose sending more weapons and military aid to fuel Netanyahu's vicious and destructive war machine. I would also add, because some of this has come up, that according to a poll commissioned

by J Street, a pro-Israel Jewish organization, 62 percent of Jewish Americans support withholding weapons shipments to Israel until Netanyahu agrees to an immediate cease-fire.

Let me just mention a few of the organizations that think the time is now to stop giving money to Netanyahu, who ignores America's laws and our values—some of the major trade unions in America: the SEIU, the United Auto Workers, United Electrical Workers; Amnesty International; the Arab American Institute; the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests; the Friends Committee on National Legislation; Oxfam America; the Episcopal Church; the United Church of Christ; the United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society; the American Baptist Churches USA; the Global Ministries of the Christian Church.

These resolutions have strong support all across this country by people who understand that we cannot continue to fund the horrific war machine and the atrocities Netanyahu is committing.

These resolutions come down to a few basic points. First of all, should the U.S. Government obey the law? And the law is very clear that we as a government cannot fund other countries that are in violation of international human rights or that are blocking humanitarian aid.

Now, somebody here wants to come down and say: I don't like that law. The U.S. Government should give money to any government it wants no matter what they do, no matter how atrocious their behavior is.

Come down and change the law, but that ain't the law now. The law is based on moral principles that say: When the United States provides military arms, those countries that receive those weapons cannot violate international human rights and cannot block humanitarian aid. And that is precisely what Israel is doing. That is not me who says that; that is what virtually every humanitarian organization working in Gaza right now says.

So if you believe we should obey the law, you have to vote for these resolutions.

No. 2, from a moral perspective, we cannot turn a blind eye to one of the worst humanitarian disasters in the modern history of this world—a humanitarian disaster we are significantly funding.

My colleagues, as we speak, thousands and thousands of children in Gaza are starving to death.

In an area of 2.2 million people, 43,000 are dead. Over 100,000 have been injured. We cannot turn a blind eye to that humanitarian disaster, caused in part by U.S. financial support to Netanyahu.

Thirdly, I heard about the U.S. role in the world. Well, I will tell you that our role is significantly diminished if we continue to support Netanyahu and this humanitarian disaster that is currently taking place.

What is the moral standard that we have to critique other countries? How do you critique Iran for their terrible human rights record? How do you critique China or Russia for their terrible human rights records? Because you get here on the floor of the Senate and you make that critique, and people around the world will laugh at you, and they will say: Don't give us advice. Don't criticize us when you have supported the mass starvation of children with your taxpayer dollars.

This is a very important vote. It is an important vote because it tells the world that we will not continue supporting a government which violates American law, which violates international law, and which violates the humanitarian standards that I would hope every Member of this Senate upholds.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all remaining time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON MOTION

The question is on agreeing to the motion to discharge.

Mr. SANDERS. I would ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 18, nays 79, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 292 Leg.]

YEAS—18

| | | |
|----------|---------|------------|
| Durbin | Markey | Shaheen |
| Heinrich | Merkley | Smith |
| Hirono | Murphy | Van Hollen |
| Kaine | Ossoff | Warnock |
| King | Sanders | Warren |
| Lujan | Schatz | Welch |

NAYS—79

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Fetterman | Paul |
| Bennet | Fischer | Peters |
| Blackburn | Gillibrand | Reed |
| Blumenthal | Graham | Ricketts |
| Booker | Grassley | Risch |
| Boozman | Hagerty | Romney |
| Britt | Hassan | Rosen |
| Brown | Hawley | Rounds |
| Budd | Helmy | Rubio |
| Butler | Hickenlooper | Schmitt |
| Cantwell | Hoeven | Schumer |
| Capito | Hyde-Smith | Scott (FL) |
| Cardin | Johnson | Scott (SC) |
| Carper | Kelly | Sinema |
| Casey | Kennedy | Stabenow |
| Cassidy | Klobuchar | Sullivan |
| Collins | Lankford | Tester |
| Coons | Lee | Thune |
| Cornyn | Lummis | Tillis |
| Cortez Masto | Manchin | Tuberville |
| Cotton | Marshall | Warner |
| Cramer | McConnell | Whitehouse |
| Crapo | Moran | Wicker |
| Cruz | Mullin | Wyden |
| Daines | Murkowski | Young |
| Duckworth | Murray | |
| Ernst | Padilla | |

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Baldwin

NOT VOTING—2

Braun

Vance

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELMY). The Senator from Vermont.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE—S.J. RES.
113

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, pursuant to section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, I move to discharge the Committee on Foreign Relations from further consideration of S.J. Res. 113, relating to the disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Israel of certain defense articles and services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to discharge from the Committee on Foreign Relations S.J. Res. 113, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale of the Government of Israel certain defense articles and services.

Mr. SANDERS. I ask unanimous consent to dispense with further reading of the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, the law is very clear. This is not a complicated issue.

U.S. weapons cannot be provided to countries who violate internationally recognized human rights or block U.S. humanitarian aid. It goes without saying that Israel had a right to defend itself from the horrific Hamas terrorist attack of October 7. But Israel did not have the right to kill 43,000 Palestinians and injure over 100,000—60 percent of whom are women, children, and the elderly. It did not have the right to destroy Gaza's infrastructure, healthcare system, schools, and university. And it certainly does not have the right to starve thousands and thousands of children in Gaza.

The United States cannot be complicit in these atrocities. We cannot give billions of dollars to the Netanyahu government and have them defy U.S. law while they take U.S. money.

I urge a "yes" vote on this resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. In opposition to the resolution, let me just cite the views that we received from the administration, which we urge you to oppose the resolutions which will prolong the wars, not shorten them, put Israel at risk and inject wind into the sails of Iran and its proxies just as they are facing a historic low point and looking for a deal.

This resolution will only prolong the war. It will put Israel at risk fighting our mutual enemies, and I would urge my colleagues to reject the resolution.

VOTE ON MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to discharge.

Mr. SANDERS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 19, nays 78, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 293 Leg.]

YEAS—19

| | | |
|----------|---------|------------|
| Durbin | Markey | Smith |
| Heinrich | Merkley | Van Hollen |
| Helmy | Murphy | Warnock |
| Hirono | Ossoff | Warren |
| Kaine | Sanders | Welch |
| King | Schatz | |
| Lujan | Shaheen | |

NAYS—78

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Ernst | Padilla |
| Bennet | Fetterman | Paul |
| Blackburn | Fischer | Peters |
| Blumenthal | Gillibrand | Reed |
| Booker | Graham | Ricketts |
| Boozman | Grassley | Risch |
| Britt | Hagerty | Romney |
| Brown | Hassan | Rosen |
| Budd | Hawley | Rounds |
| Butler | Hickenlooper | Rubio |
| Cantwell | Hoeven | Schmitt |
| Capito | Hyde-Smith | Schumer |
| Cardin | Johnson | Scott (FL) |
| Carper | Kelly | Scott (SC) |
| Casey | Kennedy | Sinema |
| Cassidy | Klobuchar | Stabenow |
| Collins | Lankford | Sullivan |
| Coons | Lee | Tester |
| Cornyn | Lummis | Thune |
| Cortez Masto | Manchin | Tillis |
| Cotton | Marshall | Tuberville |
| Cramer | McConnell | Warner |
| Crapo | Moran | Whitehouse |
| Cruz | Mullin | Wicker |
| Daines | Murkowski | Wyden |
| Duckworth | Murray | Young |

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Baldwin

NOT VOTING—2

Braun

Vance

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). On this vote, the yeas are 19, the nays are 78.

One Senator responded present. The motion was not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE—S.J. RES.
115

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, I move to discharge the Committee on Foreign Relations from further consideration of S.J. Res. 115, relating to the disapproval of the proposed license

amendment for the export of certain defense articles, defense services, and technical data to Israel.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion to discharge.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to discharge from the Committee on Foreign Relations, S.J. Res. 115, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed license amendment for the export of certain defense articles, defense services, and technical data to Israel.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes for debate, equally divided.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, two basic points: The first one is the same point that has to be made over and over again. What we are doing is in violation of the law. U.S. weapons cannot be provided to countries that violate internationally recognized human rights or block U.S. humanitarian aid.

According to all of the international and humanitarian organizations on the ground in Gaza right now, that is exactly what Israel is doing. So a "no" vote is to allow us to continue breaking the law.

As to the second point, this one deals with JDAMs, which are systems that make bombs more precise. And, on the surface, it sounds like, well, that is a good thing. You would rather use "smart" bombs than "dumb" bombs, and when you do that, you save civilian lives. The problem is that what Israel has been doing is using JDAMs to target U.N. schools packed with displaced people and to target refugee centers and kill large numbers of innocent people. So a "smart" bomb does not save civilian lives when it is directly targeting civilians.

I would ask for a "yes" vote on this resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does anyone seek time in opposition?

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, in opposition to the resolution, quite frankly, I am perplexed with this one because, as the sponsor indicated, we are talking about the guidance system on munitions, which makes it precise, and despite what the sponsor of the resolution says, Israel targets military targets of terrorists. Yes, Hamas makes it more challenging by where they locate the targets—in hospitals, in schools, et cetera—but without the guidance system, there are going to be greater civilian losses. So, if you are concerned about humanitarian issues, I don't know how you can possibly vote for this resolution.

In addition, of course, as the administration pointed out, they oppose this resolution because it would prolong the war, not shorten it. It would put Israel at risk and inject wind into the sails of Iran and its proxies just as they are facing a historic low point and looking for a deal.

I urge my colleagues to reject the resolution.

VOTE ON MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to discharge.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 17, nays 80, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 294 Leg.]

YEAS—17

| | | |
|----------|---------|------------|
| Durbin | Markey | Smith |
| Heinrich | Merkley | Van Hollen |
| Hirono | Murphy | Warnock |
| Kaine | Sanders | Warren |
| King | Schatz | Welch |
| Lujan | Shaheen | |

NAYS—80

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Fetterman | Padilla |
| Bennet | Fischer | Paul |
| Blackburn | Gillibrand | Peters |
| Blumenthal | Graham | Reed |
| Booker | Grassley | Ricketts |
| Boozman | Hagerty | Risch |
| Britt | Hassan | Romney |
| Brown | Hawley | Rosen |
| Budd | Helmy | Rounds |
| Butler | Hickenlooper | Rubio |
| Cantwell | Hoeven | Schmitt |
| Capito | Hyde-Smith | Schumer |
| Cardin | Johnson | Scott (FL) |
| Carper | Kelly | Scott (SC) |
| Casey | Kennedy | Sinema |
| Cassidy | Klobuchar | Stabenow |
| Collins | Lankford | Sullivan |
| Coons | Lee | Tester |
| Cornyn | Lummis | Thune |
| Cortez Masto | Manchin | Tillis |
| Cotton | Marshall | Tuberville |
| Cramer | McConnell | Warner |
| Crapo | Moran | Whitehouse |
| Cruz | Mullin | Wicker |
| Daines | Murkowski | Wyden |
| Duckworth | Murray | Young |
| Ernst | Ossoff | |

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Baldwin

NOT VOTING—2

Braun Vance

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

RELATING TO THE DISAPPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENTIAL REPORT WITH RESPECT TO THE INDEBTEDNESS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 566, S.J. Res. 117.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 566, S.J. Res. 117, relating to the disapproval of the Presidential report with respect to the indebtedness of the Government of Ukraine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 1 hour for debate, equally divided.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, yesterday marked a somber milestone: 1,000 days since Russia invaded Ukraine. Over a million lives have been lost or wounded—a staggering human toll. Yet, instead of seeking a path to peace, the Biden administration is choosing escalation. Billions of taxpayer dollars have been funneled into this conflict with little or no oversight and no end in sight. It is as if writing blank checks has become our primary foreign policy strategy. This has extracted a huge human cost.

Just days ago, President Biden authorized Ukraine to use American-provided long-range weapons to strike inside Russia. Let me repeat that. We are now enabling attacks using U.S. weaponry inside Russian territory. When I first saw the headline, I didn't believe it. I hoped it was maybe a joke or fake news. It was neither. It was real.

Now, this is not a step toward deescalation. Nothing could be further from that. In fact, this is a dangerous provocation, one that brings the United States perilously, unacceptably close to a direct conflict with a nuclear-armed adversary. In response, Russia has updated its nuclear doctrine, lowering the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons.

This is not a game. The rounds are live and flying—and, I would add, deadly. The specter of nuclear war is now looming larger than it has in decades. Yet the administration seems undeterred, even willing, as if eager to risk U.S. security for the sake of scoring one last cheap political point against the incoming Trump administration and the American people.

Now in the twilight of its tenure, the Biden administration is quietly attempting to forgive half of Ukraine's economic aid package from the last supplemental appropriations bill—a whopping \$4.7 billion given away for free if President Biden has his way.

The American people are being deceived by the Biden administration. Americans were told Ukraine would repay that sum when this bill passed. In fact, that is part of how they got it passed. It was, you might say, a "without which not" of that bill's passage. Now they are being stuck with the tab.

Now, let's be clear: Forcing the American people to pick up this tab removes an essential point of leverage for the United States to bring Ukraine to the negotiating table. It prolongs a bloody war. It drains our own scarce precious resources and gives Ukraine a freebie we don't extend even to our closest allies, all without accountability or a strategy that prioritizes America's interest first.

But it is worse than that. It does so in a way that puts us in the firing line—the firing line of a nuclear-armed adversary. Moreover, a significant portion of this sum was allocated to fund the salaries of President Zelenskyy and Ukrainian bureaucrats.

What kind of message does that send?

At a time when American families are pinching pennies—pinching pennies—because we spent money we don't have, causing us to print more money, causing every dollar the American people earn to buy less, it is absolutely unconscionable that their hard-earned tax dollars are being used to underwrite the administrative costs of a foreign government and the salaries of foreign bureaucrats—all in a way that makes us less safe, all in a way that puts us in a precarious position we haven't faced since most of us were children.

Our constituents are tightening their belts and making tough decisions about healthcare, education, and basic necessities. Yet we are being asked to finance the operational expenses of another nation's government.

Madam President, we have a duty—a solemn duty, a sacred duty—to our constituents to ensure that their hard-earned money is spent wisely and ethically and, at a minimum, not in a way that makes them less safe, not in a way that paints a target on their back or an adversary with nuclear weapons. We certainly have a constitutional duty to prevent unnecessary escalation that could lead to catastrophic consequences. And we have a duty to uphold the will of the American people who very recently—just over 2 weeks ago—voted for a different President with a different foreign policy, one that works for the American people and not against them.

Instead, as a final parting gift—and, yes, I use that word very, very euphemistically—the Biden administration wants to saddle the American people with a tab that they don't want, that they never agreed to, that they expressly rejected at the ballot box, and that they cannot afford.

That is why I stand in full wholehearted support of Senator RAND PAUL's joint resolution of disapproval to block this misguided, dangerous, reckless, wealth transfer to a corrupt foreign government. I call on all of my colleagues to do the same.

We need to halt this dangerous path and give the incoming administration every tool to pursue a strategy that prioritizes peace and America's interests. The American people have spoken and resoundingly, with good reason, rejected the policies of this administration that escalate conflict and prolong wars.

The American people deserve better. They should expect more. They strive and yearn for peace. RAND PAUL's measure would help advance that. Doing nothing would impair it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). The Senator from Georgia.

U.S. ARMS SALES

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise not in response to the Senator from Utah or to address the matter being raised by Senator PAUL but to address the resolutions that were debated previously with respect to U.S. policy in the Middle East.

In 1982, as Israeli forces pursued the PLO deep into Lebanon, President Reagan was angered by what he viewed as excessive civilian casualties resulting from the Israeli bombardment of Beirut.

Concerned by the suffering of innocent civilians and its impact on American diplomacy, not only did President Reagan personally call Israeli Prime Minister Begin and demand a halt to the bombing—and the bombing reportedly stopped within hours—but the American President then blocked the provision of cluster munitions to Israel out of concern that their use by the IDF was killing too many innocent people.

President Reagan imposed conditions on the provision of U.S. arms, using leverage to influence the conduct of an ally. He took those steps to protect innocent life and to defend what he perceived to be America's interests. And Israel, faced by President Reagan's ultimatum, adjusted its policy to accommodate America's demands.

The United States remained Israel's closest ally, and the world kept turning.

This story is not a perfect mirror image for the agonizing situation we face today and have faced since the despicable Hamas attacks of October 7. Today, Israel faces a multifront assault by Iran and its proxies while the war in Gaza has devastated the territories and civilian population.

But I tell this story to remind my colleagues that in the pursuit of America's national interests, to use the leverage that comes with the provision of arms, as President Reagan did in 1982, is not just sometimes necessary, it is expected and appropriate. The United States is and will remain Israel's closest ally. Our commitment to Israel's security is ironclad.

But no foreign government is simply entitled as a matter of right to American weapons with no strings attached. No foreign government, no matter how close an ally, gets everything it wants whenever it wants, to use however it wants. It is entirely appropriate for the United States to insist that foreign powers use American weapons consistent with our interests, our values, and our laws.

And to insist otherwise weakens American foreign policy and undermines our ability to protect the interests of the American people. And to impose conditions on the provision of certain weapons to an ally when necessary is not a betrayal of that alliance. It is the pursuit of our national interests. Again, President Reagan understood that in 1982.

So let's apply the principle to the present moment. In November of last year, I addressed the Senate on the war in Gaza in the aftermath of the October 7 attack, affirming Israel's right to defend itself, to wage war against and defeat its enemies. And I affirmed, as I do again today, America's enduring support for our ally.

I also urged that Israel respect American requests to reduce unnecessary civilian casualties in Gaza, to provide safe passage for food and essential medical supplies, to clearly define Israeli objectives to present a credible plan for Gaza's future governance, and to prevent atrocities by Israeli extremists in the West Bank.

These requests of the Israeli political leadership have been made not just by me and many others in the Senate but repeatedly by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the President over the past year.

That Israel take these reasonable and necessary steps has been and remains in America's national interests. No one in this body or the American Government has suggested that Israel lay down its arms and be overrun or that Israel does not have a right and, indeed, an obligation to defeat its enemies and defend its people. Rather, the United States has insisted that Israel's conduct of the war respect our interests and our values—the interests and values of Israel's closest ally.

And yet, for the most part, this insistence has been ignored. The United States has been ignored, in part, because the Israeli Prime Minister is beholden to Cabinet Ministers in Mr. Smotrich and Ben-Gvir, who insist there be no deviation from policies that are gratuitously brutal, even over American objections.

We should be disgusted by the spectacle of Israeli extremists running amuck in the West Bank, sometimes with the protection of Israeli security forces, shooting and maiming goat herders and olive farmers and burning and seizing their land.

And the American people are rightly horrified by the lack of sufficient concern for innocent Palestinian life that has left so many children unnecessarily dead in Gaza, without limbs, or riddled with shrapnel.

As I said on the floor last year, no one should be naive to the inherent risk to civilians that comes with warfare in a place like Gaza against an enemy like Hamas. Tragically, horribly, fighting terrorists in a dense urban environment makes civilian casualties inevitable. Yet the evidence that force has repeatedly been applied with reckless disregard for the innocent is too credible for us to ignore. We are talking about precious, innocent children and other innocent civilians who might otherwise be alive or without grievous wounds today.

These things aren't just horrific, they are inconsistent with America's national security interests. Yet we seem to have forgotten that we have the power to influence our ally's conduct and that we can do so without betraying our ally. It is often said that our efforts to influence close allies are best done in private and, where possible, done gently, and I agree. But in this case, that has not been sufficient nor have heartfelt public statements and harshly worded letters been effective.

So what would President Reagan do? Judging by his actions 40 years ago, I think he would judiciously use the power that comes with our provision of weapons in order to shape Israel's conduct.

Some have taken to the floor tonight to argue that holding up two or three arms sales today would have been an abandonment of our ally, leaving Israel naked and undefended in the face of Iranian aggression. That is nonsense.

The question on the floor today was not whether to shut off military support for Israel. The resolutions we debated accounted for less than 5 percent of American arms that will likely flow to Israel over the next 3 years, and most of the shipments debated will not even arrive until 2026 or 2027. Bipartisan American support for Israel's nonnegotiable right to exist and to defend itself is rock solid.

Had these resolutions passed, however, perhaps Israeli politicians would have received the necessary message that has so far been disregarded, which is, yes, defend yourself; yes, defeat your enemies, but have mercy for the innocent, retrain your own extremists, and respect the interests of the United States.

The realization that every shipment is not simply available on an unlimited basis with no strings attached might have resulted in changes to Israeli policy that would reduce civilian suffering and support America's regional and global interests as he believed it would when President Reagan used American power in 1982.

I remain steadfastly committed to the United States-Israel alliance. And I also believe we must be willing to say no, even to our closest friends, when we believe it is in America's national interest.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

S.J. RES. 117

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to S.J. Res. 117, the motion to proceed. And I rise as the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to relate to our colleagues why I am against this resolution and how we got to this vote.

This body passed aid to Ukraine by a 79-to-18 bipartisan vote. It approved the necessary funding for Ukraine to be able to defend itself against Mr. Putin's aggression—Russia's aggression—and it allowed us with our coalition partners to be able to have a unified front against Russia's attempt to change borders by force.

That legislation included the authority to the President to forgive and cancel debt. That is what President Biden did under the authority given to him by a 79-to-18 vote in this body. The President executed that authority and, yes, the Senate has the opportunity by a resolution to override that.

But I would urge my colleagues to remember why we voted by a 79-to-18 vote on this floor to help Ukraine.

Ukraine is the frontline in our defense for democracy. No one believes that Russia would stop if Ukraine were to fall with just Ukraine. We know that Russia has its eyes on Moldova and Georgia. We know the Baltic countries are very much in the eye of Russia.

Poland is concerned, and Europe is concerned. It is in our national security interest to make sure that Russia's aggression in Ukraine is stopped and Ukraine's sovereignty is protected.

Now, Russia is not alone in this. There is an alliance developing of autocratic States against our democratic systems of government. Russia is getting help from the People's Republic of China. They are getting direct help from North Korea. They are getting weapons from Iran. They are getting help from these autocratic partners.

We are literally fighting for our democratic way of life. It is not just Europe that is of concern. If Ukraine were to fall, it makes it much more likely that the People's Republic of China would think that they could take over Taiwan and the West would just let them do that, and China could very well try to take that over by force. So there is a lot at stake here.

Now, Ukraine is footing the burden. It is their soldiers that are on the battlefield. They are devoting 100 percent of their ability to the war effort, and they are asking us to help make sure that their economy can perform.

So this debt relief goes to maintain their economy, to maintain their energy and agricultural sectors, and it would unlock IMF—International Monetary Fund—to Ukraine without cost to the American taxpayer.

This debt relief makes sense from so many different points: to protect Ukraine's ability to keep its economy moving so they can pursue their defense of their nation, that we have an ally and friend that stops the aggression of Russia and says no to the alliance that is being formed against democratic states.

It is a very small price for us to pay to maintain our democracy and to prevent the need for American soldiers fighting on foreign soil.

I urge my colleagues to reject the resolution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, earlier this year, we passed a bipartisan national security supplemental that included crucial economic aid to Ukraine, which was structured as a forgivable loan. The Senate vote was overwhelming and bipartisan—79 to 18. That is because there is wide understanding on both sides of this aisle that support for Ukraine is an investment in our own national security interests, and that includes the economic support in that package, because while weapons are important, the costs of war are not just measured in arms, and the burdens are not only borne by the military.

There are day-to-day government functions that must continue to sup-

port the war effort and for the sake of the very families and communities Ukraine is fighting for, and that includes work to defend and repair critical infrastructure, roads, bridges, energy, water; work to fight off cyber attacks and corruption, which threaten to weaken critical functions of government; work to support the energy and agricultural sectors that are crucial to Ukraine's economic stability, not to mention the global food supply. And there is work to make sure first responders can keep doing their jobs; mental health and support services can reach veterans, internally displaced families, and others in need; and teachers and schools can keep supporting kids, which are the future of every country.

These investments are crucial to Ukraine's future and its resistance of Putin's invasion, and given how important those investments are, it is worth noting that these dollars came with three layers of oversight and audits to make sure they are being used as intended.

But the vote today is a test of whether we truly understand what is at stake here, not just for Ukraine but for America's strength as a global leader. It is a test of how closely we stand by our allies in their times of need.

Our adversaries are watching for us to fail. They are hoping to tell everyone: Watch out before you accept any help from the United States. They are hoping allies start doubting our promises. They are hoping other countries start second-guessing whether to build stronger ties with America. They are hoping we weaken our position in the world and weaken Ukraine in the process.

We cannot let that happen. I urge my colleagues to send a message: American leadership is strong, and our support for our allies is unwavering. And it is in our own national security interest.

I urge all of them to join me in opposing this joint resolution of disapproval.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, here we go again with the "Ukraine First, America Last" policy. Earlier this week, President Biden delivered a report to Congress informing us that he now intends to forgive or cancel \$4.65 billion worth of U.S. loans to Ukraine.

Now, you might ask yourself: When were these loans issued?

Oh, about a month or two ago.

Well, when does Ukraine have to pay back these loans that we are forgiving?

Well, they made an agreement to start paying them back in 40 years. President Biden is forgiving loans that aren't due for 40 years.

This makes a mockery of the entire charade that this is a loan. They should have just said it was a gift.

A forgivable loan? It is not even a loan. It is not due for 40 years, and we are forgiving it now.

These funds were provided by the American taxpayer in the form of loans with the expectation that they would be repaid. We are not going to wait any period of time. They weren't even going to be repaid for 40 years, and we are forgiving them. That is a sick joke, and a sick joke on every American who has got a loan at the bank for their house, who has to pay their mortgage every month, and yet Ukraine is never going to have to pay their loans.

It seems like this is "Ukraine First, America Last." We have got a \$36 trillion debt in our country. We are paying a trillion dollars in interest. We can barely keep up. We are not keeping up with all of the things we promised Americans: Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, food stamps—all of the things that have been promised. We are \$2 trillion short.

So what do we do? We are just shipping billions to Ukraine. About \$200 billion has been sent so far.

Such blatant disregard of American citizens is unacceptable. The joint resolution of disapproval that I put forward, today, provides the Senate an opportunity to prevent the President from doing this—from canceling this debt, from making a mockery of the idea that it was ever a loan.

We will not stand idly by as the President elevates the interests of a foreign country above our own.

And let me remind President Biden that, due to his failed policies over the last 4 years, Americans across this country are struggling with their loans. Today, some 37 million Americans live under the poverty line, including 9 million children. Fifty percent of Americans say they are living paycheck to paycheck, and yet the concern is for the loans of a foreign country that will never be repaid, that were not even going to begin to be repaid for 40 years.

This is an insult to every American who has a mortgage that they have to pay. Eight out of 10 Americans who earn less than \$50,000 a year are unable to cover their future bills until their next paycheck arrives. Americans are living paycheck to paycheck, and we are shipping this money to a foreign country that will never be asked to repay it.

In 40 years, if they were somehow gloriously successful again—40 years from now—they are still not going to be asked to pay this. Americans are working two, sometimes three jobs just to make ends meet, and while millions of Americans work day in and day out to pay off their own personal loans, President Biden wants to forgive Ukraine's economic loans without any debate.

This was rushed forward. I was fortunate enough to get 16 colleagues to allow this vote to happen. But they didn't want this vote to happen. They gave us a short window, and, boom, it is going to be gone. They don't want a discussion about how obviously insulting this is to every American to do this.

The American people have been more than generous when it comes to supporting Ukraine. In the nearly 3 years of this war, Congress has appropriated nearly \$200 billion in aid. For 3 years, the American people have been sold the lie that if we only send tens of billions more of their dollars to Ukraine, Ukraine will be able to push Russians out, secure the 2014 borders, and achieve victory in the battlefield.

It won't happen. The President of Ukraine, the generals of Ukraine, the people who have followed this situation all agree: The war is at a stalemate.

Trillions of dollars more will only lead to more carnage in the battlefield, and it won't achieve victory. These assertions were always farcical, as they failed to contend with basic battlefield realities.

Despite massive assistance provided by the United States and others, Ukraine is no better off now than they were 3 years ago. It is arguable that their ability to negotiate, as they have lost more land to Russia, is actually that their leverage for negotiation with Russia is less than it was when the war began.

In fact, Ukraine is now in a worse negotiating position because they have likely incurred hundreds of thousands of casualties and now face a critical manpower shortage. That shortage is becoming impossible to ignore, as Russia consolidates its gains and continues to make progress across eastern Ukraine.

Americans may be surprised to discover that their aid has not, in fact, shifted the war in Ukraine's favor. They may also be surprised to learn that much of the money Congress sends to Ukraine isn't actually being used to support Ukraine's military.

While American families struggle to put food on the table and keep the lights on, U.S. taxpayers are paying for the salaries of thousands of Ukrainian bureaucrats, their pensions. We are paying for their teachers.

Do our teachers make enough money? Probably not. But I am guessing, if you ask an American teacher, should we be paying the salaries of Ukrainian teachers, you might get a debate.

We are paying their healthcare workers' salaries, their first responders. We are buying seeds and fertilizer for their farmers. And we are bankrolling Ukrainian small businesses.

A report conducted earlier this year found that 43 percent of small businesses in America were unable to pay their rent in full and on time in the month of April. Yet we are sending billions of dollars to Ukraine to subsidize their small businesses.

A report by CBS News discovered that U.S. taxpayers are helping a Ukrainian knitwear company find new international customers overseas. Oh boy, we are helping Ukrainian businesses expand overseas.

We don't even need independent journalists to highlight such absurdities.

USAID bragged on their own website about how they provided funding for six Ukrainian fashion brands to participate in Paris Fashion Week. I am sure they will be glad that they won't be paying back any loans.

This is what we are asking the American people to pay for—to send Ukrainian fashion brands to a Paris fashion show? I have never had one constituent in Kentucky come up to me and say: Please, send more money. We are fine in Appalachia. We are fine in rural Kentucky.

I don't think there is anybody in Asheville, NC, today that is pleading for more good money to be sent to Ukraine.

It is bad enough, but it is also impossible to ensure that this amount of money actually gets to the misguided priorities that have been set. The Government Accountability Office admits that there are a number of ways in which Federal Agencies could improve oversight and aid to Ukraine.

It has been 3 years. Why hasn't the government approved the oversight? Well, because it is impossible to send so much aid to a country as quickly as we have and expect that there won't be waste, fraud, and abuse.

I forced the Senate to vote on a special inspector general for Ukraine, and the "Ukraine First uniparty"—both sides of the aisle—voted it down. Even with a special inspector general, it is nearly impossible to ensure oversight on this vast amount of money in such a short period of time.

Adding insult to injury, Ukraine is consistently ranked as one of the most corrupt countries in the world. Transparency International ranked Ukraine 104th out of 180 countries in 2023, with respect to honesty and integrity, and also found that 23 percent of the public service users paid a bribe in the previous 12 months in Ukraine.

And yet we give billions of dollars, and we have no special inspector general.

And now in spite of all of this, President Biden wants to forgive over \$4.6 billion in loans that the U.S. taxpayer provided under the auspices that they would be repaid.

This lunacy is just another example of how the Washington establishment is completely out of touch with Americans. You ask Americans about this, they have got to pay their loans; they don't understand forgiving Ukrainian loans.

The election earlier this month made it eminently clear that the American people are sick and tired of the status quo. They are sick and tired of business as usual in Washington, and they want their elected officials to deliver change.

It is fitting that in the final months of this disastrous Presidency, Joe Biden caps off his foreign policy for the middle class by asking to cancel over 4.6 billion in aid, in loans, to Ukraine—once again prioritizing the interest of a foreign country at the expense of our own.

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this resolution to disapprove of the President forgiving this billions of dollars' worth of loans to Ukraine and put the American people first.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I am not going to get into the debate before the floor, but I heard the city of Asheville referenced at the last debate from the gentleman from Kentucky, and I have to tell you, I am not happy with that. I sat here last week and tried to do a unanimous consent request to fund the Small Business Administration loan, and my colleague from Kentucky objected.

But don't pretend like this debate tonight has anything to do with Asheville, NC, a town that just got drinking water 2 days ago. You want to argue this, don't argue it on the merits of something that you objected to me trying to accomplish last week for the city of Asheville.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Sometimes in Washington, memories get clouded and foggy, even after a week. The Senator from North Carolina will remember that he objected to aid in North Carolina. He objected to small business loans. He objected to them simply because they were paid for.

I offered unanimous consent, and it was blocked by the Senator from North Carolina. I offered unanimous consent to immediately infuse more loans through the Small Business Administration for North Carolina that was hit hard by the flooding. The Senator from North Carolina blocked his own bill because I proposed that it be paid for by taking green energy boondoggle loans.

So don't be tricked by any flimflammy or any sort of making up of history. The Senator from North Carolina last week blocked his own aid passage that I agreed to let go unilaterally as long as it was paid for by taking some extra money from another part of the budget. Don't be fooled.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I understand we have about 7 or 8 minutes left. I may need to use all of them.

Let's talk about tomfoolery. Let's talk about being disingenuous. The gentleman from Kentucky knows damn well that he proposed an amendment that would have actually caused the bill to fail.

The gentleman from Kentucky also knows very well that the House has a posture that the disaster recovery bill has to be funded. The gentleman from Kentucky knows that this aid that I have tried to get to the House would have been fully funded. The gentleman from Kentucky also knows that I also support the amendment he offered, but he played the game that we play around here and tried to think that I wouldn't have the courage to stand up

against that garbage amendment because it was the right amendment at the wrong time.

I yield, Mr. President, unless there is additional time and someone else wants to speak.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. It is very important that the truth be told about what went on with aid to North Carolina. I agreed to pass it unanimously as long as it was paid for.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President. Mr. President.

Mr. PAUL. I won't be interrupted, Mr. President. I have the floor.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise for an—

Mr. PAUL. I have the floor.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise—

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky has the floor.

Mr. PAUL. I will not yield the floor, Mr. President—

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry—

Mr. PAUL.—what has been said here is untrue.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will be in order. The Senator from Kentucky has the floor.

Mr. TILLIS. Is it the ruling of this Chair that it is out of order to make the parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Chair?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky has not yielded for an inquiry. The Senator from Kentucky still owns the floor.

Mr. TILLIS. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, it is important that the truth be told and that people aren't allowed to stand and lie without challenge.

The bill last week to give immediate aid to North Carolina was objected to by the Senator from North Carolina. I agreed to let it go immediately by unanimous consent as long as it was paid for. The Senator from North Carolina objected.

These are the facts. This is the Senate record. The people of North Carolina can read this in the Senate record. He objected to his own bill because he was annoyed that I had the audacity to say we have a \$2 trillion debt, and we should pay for things.

We had \$4 trillion worth of Green Energy New Deal boondoggle spending subsidies to big green energy company, big corporations. He objected to taking money from green energy boondoggle budgets and spending it in his own State. He objected to his own bill.

So what I would say is: The truth is important. The facts are important. We have had a very important debate here, and there is a general philosophical debate about whether or not we should spend money in Ukraine or in our country.

We have had flooding problems in Kentucky. I haven't met one person who suffered from this who didn't say it was more important to spend the

money in Kentucky than Ukraine. It is a debate that is worth having. The decisions we make over here should be about prioritizing spending. Where do we spend it? Do we borrow it? Where do we spend the money? This is what it is about.

And the fact that the Senator from North Carolina wants to rewrite history and say he didn't object to his own bill when he did is a lie; just simply untrue. Just simply untrue.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator will suspend.

The Senate is reminded that there are rules of decorum in the Senate. Let me read to you rule XIX:

No Senator in debate shall, directly or indirectly, by any form of words, impute to another Senator or other Senators any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming of a Senator.

Mr. PAUL. Thank you. I would regain the rest of my time. How much time do I have left?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 6½ half minutes remaining.

Mr. PAUL. You said 6½ minutes?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Total remaining.

Mr. PAUL. This side of the debate which has—

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky is recognized.

Mr. PAUL.—30 minutes will relinquish the remaining time on our side.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. First, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is to state his inquiry.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I want to understand the effect of the gentleman from Kentucky relinquishing time.

Does that mean that I would need to continue debate until the time is over; or at the time that I finish speaking, will we go to a vote?

Mr. PAUL. There is no more time left on our side.

Mr. TILLIS. There is about 4 minutes left?

Mr. PAUL. There is none.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 5½ minutes remaining.

Mr. TILLIS. There is 5½ minutes remaining?

Mr. PAUL. But that is not what happened. I relinquished the time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will come to order.

Mr. TILLIS. Parliamentary inquiry.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. State the nature of your inquiry.

Mr. TILLIS. Does the Senator from North Carolina have the floor?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Carolina has the floor.

Mr. TILLIS. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I have been accused of lying. I don't mind that. I mean, I am a politician. People do that every single day.

But I believe that someone may be guilty of misleading this body about

my position. So I am going to take a few minutes to explain my position. It may or may not coincide with the end of time set aside for debate.

But our State motto is "Esse Quam Videri."

Mr. Chair, may I have order?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will come to order. The Senators will take conversations outside the chamber.

Mr. TILLIS. My state motto is "Esse Quam Videri." That is Latin. It means "to be rather than to seem."

Well, ladies and gentlemen, the gentleman from Kentucky suggests that I am against clawing back the Green New Deal and certain things that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle passed through reconciliation. Why would anybody with any experience in this body think that it wouldn't be one of the first things I would vote for when we have reconciliation? Right? How can anybody possibly suggest that I am against clawing back policies that were passed through reconciliation because I am going to need it to pay for tax reform when we pass reconciliation in the next Congress. So how can it—and I have said that we are going to claw back things, and we are going to pay for it.

If you listen to the gentleman from Kentucky, he said I am against repealing that. Well, both can't be true, ladies and gentlemen. They just simply can't be true.

I am for the very things—and I hope that the Senator from Kentucky knows I would be happy to cosponsor that bill. If I have it, I will tomorrow.

But I don't play games in this Chamber. I actually fight, in this case, for the people of western North Carolina who are suffering. I will defeat any amendment to aid to North Carolina if it stands in the way. But I know a little bit about legislative procedure, ladies and gentlemen. And anybody in here who pays attention to how a bill becomes law should watch this.

We could pass the SBA funding bill out of here because 99 out of 100 Senators said it was OK. One didn't. Now we would like to think that the House would receive it and pass it out because we have a tradition of not funding disaster recovery bills, but we know the current majority won't do it.

So anybody with a modicum of experience in legislative procedure and actually passing bills that get to the President's desk would know that it will have to be funded, and my colleague from the western North Carolina 11th District is working on a paid-for now.

So if you really care about the people in North Carolina, if you really understand the legislative process, and you really understand the posture of the House, then you know—you absolutely know—that this bill will be paid for before it goes to the President's desk.

Now, I have some people asking me why I am talking. Because I am going to get the final say here, and I am not

going to let anyone else talk before we have to go to a vote. So if you are wondering why I am going on, I am not going to play the game of somebody coming up—I am only equating what they said about me—that I lied.

So, ladies and gentlemen, instead of relinquishing the time, unless I can be assured the minute I put this mic down we are going to go to a vote, then I have got to start quoting poetry or something because I am not yielding until time is out.

So, Mr. President, may I make a parliamentary inquiry?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The gentleman may state the nature of his inquiry.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, how much time is left?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 7 minutes and 35 seconds remaining.

Mr. TILLIS. You said 7 minutes and 35 seconds?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Yes, 7 minutes and 35 seconds.

Mr. TILLIS. OK. Mr. President, may I make an inquiry of the lady from the State of Washington?

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I yield back all the Democratic time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington yields back all time.

VOTE ON MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Ms. LUMMIS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 37, nays 61, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 295 Leg.]

YEAS—37

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Fischer | Mullin |
| Blackburn | Graham | Paul |
| Boozman | Hagerty | Risch |
| Britt | Hawley | Rounds |
| Budd | Hoeben | Rubio |
| Capito | Hyde-Smith | Schmitt |
| Cassidy | Johnson | Scott (FL) |
| Cotton | Kennedy | Scott (SC) |
| Cramer | Lankford | Sullivan |
| Crapo | Lee | Thune |
| Cruz | Lummis | Tuberville |
| Daines | Marshall | |
| Ernst | Moran | |

NAYS—61

| | | |
|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Baldwin | Casey | Grassley |
| Bennet | Collins | Hassan |
| Blumenthal | Coons | Heinrich |
| Booker | Cornyn | Helmy |
| Brown | Cortez Masto | Hickenlooper |
| Butler | Duckworth | Hirono |
| Cantwell | Durbin | Kaine |
| Cardin | Fetterman | Kelly |
| Carper | Gillibrand | King |

| | | |
|-----------|----------|------------|
| Klobuchar | Reed | Tillis |
| Lujan | Ricketts | Van Hollen |
| Manchin | Romney | Warner |
| Markey | Rosen | Warnock |
| McConnell | Sanders | Warren |
| Merkley | Schatz | Welch |
| Murkowski | Schumer | Whitehouse |
| Murphy | Shaheen | Wicker |
| Murray | Sinema | Wyden |
| Ossoff | Smith | Young |
| Padilla | Stabenow | |
| Peters | Tester | |

NOT VOTING—2

| | |
|-------|-------|
| Braun | Vance |
|-------|-------|

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Sooknanan cloture motion be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 601, Sparkle L. Sooknanan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Tina Smith, Tammy Duckworth, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Sheldon Whitehouse, Raphael G. Warnock, Laphonza R. Butler, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow.

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 Sparkle L. Sooknanan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 296 Leg.]

YEAS—51

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Gillibrand | Murray |
| Bennet | Hassan | Ossoff |
| Blumenthal | Heinrich | Padilla |
| Booker | Helmy | Peters |
| Brown | Hickenlooper | Reed |
| Butler | Hirono | Rosen |
| Cantwell | Kaine | Sanders |
| Cardin | Kelly | Schatz |
| Carper | King | Schumer |
| Casey | Klobuchar | Shaheen |
| Coons | Lujan | Sinema |
| Cortez Masto | Manchin | Smith |
| Duckworth | Markey | Stabenow |
| Durbin | Merkley | Tester |
| Fetterman | Murphy | Van Hollen |

| | | |
|---------|--------|------------|
| Warner | Warren | Whitehouse |
| Warnock | Welch | Wyden |

NAYS—49

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Graham | Ricketts |
| Blackburn | Grassley | Risch |
| Boozman | Hagerty | Romney |
| Braun | Hawley | Rounds |
| Britt | Hoeben | Rubio |
| Budd | Hyde-Smith | Schmitt |
| Capito | Johnson | Scott (FL) |
| Cassidy | Kennedy | Scott (SC) |
| Collins | Lankford | Sullivan |
| Cornyn | Lee | Thune |
| Cotton | Lummis | Tillis |
| Cramer | Marshall | Tuberville |
| Crapo | McConnell | Vance |
| Cruz | Moran | Wicker |
| Daines | Mullin | Young |
| Ernst | Murkowski | |
| Fischer | Paul | |

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 49.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the Senate will resume executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sparkle L. Sooknanan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, if cloture is invoked on the Sooknanan nomination, the Senate immediately vote on the Murphy, Hwang, Dixon, and Henry cloture motions in the order in which cloture was filed; further, that during Thursday's session of the Senate, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate vote on the Wise and Weilheimer cloture motions in the order in which the cloture was filed; further, that if cloture is invoked on any of the above nominations, all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, no earlier than Monday, December 2, 2024; further, that the mandatory quorum calls for the above cloture motions be waived; finally, that the cloture motion with respect to the Desai nomination be withdrawn and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, during Thursday's session of the Senate.

For the information of Members in plain English, this means we are going to have four votes tonight. We are going to—and we are not going to have those 2-hour intervening times so we can get them done quickly if we stay in our seats.

We then will vote tomorrow. We have two votes tomorrow morning and one vote before 1:45.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NAYS—49

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Graham | Ricketts |
| Blackburn | Grassley | Risch |
| Boozman | Hagerty | Romney |
| Braun | Hawley | Rounds |
| Britt | Hoehn | Rubio |
| Budd | Hyde-Smith | Schmitt |
| Capito | Johnson | Scott (FL) |
| Cassidy | Kennedy | Scott (SC) |
| Collins | Lankford | Sullivan |
| Cornyn | Lee | Thune |
| Cotton | Lummis | Tillis |
| Cramer | Marshall | Tuberville |
| Crapo | Moran | Vance |
| Cruz | McConnell | Wicker |
| Daines | Mullin | Young |
| Ernst | Murkowski | |
| Fischer | Paul | |

NOT VOTING—1

Manchin

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 49. The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Brian Edward Murphy, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the next and all subsequent rollcalls be 10 minutes in duration.

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 legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 707, Anne Hwang, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Laphonza R. Butler, Peter Welch, Gary C. Peters, Chris Van Hollen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Jack Reed, Christopher Murphy, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Tim Kaine, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Duckworth, Sheldon Whitehouse.

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 Anne Hwang, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 298 Ex.]

YEAS—51

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Hassan | Reed |
| Bennet | Heinrich | Rosen |
| Blumenthal | Helmy | Sanders |
| Booker | Hickenlooper | Schatz |
| Brown | Hirono | Schumer |
| Butler | Kaine | Shaheen |
| Cantwell | Kelly | Sinema |
| Cardin | King | Smith |
| Carper | Klobuchar | Stabenow |
| Casey | Lujan | Tester |
| Collins | Markey | Van Hollen |
| Coons | Merkley | Warner |
| Cortez Masto | Murphy | Warnock |
| Duckworth | Murray | Warren |
| Durbin | Ossoff | Welch |
| Fetterman | Padilla | Whitehouse |
| Gillibrand | Peters | Wyden |

NAYS—48

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Graham | Paul |
| Blackburn | Grassley | Ricketts |
| Boozman | Hagerty | Risch |
| Braun | Hawley | Romney |
| Britt | Hoehn | Rounds |
| Budd | Hyde-Smith | Rubio |
| Capito | Johnson | Schmitt |
| Cassidy | Kennedy | Scott (FL) |
| Cornyn | Lankford | Scott (SC) |
| Cotton | Lee | Sullivan |
| Cramer | Lummis | Thune |
| Crapo | Marshall | Tillis |
| Cruz | McConnell | Tuberville |
| Daines | Moran | Vance |
| Ernst | Mullin | Wicker |
| Fischer | Murkowski | Young |

NOT VOTING—1

Manchin

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 48.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Anne Hwang, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 711, Cynthia Valenzuela Dixon, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Laphonza R. Butler, Peter Welch, Cory A. Booker, John W. Hickenlooper, Martin Heinrich, Gary C. Peters, Elizabeth Warren, Jack Reed, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tammy Baldwin, Debbie Stabenow, Brian Schatz.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 650, Brian Edward Murphy, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Debbie Stabenow, John W. Hickenlooper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tina Smith, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Gary C. Peters, Peter Welch, Margaret Wood Hassan, Brian Schatz.

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 Brian Edward Murphy, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 297 Ex.]

YEAS—50

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Heinrich | Rosen |
| Bennet | Helmy | Sanders |
| Blumenthal | Hickenlooper | Schatz |
| Booker | Hirono | Schumer |
| Brown | Kaine | Shaheen |
| Butler | Kelly | Sinema |
| Cantwell | King | Smith |
| Cardin | Klobuchar | Stabenow |
| Carper | Lujan | Tester |
| Casey | Markey | Van Hollen |
| Coons | Merkley | Warner |
| Cortez Masto | Murphy | Warnock |
| Duckworth | Murray | Warren |
| Durbin | Ossoff | Welch |
| Fetterman | Padilla | Whitehouse |
| Gillibrand | Peters | Wyden |
| Hassan | Reed | |

of Cynthia Valenzuela Dixon, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 299 Ex.]

YEAS—50

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Heinrich | Rosen |
| Bennet | Helmy | Sanders |
| Blumenthal | Hickenlooper | Schatz |
| Booker | Hirono | Schumer |
| Brown | Kaine | Shaheen |
| Butler | Kelly | Sinema |
| Cantwell | King | Smith |
| Cardin | Klobuchar | Stabenow |
| Carper | Lujan | Tester |
| Casey | Markey | Van Hollen |
| Coons | Merkley | Warner |
| Cortez Masto | Murphy | Warnock |
| Duckworth | Murray | Warren |
| Durbin | Ossoff | Welch |
| Fetterman | Padilla | Whitehouse |
| Gillibrand | Peters | Wyden |
| Hassan | Reed | |

NAYS—49

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Graham | Ricketts |
| Blackburn | Grassley | Risch |
| Boozman | Hagerty | Romney |
| Braun | Hawley | Rounds |
| Britt | Hoeven | Rubio |
| Budd | Hyde-Smith | Schmitt |
| Capito | Johnson | Scott (FL) |
| Cassidy | Kennedy | Scott (SC) |
| Collins | Lankford | Sullivan |
| Cornyn | Lee | Thune |
| Cotton | Lummis | Tillis |
| Cramer | Marshall | Tuberville |
| Crapo | McConnell | Vance |
| Cruz | Moran | Wicker |
| Daines | Mullin | Young |
| Ernst | Murkowski | |
| Fischer | Paul | |

NOT VOTING—1

Manchin

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). The yeas are 50, the nays are 49.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cynthia Valenzuela Dixon, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 779, Catherine Henry, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Peter Welch, Cory A. Booker, John W. Hickenlooper, Martin Heinrich, Laphonza R. Butler, Elizabeth Warren, Jack Reed, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tammy Baldwin, Debbie Stabenow, Gary C. Peters, Brian Schatz.

Mr. SCHUMER. This is the last vote, everybody.

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 Catherine Henry, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 300 Ex.]

YEAS—50

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Heinrich | Rosen |
| Bennet | Helmy | Sanders |
| Blumenthal | Hickenlooper | Schatz |
| Booker | Hirono | Schumer |
| Brown | Kaine | Shaheen |
| Butler | Kelly | Sinema |
| Cantwell | King | Smith |
| Cardin | Klobuchar | Stabenow |
| Carper | Lujan | Tester |
| Casey | Markey | Van Hollen |
| Coons | Merkley | Warner |
| Cortez Masto | Murphy | Warnock |
| Duckworth | Murray | Warren |
| Durbin | Ossoff | Welch |
| Fetterman | Padilla | Whitehouse |
| Gillibrand | Peters | Wyden |
| Hassan | Reed | |

NAYS—49

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Graham | Ricketts |
| Blackburn | Grassley | Risch |
| Boozman | Hagerty | Romney |
| Braun | Hawley | Rounds |
| Britt | Hoeven | Rubio |
| Budd | Hyde-Smith | Schmitt |
| Capito | Johnson | Scott (FL) |
| Cassidy | Kennedy | Scott (SC) |
| Collins | Lankford | Sullivan |
| Cornyn | Lee | Thune |
| Cotton | Lummis | Tillis |
| Cramer | Marshall | Tuberville |
| Crapo | McConnell | Vance |
| Cruz | Moran | Wicker |
| Daines | Mullin | Young |
| Ernst | Murkowski | |
| Fischer | Paul | |

NOT VOTING—1

Manchin

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 49.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Catherine Henry, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY

COOPERATION AGENCY,

Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 20-62 concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$655 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,

Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 20-62

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$653 million.

Other \$2 million.

Total \$655 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Two Thousand Five Hundred Three (2,503) AGM-114R3 Hellfire II Missiles (3 for lot acceptance testing).

Non-MDE: Also included are support and test equipment; integration and test support;

spare and repair parts; software delivery and support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; storage; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (SR-B-WCZ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: SR-B-WAL.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 11, 2024.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—AGM-114R3 Hellfire II Missiles

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has requested to buy Two Thousand Five Hundred Three (2,503) AGM-114R3 Hellfire II missiles (3 for lot acceptance testing). Also included are support and test equipment; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; software delivery and support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; storage; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated cost is \$655 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country that continues to be an important force for political and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve Saudi Arabia's capability to meet current and future threats and improve interoperability with systems operated by U.S. Forces and other Gulf countries. Saudi Arabia's continued investment in its defensive capabilities is crucial to protecting its borders, energy infrastructure, and its residents. Saudi Arabia will have no difficulty absorbing these missiles into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be The Lockheed Martin Corporation, Troy, AL. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Saudi Arabia. The only additional U.S. military support required would be Technical Assistance Field Team (TAFT) visits during training phases.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 20-62

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AGM-114R3 Hellfire II missile is a precision strike, Semi-Active Laser (SAL)-guided missile and is the principal air-to-ground weapon for the Army. The AGM-114R3 Hellfire II missile provides the warfighter with an air-to-ground, point-target precision strike capability to defeat advanced armor and an array of traditional and nontraditional targets.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems which might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the Government of Saudi Arabia can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN, Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY, Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 24-0G. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 15-68 of October 19, 2015.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-0G

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(c), AECA

(i) Prospective Purchase: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 15-68; Date: October 19, 2015; Implementing Agency: Navy.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On October 19, 2015 Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 15-68 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of a comprehensive naval modernization program referred to as the Saudi Naval Expansion Program II

(SNEP-II). This 2015 notification of the next phase of that program will include Multi-Mission Surface Combatant (MMSC) ships and program office support. The MMSC will consist of the following Major Defense Equipment (MDE): four (4) MMSC ships (a derivative of the Freedom Variant of the U.S. Navy Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) Class) that incorporate five (5) COMBATSS-21 Combat Management Systems (four (4) installed, one (1) spare) with five (5) TRS-4D Radars (four (4) installed, one (1) spare); five (5) Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) (Mode 4 and Mode 5-capable) UPX-29 (four (4) installed, one (1) spare); five (5) Compact Low Frequency Active Passive Variable Depth Sonar (four (4) installed, one (1) spare); eight (8) MK-41 Vertical Launch Systems (VLS) (two (2) eight-cell assemblies per ship for 16 cells per hull); five-hundred thirty-two (532) tactical RIM-162 Evolved Sea Sparrow Missiles (ESSM) (one hundred twenty-eight (128) installed, twenty (20), test and training rounds, three hundred eighty-four (384) spares); five (5) AN/SWG-1 (V) Harpoon Ship Command Launch Control Systems (four (4) installed (one (1) per ship), one (1) spare); eight (8) Harpoon Shipboard Launchers (two (2) installed four-tube assemblies per ship); forty-eight (48) RGM-84 Harpoon Block II Missiles (thirty-two (32) installed, sixteen (16) test and training rounds); five (5) MK-15 Mod 31 SeaRAM Close-In Weapon System (CIWS) (four (4) installed, one (1) spare); one-hundred eighty-eight (188) RIM 116C Block II Rolling Airframe Missiles (RAM) (forty-four (44) installed, twelve (12) test and training rounds, one hundred thirty-two (132) spares); five (5) MK-75 76mm OTO Melara Gun Systems (four (4) installed, one (1) spare); and forty-eight (48) 50-caliber machine guns (forty (40) installed (ten (10) per ship), eight (8) spares); and Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) Global Positioning System/Precise Positioning Service (GPS/PPS) navigation equipment. Also included in this sale in support of the MMSC are: study, design and construction of operations; support and training facilities; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; communications equipment employing Link 16 equipment; Fire Control System/Ceros 200 Sensor and Illuminator; 20mm Narwhal Gun; Nixie AN/SLQ-25A Surface Ship Torpedo Defense System; MK-32 Surface Vessel Torpedo Tubes; WBR-2000 Electronic Support Measure and Threat Warning System; Automatic Launch of Expendables (ALEX) Chaff and Decoy-Launching System; ARC-210 Radios; Combined Enterprise Regional Information Exchange System (CENTRIXS); Automated Digital Network System; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. In addition, this case provided overarching program office support for the SNEP II to include: U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support, and other related elements of program support to meet necessities for program execution. The estimated cost was \$11.25 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$4.30 billion of this total.

On May 24, 2019, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 0P-19 of the inclusion of four (4) Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS JTRS) to be installed on Saudi Arabia's Multi-Mission Surface Combatant (MMSC) ships, support equipment, engineering and technical support, training, and other related elements of program support. The estimated total value remained at \$11.25 billion. The total

MDE value increased by \$7 million to a revised MDE total of \$4.307 billion.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of one hundred forty-eight (148) RGM-114-L Longbow Hellfire missiles (32 for each of 4 ships, 20 for testing); five (5) Indra Rigel Electronic Attack Systems (1 per ship, 1 for training); and sixteen (16) M240B machine guns (4 per ship) for installation on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Multi-Mission Surface Combatant (MMSC) ships. Also included is engineering and technical support; training; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total case value will remain \$11.25 billion. The total MDE value will increase by \$403 million to a revised \$4.71 billion.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided as the additional MDE items were not enumerated in the original notification. The proposed sale will support the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with added protection in the Persian Gulf to meet current and future maritime threats. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia intends to use the capability to support interoperability with U.S. forces and to support joint and coalition warfighting capabilities in the region.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by ensuring the readiness of a friendly country that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic growth in the Middle East.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

Longbow Hellfire (LBHF) is a short-range, precision strike, air-to-surface missile that uses millimeter wave (MMW) radar guidance. LBHF was developed as an anti-armor weapon for helicopters. As part of the U.S. Navy's Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) program, the missile was modified to serve in a shipboard surface-to-surface role. This modified missile was adapted for use in a quad pack canister installed into the Mk-41 Vertical Launch System (VLS) for the Multi-Mission Surface Combatant (MMSC) ships.

The Indra Electronic Warfare (EW) suite will provide electronic surveillance, electronic protection, and electronic attack capabilities for the MMSC ships. The EW suite that will be installed on the MMSC ships is comprised of radar electronic support measures, which detect and identify enemy communications, and active radar electronic countermeasures, which jam and disrupt enemy radar performance and communications. The Indra EW suite will not be integrated with the ship's combat management system, will not exchange classified data, and the U.S. Navy will not provide threat library information. The EW suite is available internationally through Indra.

The M240B machine guns will provide shipboard self-defense for MMSC ships in the Arabian Gulf, helping to protect critical ports and waterways while ensuring freedom of navigation.

The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to additional items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 11, 2024.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress

has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21-15 concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$139 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-15

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$9 million.
Other \$130 million.
Total \$139 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Ten thousand (10,000) M456 Series, 105mm, High Explosive Anti-Tank Tracer Cartridges.

Non-MDE: Also included are various types of tank, howitzer, and machine gun ammunition; propelling charges; fuzes; primers; grenades; support and test equipment; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; software delivery and support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; storage; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (SR-B-UDA, SR-B-UDC).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 11, 2024.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—Ammunition for Artillery Systems, Machine Guns, and Tanks

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has requested to buy ten thousand (10,000) M456 series, 105mm, High Explosive Anti-Tank Tracer cartridges. Also included are various types of tank, howitzer, and machine gun ammunition; propelling charges; fuzes; primers; grenades; support and test equipment; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; software delivery and support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; storage; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated cost is \$139 million.

This proposed sale will support U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives by helping to improve the security of a friendly country that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic growth in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve Saudi Arabia's capability to meet current and future threats and improve interoperability with systems operated by U.S. Forces and other Gulf countries. Saudi Arabia's continued investment in its defense capabilities is crucial to protecting its borders, energy infrastructure, and its residents. Saudi Arabia will have no difficulty absorbing these munitions into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

This ammunition will come from a combination of U.S. Army stock and new procurement. The procurement vendors are unknown at this time. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Saudi Arabia.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-15

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The 105mm M456A2 High Explosive, Anti-tank Multipurpose, with Tracer, Cartridge (DODIC C508) is designed for use against armored targets and contains Composition B Explosive (an explosive consisting of castable mixtures of RDX and TNT) and a copper shaped charge liner inside a steel body. Saudi Arabia will use them in their M60A3 tanks.

2. The 155mm M795 High Explosive Projectile (DODIC D529), will be used in Saudi Arabia's M109 series howitzers. This item is employed against personnel; trucks; electronic surveillance and target acquisition devices; supply points; command and control and communications (C3) installations; and mechanized and armored forces.

3. The 155mm M231 Propelling Charge (DODIC DA12) will be used in Saudi Arabia's M109 series howitzers. The Modular Artillery Charge System (MACS) consists of two propelling charge module types, the M231 and the M232/M232A1, and their associated packaging. The system is compatible with all current and planned 155mm field artillery weapons.

4. The 155mm M232A1 Propelling Charge (DODIC DA13), will be used in Saudi Arabia's M109 series howitzers. The Modular Artillery Charge System (MACS) consists of two propelling charge module types, the M231 and

the M232/M232A1, and their associated packaging. The system is compatible with all current and planned 155mm field artillery weapons.

5. The .50 Cal M8 Armor Piercing Incendiary/M20 Armor Piercing Incendiary-Tracer, linked 4/1 (DODIC A576), is machine gun ammunition. The cartridges contain a manganese molybdenum steel core, a point filler of incendiary composition, and a lead-antimony base seal. This configuration combines the functions of an armor piercing bullet and an incendiary bullet, and is used against flammable targets and light-armored or unarmored targets, concrete shelters, and similar bullet-resisting targets. The addition of a tracer in the M20 enables the shooter to follow the projectile trajectory to make aiming corrections.

6. The M67 Fragmentation Hand Grenade (DODIC G881) is an anti-personnel munition used to supplement small arms fire against enemies in close combat.

7. The M739A1 Artillery Point Detonating/Delay Fuze (DODIC N340) will be used in Saudi Arabia's M109 series howitzers. This item is the U.S. Army's preferred, primary fuze for 105mm and 155mm projectiles to address point detonating/delay artillery functions.

8. The M82 Percussion Primer (DODIC N523) will be used in Saudi Arabia's M109 series howitzers.

9. The 120MM Insensitive Munitions High Explosive—Tracer Non-US Inventory will be used in the M1A2 tanks. Insensitive munitions are munitions that are designed to withstand stimuli representative of severe but credible accidents. The current range of stimuli are shock, heat and adjacent detonating munitions.

10. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is UNCLASSIFIED.

11. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems which might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

12. A determination has been made that the Government of Saudi Arabia can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

13. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN, Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications

that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21-15 concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$139 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-15

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$9 million.
Other \$130 million.
Total \$139 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Ten thousand (10,000) M456 Series, 105mm, High Explosive Anti-Tank Tracer Cartridges.

Non-MDE: Also included are various types of tank, howitzer, and machine gun ammunition; propelling charges; fuzes; primers; grenades; support and test equipment; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; software delivery and support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; storage; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (SR-B-UDA, SR-B-UDC).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 11, 2024.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—Ammunition for Artillery Systems, Machine Guns, and Tanks

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has requested to buy ten thousand (10,000) M456 series, 105mm, High Explosive Anti-Tank Tracer cartridges. Also included are various types of tank, howitzer, and machine gun ammunition; propelling charges; fuzes; primers; grenades; support and test equipment; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; software delivery and support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, tech-

nical and logistics support services; storage; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated cost is \$139 million.

This proposed sale will support U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives by helping to improve the security of a friendly country that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic growth in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve Saudi Arabia's capability to meet current and future threats and improve interoperability with systems operated by U.S. Forces and other Gulf countries. Saudi Arabia's continued investment in its defense capabilities is crucial to protecting its borders, energy infrastructure, and its residents. Saudi Arabia will have no difficulty absorbing these munitions into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

This ammunition will come from a combination of U.S. Army stock and new procurement. The procurement vendors are unknown at this time. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Saudi Arabia.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-15

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The 105mm M456A2 High Explosive, Anti-tank Multipurpose, with Tracer, Cartridge (DODIC C508) is designed for use against armored targets and contains Composition B Explosive (an explosive consisting of castable mixtures of RDX and TNT) and a copper shaped charge liner inside a steel body. Saudi Arabia will use them in their M60A3 tanks.

2. The 155mm M795 High Explosive Projectile (DODIC D529), will be used in Saudi Arabia's M109 series howitzers. This item is employed against personnel; trucks; electronic surveillance and target acquisition devices; supply points; command and control and communications (C3) installations; and mechanized and armored forces.

3. The 155mm M231 Propelling Charge (DODIC DA12) will be used in Saudi Arabia's M109 series howitzers. The Modular Artillery Charge System (MACS) consists of two propelling charge module types, the M231 and the M232/M232AI, and their associated packaging. The system is compatible with all current and planned 155mm field artillery weapons.

4. The 155mm M232AI Propelling Charge (DODIC DA13), will be used in Saudi Arabia's M109 series howitzers. The Modular Artillery Charge System (MACS) consists of two propelling charge module types, the M231 and the M232/M232AI, and their associated packaging. The system is compatible with all current and planned 155mm field artillery weapons.

5. The .50 Cal M8 Armor Piercing Incendiary/M20 Armor Piercing Incendiary-Tracer, linked 4/1 (DODIC A576), is machine gun ammunition. The cartridges contain a manganese molybdenum steel core, a point filler of incendiary composition, and a lead-antimony base seal. This configuration combines the functions of an armor piercing bullet and an incendiary bullet, and is used against

flammable targets and light-armored or unarmored targets, concrete shelters, and similar bullet-resisting targets. The addition of a tracer in the M20 enables the shooter to follow the projectile trajectory to make aiming corrections.

6. The M67 Fragmentation Hand Grenade (DODIC G881) is an anti-personnel munition used to supplement small arms fire against enemies in close combat.

7. The M739AI Artillery Point Detonating/Delay Fuze (DODIC N340) will be used in Saudi Arabia's M109 series howitzers. This item is the U.S. Army's preferred, primary fuze for 105mm and 155mm projectiles to address point detonating/delay artillery functions.

8. The M82 Percussion Primer (DODIC N523) will be used in Saudi Arabia's M109 series howitzers.

9. The 120MM Insensitive Munitions High Explosive—Tracer Non-U.S. Inventory will be used in the M1A2 tanks. Insensitive munitions are munitions that are designed to withstand stimuli representative of severe but credible accidents. The current range of stimuli are shock, heat and adjacent detonating munitions.

10. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is UNCLASSIFIED.

11. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems which might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

12. A determination has been made that the Government of Saudi Arabia can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

13. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 24-0A. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 15-17 of May 20, 2015.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-0A

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(c), AECA)

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(ii) Sec. 36(B)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 15-17; Date: May 20, 2015; Implementing Agency: Navy.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On May 20, 2015, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 15-17 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of ten (10) MH-60R multi-mission helicopters with fourteen (14) APS-153(V) Multi-Mode radars (10 installed, 2 spares and 2 for testing); twenty-four T-700 GE 401 C engines (20 installed and 4 spares); twelve (12) APX-123 Identification Friend or For transponders (10 installed and 2 spares); fourteen (14) AN/AAS-44C(V) Multi-Spectral Targeting Systems Forward Looking Infrared Radars (10 installed, 2 spares, and 2 for testing); twenty-six (26) Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation Systems with Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (20 installed and 6 spares); Link-16 capability; one-thousand (1,000) AN/SSQ-36/53/62 Sonobuoys; thirty-eight (38) AGM-114R Hellfire II missiles; five (5) AGM-114 M36-E9 Captive Air Training missiles; four (4) AGM-114Q Hellfire Training Missiles; three-hundred eighty (380) Advanced Precision Kill Weapons Systems rockets; twelve (12) M-240D crew served weapons; and twelve GAU-21 crew served weapons. Also included were spare engine containers, facilities study and design; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; communication equipment; aerial refueling services; ferry support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other elements of logistical and program support. The estimated cost was \$1.90 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$1.25 billion of this total.

On September 15, 2015, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 0J-15 of the inclusion of two (2) AN/AQS-22 Airborne Low Frequency Sonar (ALFS). The AN/AQS-22 was declared Major Defence Equipment (MDE) in early June 2015, after transmittal number 15-17 was notified to Congress. Prior to this determination, the units were included in the value of the original transmittal but not enumerated or valued as MDE. Upgrading the status of this equipment to MDE resulted in an increase in MDE of \$9 million, but the total case value remained at \$1.90 billion.

On May 24, 2019, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 0O-19 of the inclusion of ten (10) Link 16 Multifunctional Information Distribution

System—Low Volume Terminals (MIDS-LVT) Block Upgrade Two terminals to be installed on Saudi Arabia's MH-60R Helicopters; twenty-four (24) spare Link 16 MIDS-LVT Block Upgrade Two terminals; support equipment; engineering and technical support, training, and other related elements of program support. The total MDE value was \$10.9 million. The revised MDE total value was \$1.269 billion. The total value remained \$1.90 billion.

This transmittal notifies inclusion of the following additional MDE items: six hundred eighty-two (682) Advanced Precision Kill Weapons System (APKWS) rockets; one hundred fifty-three (153) AGM-114R Hellfire II missiles; and one (1) M240D 7.62mm machine gun. The following non-MDE items will also be included: engineering and technical support; training; and other related elements of program support. The estimated total value of the new items is \$71 million. This will result in a net increase in MDE value of \$71 million, and a revised total MDE value of \$1.34 billion. The estimated total case value will remain \$1.90 billion.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided as the additional MDE items were not enumerated in the original notification. The proposed articles and services will support the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by improving security in the Arabian Gulf, interoperability with U.S. forces, and the ease in conducting coordinated operations.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a partner country that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Gulf Region.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 11, 2024.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of

the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-46, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$251.8 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-46

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$192.4 million.

Other \$59.4 million.

Total \$251.8 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Two-hundred twenty (220) AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder Tactical Missiles.

Non-MDE: Also included are missile containers; support equipment; spares; missile software; training; U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (SR-P-ACD).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 11, 2024.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder Missiles

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has requested to buy two-hundred twenty (220) AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder Tactical Missiles. Also included are missile containers; support equipment; spares; missile software; training; and U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$251.8 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by ensuring the readiness of a friendly country that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic growth in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's capability to meet current and future threats, provide increased air defense capabilities, and support conducting self-defense and regional security missions in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be RTX Corporation, located in Arlington, VA. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of three U.S. Govern-

ment and two to four contractor representatives annually to Saudi Arabia for a period of one week. However, ad hoc travel may be required for engineering and other support.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-46

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder Missile represents a substantial increase in performance over the AIM-9M and replaces the AIM-9X Block I Missile configuration. The missile includes a high off-boresight seeker, enhanced countermeasure rejection capability, low drag and high angle of attack airframe, and the ability to integrate the Helmet Mounted Cueing System. The most current AIM-9X Block II Operational Flight Software developed for all International Partner countries, which is authorized by U.S. Government export policy, provides fifth-generation infrared missile capabilities such as Lock-On-After-Launch, Weapons Data Link, Surface Attack, and Surface Launch. No software source code or algorithms will be released.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN, Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 20-79 concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.2 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 20-79

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of the United Arab Emirates.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$1.15 billion.

Other \$.05 billion.

Total \$1.20 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Two hundred fifty-nine (259) Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) M31A1 Unitary Pods (1,554 missiles at six missiles per pod).

Two hundred three (203) Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) M57 Unitary Missiles.

Non-MDE: Also included are publications; personnel training and training equipment; software development; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (AE-B-ZUZ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: AE-B-ZVE.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 11, 2024.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

United Arab Emirates—GMLRS and ATACMS Munitions

The Government of the United Arab Emirates has requested to buy two hundred fifty-nine (259) Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) M31A1 Unitary Pods (1,554 missiles at six missiles per pod) and two hundred three (203) Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) M57 Unitary Missiles. Also included are publications; personnel training and training equipment; software development; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is \$1.2 billion.

The proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of an important regional partner. The United Arab Emirates has been, and continues to be, a vital U.S. partner for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve the United Arab Emirates' capability to meet current and future threats by modernizing its armed forces. This sale will contribute to the United Arab Emirates' military goals of updating capability while further enhancing interoperability with the United States and other partners. The United Arab Emirates will have no difficulty absorbing these articles into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin, Grand Prairie, TX. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the temporary assignment of four (4) U.S. Government and four (4) U.S. contractor representatives to the United Arab Emirates for a duration of no longer than ten (10) days to support new software equipment training and the stockpile reliability program.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 20-79

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) is a solid propellant artillery rocket for the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS). GMLRS uses GPS-aided inertial guidance to accurately and quickly deliver a single high-explosive blast fragmentation warhead to targets. The GMLRS has an operational range of 15-70km.

2. The M57 Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) is a conventional, semi-ballistic missile for the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS). ATACMS is a guided by GPS-aided inertial navigation systems to provide precise targeting over ranges of up to 300km.

3. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

4. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

5. A determination has been made that the United Arab Emirates can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

6. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have authorized for release and export to the Government of the United Arab Emirates.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent

to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-116, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the United Kingdom for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$70 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-116

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of the United Kingdom.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$45 million.
Other \$25 million.
Total \$70 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles and/or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Forty-six (46) Tactical Combat Training System Increment II (TCTS II) air combat training systems.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: containers; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (UK-P-LYI).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 18, 2024.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

United Kingdom—Tactical Combat Training System Increment II

The Government of the United Kingdom has requested to buy forty-six (46) Tactical Combat Training System Increment II (TCTS II) air combat training systems. The following non-MDE items will also be included: containers; integration and test sup-

port; spare and repair parts; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$70 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a key NATO Ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve the United Kingdom's capability to meet current and future threats by improving live, virtual, and constructive tactical combat training. The Royal Air Force's use of the TCTS II furthers United States-United Kingdom operational training interoperability. The United Kingdom will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Collins Aerospace, located in Cedar Rapids, IA, and Leonardo DRS Systems, located in Fort Walton Beach, FL. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the United Kingdom.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-116

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Tactical Combat Training System Increment II (TCTS II) is a software-configurable, next generation air combat training system built to support 4th and 5th generation fighter training on all air combat training ranges. The TCTS II consists of ground equipment, including Common Ground Subsystem and Remote Range Units, and an airborne subsystem pod installed on the aircraft. The airborne subsystem pod interfaces through a secure connection with an aircraft's weapon and data buses and transmits data to Remote Range Units via L-band or S-band radio frequency (RF) signal. The Remote Range Units then route data via RF, fiber, or cellular to the Common Ground Subsystem for live monitoring and post mission replay.

2. The TCTS II provides aircraft and weapons performance information in real time to assist in accurate and immediate feedback to aircrews on both offensive and defensive tactics and weapons employment. Unsuccessful training missions can be repeated within minutes of restaging instead of waiting for post mission debriefs to learn of mistakes and then having to re-fly the same missions at a later date. This has significant cost savings implications (using fewer flying hours to achieve results) while simultaneously bringing better and more relevant training to pilots.

3. The highest level of classification of the defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

4. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

5. A determination has been made that the United Kingdom can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

6. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of the United Kingdom.

NATO

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the attached article entitled "NATO at 75" by Alan W. Dowd in the American Legion Magazine, be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The American Legion Magazine, Oct. 2024]

NATO AT 75

(By Alan W. Dowd)

Rather than scaring NATO to death, Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine has scared NATO back to life. For years, the alliance had been drifting. But with Putin trying to rebuild the Russian Empire and NATO returning to its core mission of deterrence, there's broader support—and clearer need—for NATO than at any time since the Cold War.

ORIGINS

After World War II, Britain, France, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg forged a mutual-defense pact. Prime Minister Paul-Henri Spaak of Belgium warned that any alliance without the United States would be "without practical value."

1946-1948 Moscow violates agreements made at Yalta to hold free elections in postwar Europe, supports communist forces in the Greek Civil War, pressures Turkey for basing rights, topples Czechoslovakia's democratic government and blockades West Berlin. The United States and Britain respond with the Berlin Airlift.

1949 The United States, Britain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway and Portugal sign the North Atlantic Treaty. The heart of the treaty is Article V, which declares that "an armed attack against one or more . . . shall be considered an attack against them all." The U.S. Senate ratifies the treaty 82-13.

1950 Moscow greenlights the invasion of South Korea, supplies Pyongyang with weapons and sends advisers to support the assault. NATO members Britain, Canada, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg and the United States—plus future members Turkey and Greece—send troops to defend South Korea.

1951 NATO opens its headquarters near Paris. Taking the reins as NATO military commander, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower calls NATO "the last remaining chance for the survival of Western civilization."

GROWTH

NATO has been growing since it was born—not by conquest but by consent, not by the force of arms of its members but by the desire for security of its aspirants. It's all there in Article X: The allies may "by unanimous agreement invite any other European state in a position to further the principles of this treaty."

1952 Greece and Turkey join NATO.

1955 West Germany joins NATO. The USSR, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania create the Warsaw Pact. The bloc fields 100 divisions, NATO 25.

1956 Soviet tanks crush Hungary's efforts to form a multiparty government.

HEADACHES

In its second decade, NATO began to deal with internal problems and external challenges.

1959 After Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev boasts about his army's conventional advantage in Germany, Eisenhower—now president—warns, "If you attack us in Germany, there will be nothing conventional about our response."

To commemorate NATO's 10th birthday, Bing Crosby records "The NATO Song," which cheers, "NATO went on guard and free men ceased to yield. We live again in peace and strength behind the NATO shield."

1960 Turkey's army seizes power.

1961 Spurred by an exodus from Eastern Europe, the Soviets and East Germans wall off West Berlin.

1962 President John Kennedy in West-Berlin declares, "Ich bin ein Berliner!"

1966 French President Charles de Gaulle pulls France out of NATO's military command and insists that NATO's headquarters—and all U.S. military personnel—leave France. Secretary of State Dean Rusk responds, "Does that include the dead Americans in military cemeteries?"

1967 NATO headquarters moves to Brussels. The Greek army seizes power.

1968 Warsaw Pact forces invade Czechoslovakia, ending the Prague Spring.

1974 Greece supports a coup in Cyprus; Turkey occupies Northern Cyprus.

1975 Under the Helsinki Accords, Western and Warsaw Pact nations formally recognize the post-World War II political-territorial settlement.

CROSSROADS

As the 1980s approached, NATO was at a crossroads: continue to give ground to Moscow, or return to deterrence and answer Moscow's aggression. A president and a pope helped the alliance choose the right course.

1979 Moscow deploys SS-20 nuclear missiles in Central Europe. Soviet troops invade Afghanistan. Pope John Paul II declares, "There can be no just Europe without the independence of Poland," exhorting his countrymen: "Do not be afraid."

1980 Led by Lech Walesa, Polish workers form the Solidarity trade union. Warsaw institutes martial law. Turkey's military retakes power.

1982 Spain joins NATO.

1983 Washington deploys Pershing II missiles in response to Moscow's SS-20 deployment. President Ronald Reagan labels the USSR "an evil empire." Misreading NATO's Able Archer exercise as the first move in a preemptive war, Moscow nearly launches a preemptive strike.

1985 Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev meet in Geneva, the first of five summits that end the Cold War. 1987 in Berlin, Reagan demands, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" Reagan and Gorbachev sign the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, the first eliminating an entire class of nuclear missiles.

November 1989 The Berlin Wall falls.

NEW MISSION

President George H.W. Bush declares, "Let Europe be whole and free. To the founders of the alliance, this aspiration was a distant dream . . . now it's the new mission of NATO."

1990 Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia declare independence from the USSR. East and

West Germany are unified. Germany remains in NATO. The Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe is signed, sweeping huge numbers of conventional weapons from Europe.

February 1991 The Warsaw Pact dissolves. April 1991 Georgia declares independence from the USSR.

June 1991 Boris Yeltsin wins Russia's first popular presidential election.

July 1991 Bush and Gorbachev sign the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, reducing nuclear arsenals.

August 1991 Hardliners launch an unsuccessful coup against Gorbachev. Ukraine and Belarus declare independence.

December 1991 Gorbachev resigns; the USSR formally ends.

EASTWARD

With ethnic warfare flaring in the Balkans, many observers called on NATO to play a stabilizing role. "There is an antidote to chaos," Reagan said. "Its name is NATO."

1993 Walesa, now Poland's president, warns, "If Russia again adopts an aggressive foreign policy, that aggression will be directed toward Ukraine and Poland."

1994 President Bill Clinton declares, "The question is no longer whether NATO will take on new members, but when and how."

Russia agrees to "respect the independence . . . sovereignty and existing borders of Ukraine." Ukraine surrenders its nuclear arsenal.

1995 NATO conducts airstrikes to protect Bosnian-Muslims from Serbian attacks. NATO and Russia share peacekeeping duties in postwar Bosnia.

1997 NATO and Russia renounce the "threat or use of force against each other."

March-June 1999 Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary join NATO. NATO launches airstrikes to protect Kosovo from Serbia. After Belgrade agrees to ceasefire terms, Russian forces attempt to seize an airfield in Kosovo. When NATO commander U.S. Gen. Wesley Clark orders British Gen. Mike Jackson to block the Russians, Jackson defiantly answers, "I'm not going to start World War III for you."

December 1999 Yeltsin resigns and installs Putin as Russia's president.

ANOTHER CROSSROADS

After outlasting the Soviet Empire, wading into Eastern Europe and laying the foundations of a Europe "whole and free," NATO would be forced to confront a range of new and old threats in a new century.

2001 Al-Qaida attacks New York City and Washington, D.C. For the first time, NATO invokes Article V, and deploys planes to U.S. airspace.

2002 Washington and Moscow sign the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty, slashing deployed nuclear missiles to around 2,000 warheads apiece.

2003 Taking command of Afghanistan operations, NATO continues to struggle waging war by committee: Italian fighter-bombers deploy without bombs. Germany requires its troops to warn enemy forces—in three languages—before engaging. Non-NATO members Australia, Georgia and Sweden deploy more troops than several NATO members. Germany and France oppose U.S.-British efforts to secure U.N. authorization to disarm Iraq. Turkey blocks U.S. forces from transiting Turkish territory into Iraq. Eighteen NATO members (plus Ukraine and Georgia) send troops to Iraq.

2004 Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia join NATO.

2005 Putin declares, "The demise of the Soviet Union was the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the (20th) century."

2006 NATO urges members to invest at least 2% of GDP in defense. Only eight members reach that target by 2022.

2007 Putin claims NATO's growth violates post-Cold War agreements, calling it "a serious provocation." Gorbachev counters that "the topic of NATO expansion was not discussed" as the Cold War thawed. Russia-based hackers launch crippling cyberattacks against Estonia.

April 2008 Germany and France block Ukraine and Georgia from NATO membership. Though NATO agrees that "these countries will become members of NATO," no timetable is set. Due to disputes over Macedonia's name, Greece blocks Macedonia from joining NATO. NATO endorses U.S. missile-defense deployments in Eastern Europe.

August 2008 Russia invades Georgia. The U.S. Air Force transports thousands of Georgian troops from Iraq to Georgia, likely preventing Russia from taking Tbilisi.

2009 President Barack Obama cancels missile-defense deployments in Eastern Europe. Warsaw calls the decision "catastrophic." Albania and Croatia join NATO. France returns to NATO's military-command structure.

2010 Washington and Moscow agree to New START, further reducing nuclear arsenals.

2011 NATO enforces a U.N. no-fly zone over Libya. Washington deactivates the Navy's North Atlantic-focused 2nd Fleet.

2012 Washington deactivates the Army's Germany-based V Corps.

2013 Washington withdraws every U.S. tank from Europe. Britain announces the closure of its garrison in Germany.

2014 Russia seizes Ukraine's Crimea and arms separatists in eastern Ukraine. Washington sends "nonlethal aid." Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko jabs, "One cannot win a war with blankets." Russia violates the INF and CFE treaties. NATO allies Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Netherlands and the United States conduct airstrikes against ISIS.

WARNINGS

As the 2020s neared, two U.S. presidents openly expressed frustration with NATO. Yet NATO would again prove its worth. "If we did not have NATO today," Gen. James Mattis said in 2017, "we would need to create it."

2016 NATO establishes battlegroups to deter Russian attacks against Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Poland. Obama tells British Prime Minister David Cameron, "You have to pay your fair share." Suspecting a coup, Turkish President Recep Erdogan arrests 40,000 Turkish citizens.

2017 President Donald Trump complains that NATO members "aren't paying what they should." At the height of the Cold War, the United States accounted for 56% of NATO's defense spending; by 2017, it's closer to 70%. Montenegro joins NATO. U.S. generals accuse Russia of arming the Taliban. Turkey purchases Russian air-defense systems.

2018 Asked during a NATO summit, "Would you leave us if we don't pay our bills?" Trump responds, "I would consider it." Washington reactivates the 2nd Fleet.

2020 The Republic of North Macedonia joins NATO. Washington reactivates V Corps-Forward in Poland.

May 2021 Russian cyberattacks hit U.S. energy infrastructure.

August 2021 President Joe Biden orders U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. As operations come to a close, 74% of troops deployed in the country that spawned 9/11 are not American.

December 2021 Putin demands NATO not expand, cease military activities in Eastern Europe, and withdraw forces to where they were before Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic joined NATO.

CORNERSTONE

With threats to the free world metastasizing, NATO solidified its role not only as the cornerstone of America's security, but as the coordinating hub for international security.

2022 Putin launches his second invasion of Ukraine, an all-out effort to seize Kyiv and erase Ukraine's independence. NATO members rush military aid to Kyiv. Although Ukraine isn't a NATO member, the allies recognize, finally, that Putin's war threatens what the North Atlantic Treaty calls the "stability and . . . security of the North Atlantic area."

NATO establishes battlegroups in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz announces a near-doubling of defense spending, declaring, "The world will no longer be the same."

In a visit to Poland, Biden echoes Pope John Paul II, urging Ukrainian refugees and their Polish hosts, "Be not afraid."

Longtime neutrals Sweden and Finland seek NATO membership. With Australia, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand attending the NATO summit, the alliance identifies China as a challenge and commits to working with Indo-Pacific partners on "shared security interests."

2023 Russia violates the New START Treaty. Washington establishes Army Garrison-Poland.

Finland joins NATO. Turkey and Hungary delay Sweden's accession. Germany deploys 4,000 troops to Lithuania; Britain announces deployment of 20,000 troops to NATO's northern flank. Putin deploys nuclear weapons in Belarus.

Allies unveil the NATO-Ukraine Defense Council.

2024 Sweden joins NATO. Twenty-three NATO members invest at least 2% of GDP on defense. The United States and Germany announce deployment on German territory of hypersonic weapons and Tomahawk land-attack missiles.

On its 75th anniversary, NATO—now 32 members—calls Russia a "direct threat to allies' security."

TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN CATHEY

• Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I rise today to honor Kathleen Cathey, my friend and long-time field representative for eastern Oregon, who has dedicated her career to making our State an even better place for everyone to live and work.

Kathleen is retiring at the end of the year after nearly 20 years of service closing the 2,500 mile gap between eastern Oregon and Washington, DC.

Before I go into the long list of Kathleen's many achievements delivering for the people of eastern Oregon, I want to briefly mention the unique circumstances of her service to 11 of Oregon's 36 counties.

Distances between communities in Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, and Wheeler Counties are measured in hours, not miles. In the colder months, snow and ice often makes traveling through this part of our State that much more grueling. In the hotter months, wildfires can do the same.

Yet, from Arlington to Zumwalt and everywhere in-between, Kathleen showed up each and every time a wild-

fire, snowstorm, flood, drought, or any crisis struck. She showed up to help Oregonians and their families, small businesses, farmers, ranchers, county commissioners, you name it. She showed up to help everyone in the most rural parts of our State navigate the bureaucratic labyrinth of Federal Agencies operating thousands of miles away.

During the 2020 floods in Umatilla County, Kathleen worked around the clock to get help to everybody who needed it.

As a former basketball player, I am especially fond of the coaching maxim about coming to play every day.

Kathleen Cathey came to play every day for eastern Oregon.

In her final months on the job, she showed up with the same passion and dedication she has brought over the past two decades to her work. She has been working tirelessly to find a legislative solution before the end of this year for the Owyhee Canyonlands around Malheur County, the only part of Oregon that is in the mountain time zone.

The Owyhee is a natural treasure of extraordinary beauty that is home to all sorts of endangered species, including ranchers and their way of life. And as I speak on the floor at this very moment, Kathleen is working to get this community-driven solution over the finish line, which sets an example for the rest of our country about reaching across divides and coming up with solutions that leave everyone better off.

Kathleen made her way onto Team Wyden after working on the school board in her hometown of La Grande, working with the Union County Commission on Children and Families; and as a mental health training coordinator.

She came to that public service after moving to Union County 50 years ago with her family when she was just entering her freshman year in high school.

Kathleen followed the path of community service carved out by her parents John and Elinor Riley, who both volunteered in local projects like the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show, the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Union, the Union Family Clinic, Habitat for Humanity and the Union Planning Commission.

From day one on the job as my eastern Oregon field representative, Kathleen got to work for veterans after the Veterans Administration had announced plans to close the nearby Walla Walla VA hospital.

The result? She helped make the successful case that the VA needed to keep services nearby at Walla Walla because veterans deserved to get their healthcare close to home.

But Kathleen didn't stop there. In 2008, she pressed for the VA to open the La Grande Community Based Outpatient Clinic, and she has continued her work to stop the VA from closing the nearest alcohol and drug residential treatment facility in Walla Walla

and moving services 150 miles farther away to Spokane.

Agriculture plays a huge role in communities in eastern Oregon, a connection between land and life that Kathleen knows from growing up in Union County. As chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I lead a committee that has jurisdiction over things like tax policy, Medicare, and Medicaid. Understandably, it can be hard for folks in Eastern Oregon to understand how exactly those policies impact them. Kathleen has always known how to help connect the dots. She made the case for a national review of drug manufacturing and quotas for ADHD medicines in eastern Oregon. She was our leading voice when the Baker Hospital closed its maternity ward with less than 30 days notice to the community.

One of the biggest ways Kathleen helped connect the dots was through the Finance Committee's work on trade.

With such a robust agricultural sector, trade policy has a deep impact on the farmers, ranchers, and producers in the eastern part of our State. Kathleen, among her many talents, is a master convener. She put her expertise and connections to good use, working with local ranchers and the State of Oregon, as well as the USDA, to support Oregon in reinstating its State meat inspection program.

This program is helping protect Oregon our ranchers from inflationary pricing of larger national meat processors, while striking a blow against national and international meat monopolies. It is also more humane for the animals and helps cut down on carbon emissions associated with cattle ranching and meat processing.

With accomplishments like these, it is no surprise that Kathleen's teamwork in eastern Oregon earned her the 2023 Above and Beyond Award from the Oregon Wheat Growers.

Simply put, Kathleen Cathey came to play every day for rural Oregon and always fought to improve the lives of those in its small communities. She battled to expand rural broadband in recent years into every nook and cranny of our State. And she worked just as hard each year to ensure eastern Oregon secures its fair share of Federal funds for roads, schools, and more from the Secure Rural Schools or Payment in Lieu of Taxes programs.

Bottom line, I have always counted on Kathleen for her good counsel, even temperament, and deep community connections. I have no doubt that a public service dynamo like Kathleen will find many ways to keep helping eastern Oregon in the future.

Kathleen leaves my office with all my best wishes for a happy retirement with her husband Larry, hugging and doting on their grandkids—all while she carves out time for peaceful walks, smooth bike rides, quiet reading, and preparing pumpkin muffins and other tasty offerings in her kitchen.

As we like to say in our little corner of the world: once a member of Team

Wyden, always a member of Team Wyden. I will miss Kathleen's passion, guidance, and friendship immensely. I will always be grateful that she chose to share her talents with our team, and I take comfort in knowing that her good counsel will never be more than a phone call away.●

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD HIRSCH

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I rise on behalf of myself and Senator CRAPO, speaking as chair and ranking member of the Finance Committee. Today, we commend Harold Hirsch on his service to the U.S. Congress for over 47 years. Mr. Hirsch served as a lawyer and tax expert on the staff of the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation of the United States Congress from the beginning of 1977 to October 2024, when he retired. Prior to 1977, Mr. Hirsch had worked as a lawyer for the office of the Judge Advocate General and for the legislation and regulations section at the Internal Revenue Service, government service for which we also thank him.

As is well known, the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation staff performs useful or at times indispensable functions to the Members as the Congress develops tax legislation. Mr. Hirsch's legal acumen, drafting brilliance, and deep understanding of tax policy issues contributed to the quality of tax legislation in numerous tax bills over the period he served on the JCT staff. Though reserved, even self-effacing, Mr. Hirsch brought thoughtful commentary to the development of proposed tax legislation. He gave an extremely careful reading of proposed legislative text, and his keen eye for possible statutory errors averted problems that would otherwise have plagued taxpayers, practitioners, and government administrators alike. Mr. Hirsch's technical skills and expertise in the craft of helping the Congress produce the best statutory representation of Members' intent redounded to the benefit of the American taxpayer.

This dedicated work should not go unknown and unrecognized. The Congress thanks Mr. Hirsch for his service in the field of tax legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR MATTHEW "MADDOG" GUERTIN

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I would like to take a few moments to recognize Maj. Matthew "Maddog" Guertin who has worked in my Senate office this year as a defense fellow. Major Guertin—soon to be lieutenant colonel—is a patriot who has served our country nobly and made it a safer place. In 1 short year, he has proven to be an invaluable member of my staff.

Major Guertin commissioned into the Air Force in 2010 as a distinguished graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy. After completing his graduate degree from Rice University, he trained at the prestigious Euro-NATO Joint

Jet Pilot Training in Texas before becoming an F-22 pilot. He quickly became a proven combat leader, having flown 150 combat hours in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE, including 10 sorties over Syria and Iraq and dozens of defensive counter air hours to protect American ground troops. The Air Force stated that his actions "directly contributed to the defeat of Islamic State insurgents." Major Guertin also flew hundreds of hours on Operation NOBLE EAGLE and alert missions in defense of the Alaskan coast and National Capital Region.

Following his deployment to the Middle East, Major Guertin spent 3 years at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska, flying and instructing pilots on the F-22. There, he earned the Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding work in leading 206 airmen, increasing the base's operational capability, and playing a pivotal role advancing Air Force capabilities during Arctic exercises. In 2021, he moved to Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia where he quickly distinguished himself as the Air Force's F-22 subject matter expert.

During his time in Virginia, Major Guertin led all requirements and force structure planning for a fleet of 185 F-22 aircraft, affecting about \$7 billion in investment over a 5-year period. He secured a \$1.4 billion budget increase for the F-22 and successfully executed 30 program requirements. That is three times more program requirements than the last 19 years of F-22 history combined. Major Guertin ultimately championed the upgrades to the F-22 being implemented today that will secure the fighter as the United States' premier air superiority platform throughout the decade and beyond.

For his contributions to such a critical aspect of U.S. military strategy, the Air Force awarded Major Guertin the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Defense Department gave him the 2023 Defense Acquisition Workforce Award for Requirements Management.

I could not have been assigned a more knowledgeable and skilled pilot to join my office in January 2023, representing the Air Force in Congress as a defense fellow.

During his time in my office, Major Guertin staffed high level meetings and helped prepare me for numerous committee hearings, briefings, and legislative efforts. His colleagues deeply appreciated his initiative, dedication, and good cheer. He clearly demonstrated his passion and dedication to making this great Nation safer every single day working in the Senate.

Thankfully, the Air Force also recognizes his commitment to service, as it recently announced Major Guertin's upcoming promotion to lieutenant colonel.

Finally, I cannot honor Major Guertin without also thanking his family: his wife Jamie and his four children Abigail, Benjamin, Madison, and Nathan. Major Guertin is clearly a great father and a great husband, and I

am grateful to his family for sharing him with my team.

Major Guertin has had an extraordinary career, and he will serve his country well in the years ahead. He is exactly the kind of man and leader that our military needs. For these reasons and many more, I was honored to have Major Guertin in my office this year. Maddog, thank you for your service to Arkansas and to the United States of America.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JUDGE ANDY JACKSON

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, this year, Tennessee lost a great leader, public servant, and American: Judge A. Andrew “Andy” Jackson.

For 33 years, Judge Jackson served as judge of the juvenile and probate Court of Dickson County, where he worked to safeguard the interests of his community while putting the juvenile offenders in his courtroom on the path to becoming responsible, law-abiding citizens. While on the court, Judge Jackson became a leading figure in our State’s juvenile justice system, helping author Tennessee’s first rules of juvenile procedure and serving as president of the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Beyond his legal career, Judge Jackson was an exemplary friend and neighbor whose generosity, patriotism, and passion for life inspired so many who knew him. From his early days as an Eagle Scout to pursuing his love for deep-sea fishing, hunting, marksmanship, aviation, cattle rearing, agriculture, or just telling jokes, Judge Jackson lived a life in full.

On behalf of all Tennesseans, I extend my heartfelt condolences to Judge Jackson’s family, including his beloved wife Elaine, daughters Kelly and Sally, and grandchildren Evelyn, Michael, and Catherine. While our State has lost a great man, Judge Jackson’s legacy will endure in Dickson County and across Tennessee for many years to come.●

REMEMBERING JUDGE DUANE SLONE

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I rise today to honor an exemplary community leader, public servant, and Tennessean: Judge Duane Slone, who tragically passed away at the age of 61.

For 26 years, Judge Slone served on Tennessee’s 4th Judicial District Court, where he pioneered innovative efforts to combat drug addiction and the opioid crisis. In 2009, he founded his district’s first drug recovery court, which provides many east Tennesseans the resources and support they need to end their substance abuse and become law-abiding citizens. Four years later, Judge Slone built on this effort by

founding the Tennessee Recovery Oriented Compliance Strategy, which provides similar support to those struggling with addiction but who do not qualify for recovery court.

Judge Slone’s work has been credited with decreasing crime and substance abuse while keeping vulnerable Tennesseans, including countless pregnant women and single mothers, out of jail. Replicating his success, 14 Tennessee counties now use Judge Slone’s Tennessee Recovery Oriented Compliance Strategy, which has helped more than 1,000 people. In recognition of his work, Judge Slone in 2019 received the National Center for State Courts William H. Rehnquist Judicial Excellence Award, the Nation’s highest honor for State court judges.

We join all Tennesseans in mourning the loss of this incredible leader, who had such a profound impact on our State and every person who passed through his courtroom.●

REMEMBERING DR. MILDRED THORNTON STAHLMAN

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I rise today to honor an incredible Tennessean: Dr. Mildred Thornton Stahlman, whose research and innovations transformed how generations of physicians have saved newborn lives.

In 1961, Dr. Stahlman established one of the first intensive care units for newborns in the country at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center. There, Dr. Stahlman pioneered the use of miniature iron lung machines—typically used for children with polio—to treat premature babies suffering from respiratory lung disease. By helping the newborns draw air into their lungs, Dr. Stahlman’s innovation significantly improved outcomes for babies who otherwise faced little chance of surviving.

As head of the hospital’s neonatology unit from 1961 to 1989, Dr. Stahlman led lifesaving medical research, including on pulmonary function and respiratory distress syndrome. At the same time, she developed an emergency response system that brought premature babies to VUMC for treatment from community hospitals across 30 counties in Tennessee, a groundbreaking endeavor that saved countless lives.

After a life full of care, generosity, and courage, earlier this year Dr. Stahlman passed away at the age of 101. We join all Tennesseans in mourning the loss of this truly remarkable woman, whose legacy will live on for generations to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ALEC FARMER

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alec Farmer on his upcoming retirement from the Arkansas State Highway Commission after 10 years of dedicated service, including as chairman since 2023.

In 2015, Governor Asa Hutchinson appointed Alec to the Arkansas State

Highway Commission in light of his exemplary record of public service. As a native of northeast Arkansas, he has spent a lifetime contributing to and uplifting his community, the region, and our State.

After graduating from Arkansas State University, he earned a J.D. from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law. Farmer has operated his family’s farm and property investment and management company while also playing an active role on numerous boards and commissions throughout his professional life. That commitment has encompassed roles on the Craighead Conservation District, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, the Arkansas State Police Commission, the Arkansas Agricultural Board, as well as several positions on various municipal and economic development-focused organizations in Jonesboro including 4 years on the city council.

Since his appointment to the Highway Commission, he has devoted himself to helping lead the diligent maintenance, construction, and expansion of our State’s highways and broader transportation infrastructure.

During his tenure as a commissioner, he has provided invaluable leadership and vision, which has helped facilitate projects across the State including 2,600 miles of roads and over 800 projects in northeast Arkansas alone. His efforts have been instrumental in the passage of permanent funding for State, municipal, and county roadways; designating two interstates; and granting safe passage for farm equipment. Most recently, Chairman Farmer helped coordinate the redesignation of U.S. Highway 67 into Interstate I-57, a major milestone in the effort to further connect Arkansas with the rest of the country.

He has consistently prioritized meeting the public’s expectations for quality surface transportation in their own communities and across Arkansas. That mindset has helped deliver tremendous progress that will continue to be felt for years to come.

His commitment, over 25 years of public service, has been so significant that Craighead County Judge Marvin Day declared Friday, September 13, 2024 as “Alec Farmer Day.”

I know he has been gratified to follow in his father’s footsteps in serving on the Arkansas Highway Commission, and our State is better for their efforts. As he prepares to depart the commission, I want to extend our deepest gratitude on behalf of all Arkansans for using his time, skills and resources for such important work. I greatly appreciate his friendship, partnership and dedication, and wish him all the best in his next chapter.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:35 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the

following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1449. An act to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to increase the frequency of lease sales, to require replacement sales, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:39 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 5464. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Guntersville, Alabama, as the “Colonel Ola Lee Mize Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic”.

H.R. 5861. An act to extend reemployment services and eligibility assessments to all claimants for unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6324. An act to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7333. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in West Palm Beach, Florida, as the “Thomas H. Corey VA Medical Center”.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1449. An act to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to increase the frequency of lease sales, to require replacement sales, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MOTION TO PROCEED PETITION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of Public Law 118–50 Sec. 508(e)(2)(A) do hereby move to proceed to S.J. Res. 117, A Joint Resolution Relating to the disapproval of the Presidential report with respect to the indebtedness of the Government of Ukraine.

Rand Paul, Mike Lee, Roger Marshall, Ron Johnson, Tommy Tuberville, Lindsey Graham, Kyrsten Sinema, Kevin Cramer, Joni Ernst, Marsha Blackburn, Eric Schmitt, Rick Scott, Josh Hawley, Cynthia M. Lummis, John Barrasso, Ted Budd.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following resolution was discharged from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and referred as indicated:

S. Res. 894. A resolution designating December 1, 2024, as “Drive Safer Sunday”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6600. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on

the national emergency with respect to global illicit drug trafficking that was declared in Executive Order 14059 of December 15, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6601. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13611 with respect to Yemen; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6602. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13667 with respect to the Central African Republic; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6603. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the advancement by countries of concern in sensitive technologies and products critical to the military, intelligence, surveillance, or cyber-enabled capabilities of such countries that was declared in Executive Order 14105 of August 9, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6604. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Vessel Incidental Discharge National Standards of Performance; Correction” (RIN2040-AF92) (FRL No. 7218-04-OW) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6605. A communication from the Supervisor of Executive Services Branch, Executive and Employee Services Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, four (4) reports relative to vacancies in the Environmental Protection Agency, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6606. A communication from the Senior Attorney Advisor/Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Interstate System Access” (RIN2125-AF89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6607. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Election to Exclude Certain Unincorporated Organizations Owned by Applicable Entities from Application of the Rules on Partners and Partnerships” (RIN1545-BR09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6608. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Determination under section 7034(k)(5) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024 (Div. F, P.L. 118–47), as carried forward by the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (Div. A, P.L. 118–83)”; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6609. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2025–01; Introduction” (Docket No. FAR–2024–0051, Sequence No. 6)

received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6610. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6611. A communication from the President and CEO, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Foundation’s Annual Management Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6612. A communication from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6613. A communication from the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semi-annual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6614. A communication from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6615. A communication from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6616. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6617. A communication from the Attorney for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Standard for Infant Support Cushions” (16 CFR Part 1112, 1130, 1243) (Docket No. CPSC–2023–0047) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6618. A communication from the Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency’s Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6619. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department’s fiscal year 2024 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6620. A communication from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Setting and Adjusting Patent Fees During Fiscal Year 2025” (RIN0651-AD64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6621. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Requirement to File FEC Form 3-Z” (Notice 2024–26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2024; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SCHATZ, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 4370. A bill to amend the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 to improve that Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-249).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 5019. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 South Loudon Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "United States Representative Elijah E. Cummings Post Office Building".

H.R. 5867. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 109 Live Oaks Boulevard in Casselberry, Florida, as the "Colonel Joseph William Kittinger II Post Office Building".

H.R. 6162. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 379 North Oates Street in Dothan, Alabama, as the "LaBruce 'Bruce' Tidwell Post Office Building".

H.R. 6188. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 420 Highway 17 North in Surfside Beach, South Carolina, as the "Nancy Yount Childs Post Office Building".

H.R. 6633. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9355 113th Street in Seminole, Florida, as the "Army SSG Ryan Christian Knauss Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 6750. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 501 Mercer Street Southwest in Wilson, North Carolina, as the "Milton F. Fitch, Sr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 8057. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9317 Bolsa Avenue in Westminster, California, as the "Little Saigon Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Post Office".

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER for the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

*Matthew Kaplan, of Maryland, to be Federal Cochairperson of the Great Lakes Authority.

*Matthew James Marzano, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2028.

By Mr. PETERS for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*Val Butler Demings, of Florida, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2030.

*William Zollars, of Kansas, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2029.

*James Graham Lake, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for a term of fifteen years.

*Nicholas George Miranda, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

*Gordon Hartogensis, of Connecticut, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2031.

By Mr. SCHATZ for the Committee on Indian Affairs.

*Patrice H. Kunesh, of Minnesota, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission for the term of three years.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 5349. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure prompt coverage of breakthrough devices under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HELMY, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 5350. A bill to make available necessary disaster assistance for families affected by major disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO:

S. 5351. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to upgrade existing public safety answering points in units of the National Park System to Next Generation 9-1-1 systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 5352. A bill to amend title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a Federal renewable electricity standard for retail electricity suppliers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHMITT (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 5353. A bill to establish a national plan to coordinate research on epilepsy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HELMY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 5354. A bill to amend the civil rights remedies equalization provision of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1986 to clarify civil rights remedies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 5355. A bill to ensure that the National Advisory Council on Indian Education includes at least 1 member who is the president of a Tribal College or University; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 5356. A bill to establish clear and consistent biological definitions of male and female; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. BUDD):

S. 5357. A bill to require certain reports on small business disaster assistance to be pub-

lished on the website of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 5358. A bill to protect the right of law-abiding citizens to transport knives interstate, notwithstanding a patchwork of State and local prohibitions that burden citizens; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 5359. A bill to amend the National Marine Sanctuary Act to prohibit requiring an authorization for the installation, operation, maintenance, repair, or recovery of undersea fiber optic cables in a national marine sanctuary if such activities have previously been authorized by a Federal or State agency; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 5360. A bill to establish the Sutton Mountain National Monument, to authorize certain land exchanges in the State of Oregon, to convey certain Bureau of Land Management land in the State of Oregon to the city of Mitchell, Oregon, for conservation, economic, and community development purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 5361. A bill to improve the lead time, accuracy, and dissemination of forecasts of atmospheric rivers throughout the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 5362. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 regarding the application of wage and hour provisions to minor league baseball players, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 5363. A bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to authorize grants for toxic substances remediation in schools, to reauthorize healthy high-performance schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 5364. A bill to provide a private right of action regarding children's exposure to covered content on apps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 901. A resolution supporting the goals and principles of Transgender Day of Remembrance by recognizing the epidemic of violence toward transgender people and memorializing the lives lost this year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BUDD, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HELMY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 902. A resolution relating to the death Timothy Peter Johnson, former Senator for the State of South Dakota; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 903. A resolution expressing support for the designation of November 8, 2024, as "National First-Generation College Celebration Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 904. A resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. Res. 905. A resolution recognizing the role of the Scarboro 85 in the desegregation of public schools following the landmark decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Brown v. Board of Education*; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOZMAN:

S. Res. 906. A resolution commending and congratulating the United States Team for winning the 2024 Solheim Cup; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 907. A resolution to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of *Dr. Ralph de la Torre v. Bernard Sanders, et al*; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 363

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 363, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the individuals and communities who vol-

unteered or donated items to the North Platte Canteen in North Platte, Nebraska, during World War II from December 25, 1941, to April 1, 1946.

S. 652

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 652, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan to provide an exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol, and for other purposes.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, a bill to modify the prohibition on recognition by United States courts of certain rights relating to certain marks, trade names, or commercial names.

S. 789

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) 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. 1024

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1024, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to eligible entities to develop and implement a comprehensive program to promote student access to defibrillation in public elementary schools and secondary schools.

S. 1110

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1110, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to rebase the calculation of payments for sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent hospitals, and for other purposes.

S. 1183

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1183, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of organ transplants.

S. 1301

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1301, a bill to provide highly-skilled nonimmigrant visas for nationals of the Republic of Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 1558

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1558, a bill to award a Congressional

Gold Medal, collectively, to the brave women who served in World War II as members of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and U.S. Navy Nurse Corps.

S. 1591

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1591, a bill to authorize dedicated domestic terrorism offices within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to analyze and monitor domestic terrorist activity and require the Federal Government to take steps to prevent domestic terrorism.

S. 2975

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2975, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve payment and processing of payments or allowances for beneficiary travel, and for other purposes.

S. 3058

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3058, a bill to award a congressional gold medal to the United Negro College Fund, Inc. and the institutions that make up its membership on the occasion of its 80th year of existence.

S. 3071

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3071, a bill to amend section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to incentivize States, Indian Tribes, and Territories to close disaster recovery projects by authorizing the use of excess funds for management costs for other disaster recovery projects.

S. 3193

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3193, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow for the use of telehealth in substance use disorder treatment, and for other purposes.

S. 3580

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3580, a bill to require institutions of higher education participating in Federal student aid programs to share information about title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, including a link to the webpage of the Office for Civil Rights where an individual can submit a complaint regarding discrimination in violation of such title, and for other purposes.

S. 3671

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3671, a bill to provide that

an individual who uses marijuana in compliance with State law may not be denied occupancy of federally assisted housing, and for other purposes.

S. 3711

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3711, a bill to provide tax relief with respect to certain wildfire relief payments.

S. 3832

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3832, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure appropriate access to non-opioid pain management drugs under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 4141

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor 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 Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4243, a bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Shirley Chisholm.

S. 4419

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4419, a bill to require the Science and Technology Directorate in the Department of Homeland Security to develop greater capacity to detect, identify, and disrupt illicit substances in very low concentrations.

S. 4510

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4510, a bill to amend the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 to delay implementation of the inclusion of oral-only ESRD-related drugs in the Medicare ESRD prospective payment system.

S. 4532

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4532, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans.

S. 4569

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4569, a bill to require covered platforms

to remove nonconsensual intimate visual depictions, and for other purposes.

S. 4812

At the request of Ms. BUTLER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. HELMY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4812, a bill to establish a pilot program to address behavioral health needs among children, adolescents, and young adults, and for other purposes.

S. 4832

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4832, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to amend the rules of the Commission to include a shark attack as an event for which a wireless emergency alert may be transmitted, and for other purposes.

S. 5102

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) 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. 5137

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5137, a bill to identify property located in the territory of certain foreign trade partners that is owned or controlled by United States persons, necessary to access a port, harbor, or marine terminal, and has been nationalized or expropriated, and to prohibit certain actions by vessels that have landed at such ports, harbors, or marine terminals, and for other purposes.

S. 5243

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5243, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the regulation of cannabis and cannabinoid products, and for other purposes.

S. 5303

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5303, a bill to amend the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 to provide for a prohibition on contributions to the United Nations related to discrimination against Israel.

S. 5315

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5315, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance border security by seeking to expand partnerships with appropriate law enforcement entities in Mexico and Central American and South American countries to combat human smuggling and trafficking operations in Mexico and such countries, and for other purposes.

S. 5320

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S.

5320, a bill to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to authorize certain long-term contracts for Federal purchases of energy, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 2

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 2, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

S.J. RES. 39

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 39, a joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the article of amendment commonly known as the "Equal Rights Amendment" has been validly ratified and is enforceable as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and the Archivist of the United States must certify and publish the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment without delay.

S. RES. 540

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 540, a resolution requesting information on Azerbaijan's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 5361. A bill to improve the lead time, accuracy, and dissemination of forecasts of atmospheric rivers throughout the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Improving Atmospheric River Forecasts Act. This bill would require the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a new program to improve prediction of these important storm systems.

This bill would direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a new program within the National Weather Service to improve atmospheric river forecasts. This includes better data acquisition, like new radar systems that can track the heart of atmospheric rivers hours before storms hit. It also includes developing a quantitative scale for events on a scale of 1 to 5 to better inform emergency managers and the public about the severity of incoming AR events. The bill also directs NOAA to develop this program in collaboration with public and private partners across the weather enterprise.

As Scripps Institution of Oceanography's Marty Ralph said, "Atmospheric rivers are the hurricanes of

the west coast.” Why, then, are we not treating them with the same attention in forecasting? This bill will take a pivotal first step in bringing atmospheric rivers to the same forecasting sophistication as hurricanes by establishing a new program at NOAA to coordinate these efforts and create accurate, effective, and actionable predictions to minimize loss of life and property.

These steps are especially necessary under a changing climate. As temperatures increase, water bands in atmospheric rivers widen and storms increase in duration. By 2090, NOAA predicts that atmospheric river caused flood damages may increase to between \$2.3 and \$3.2 billion in annual impact.

I want to thank my colleague Senator MURKOWSKI for introducing this important legislation with me in the Senate and Representative MIKE GARCIA for leading the House companion that recently passed the House as part of the Weather Act. I hope all of our colleagues will join us in supporting this bipartisan bill to improve our Nation’s resilience to atmospheric river events.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 5362. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 regarding the application of wage and hour provisions to minor league baseball players, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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. 5362

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 “Fair Ball Act”.

SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT OF 1938 TO MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYERS.

Section 13(a)(19) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 213(a)(19)) is amended by striking “a contract” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “an unexpired collective bargaining agreement.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 901—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND PRINCIPLES OF TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE BY RECOGNIZING THE EPIDEMIC OF VIOLENCE TOWARD TRANSGENDER PEOPLE AND MEMORIALIZING THE LIVES LOST THIS YEAR

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms.

DUCKWORTH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 901

Whereas Transgender Day of Remembrance was created following the 1998 killing of Rita Hester, a transgender woman of color, whose murder has yet to be solved;

Whereas the following year on November 20, 1999, Gwendolyn Ann Smith created the first Transgender Day of Remembrance in honor of Rita Hester and other transgender people whose lives were lost due to violence;

Whereas Transgender Day of Remembrance 2024 honors the memory of the lives of transgender people tragically lost in acts of violence between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024;

Whereas the United States is currently experiencing an epidemic of violence against transgender people of the United States;

Whereas at least 38 transgender or gender nonconforming people were violently killed in the United States between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024, a number many believe to be much higher due to the prevalence of underreporting or misreporting violence against this community;

Whereas the lives of Chyna Long, A’nee Johnson, Lisa Love Turman, Dominic Dupree (Dominic Palace), London Price, Amiri Reid, Kejuan Richardson, Jean Butchart, Savannah Ryan Williams, Meghan Riley Lewis, Amber Minor, Kitty Monroe (Marcos Lugo), Righteous TK “Chevy” Hill, Diamond Brigman, Alex Franco, Meraxia Medina, Africa (“Emma”) Parrilla Garcia, Tee Arnold (“Lagend Billions”), Nevaeh River Goddard, Adrea Doria Dos Passos, Sasha Williams, Starr Brown, Kita Bee, Reyna Hernandez, Brandon “Tay Dior” Thomas, Michelle Henry, Yella (Robert) Clark Jr., Jazlynn Johnson, Liara Tsai, Pauly Likens, Shannon Boswell, Kenji Spurgeon, Monique Brooks, Dylan Gurley, Tai’Von Lathan, Vanity Williams, Redd (Barbie), and Kassim Omar were tragically lost in acts of violence between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024;

Whereas following the introduction of the Transgender Day of Remembrance Resolution of 2023, the lives of LaKendra Andrews and Skyler Gilmore were reported to have been lost to acts of violence between October 1, 2020, and September 30, 2023;

Whereas at least 327 transgender or gender nonconforming people have been murdered worldwide between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024, according to the Transgender Day of Remembrance memorial page from Trans Lives Matter;

Whereas non-fatal anti-transgender violence can still have lethal impacts, such as in the suicide of 16-year-old Nex Benedict in Oklahoma, who took their own life following months of school based bullying and a physical attack in their school restroom;

Whereas violence against transgender people of the United States disproportionately impacts transgender women of color;

Whereas Black transgender women are the most targeted group to experience violence in the United States;

Whereas transgender people of the United States face barriers to health care, such as lack of health insurance, stigma and discrimination, higher rates of unemployment, and, in an increasingly higher number of States, legal barriers to accessing medical care;

Whereas transgender people disproportionately suffer from higher rates of homeless-

ness, with reports suggesting as many as 1/3 of transgender women and 1/2 of transgender women who are Black, Middle Eastern, multiracial, or undocumented have ever experienced homelessness;

Whereas almost 1/2 of all transgender people in the United States will attempt suicide at least once, and over 1 in 20 will attempt suicide each year, a rate that is almost 10 times higher than the rest of the United States population;

Whereas over 1/2 of all transgender youth in the United States have considered attempting suicide at least once in the last year and over a quarter have attempted suicide, almost 2.5 times that of United States youth as a whole;

Whereas asylum seekers and refugees who are transgender experience disproportionate rates of violence, including sexual violence, as they seek safety;

Whereas transgender immigrants have died in detention centers in the United States due to medical neglect, injury, and abuse at the hands of staff;

Whereas transgender people who are housed in institutional settings such as jails and prisons are subject to high levels of violence and discrimination;

Whereas transgender students are significantly more likely to experience bullying or harassment at school due to their gender identity;

Whereas understanding and addressing the challenges faced by transgender people of the United States is hampered by a severe lack of data;

Whereas Congress and the executive branch must act to protect and preserve the lives of all people of the United States, including transgender people, through inclusive legislation and policies that treat everyone with dignity and respect;

Whereas the continued introduction of anti-transgender legislation has fueled violence against transgender people of the United States;

Whereas efforts to restrict access to gender-affirming healthcare has stripped many transgender people of access to medically-necessary care, led to a spike in poor mental health and suicidality among transgender youth and adults, increased bullying and assault in schools, and left parents afraid their children may be removed from their homes because they support their transgender child;

Whereas the transgender community has shown great resilience in the face of adversity in all aspects of their lives, including housing, education, employment, and health care; and

Whereas the transgender community has demonstrated tremendous leadership since the courageous actions of many community members, including Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera at the Stonewall uprising of 1969: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and principles of Transgender Day of Remembrance by recognizing the epidemic of violence toward transgender people and memorializing the lives lost this year;

(2) recognizes that the alarming trends of increased violence against transgender people of the United States, particularly transgender women of color, are unacceptable, and that finding solutions to these issues must be a pressing priority for the United States Government;

(3) supports efforts to study, respond to, and prevent violence against transgender people;

(4) affirms the principle that every person is endowed with basic human rights and that the commitment of the United States to this

principle must encompass every single individual;

(5) recognizes the bravery and resilience of the transgender community as it fights for equal dignity and respect; and

(6) recognizes the multitude of contributions and cultural impact the transgender community has had on the society of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 902—RELATING TO THE DEATH OF TIMOTHY PETER JOHNSON, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BUDD, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HELMY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 902

Whereas Tim Johnson, a fourth generation South Dakotan, was born in Canton, South Dakota, and was raised in Vermillion, South Dakota;

Whereas Tim Johnson graduated from Vermillion High School, where he held the record for the most touchdowns ever scored in a single season;

Whereas Tim Johnson earned his bachelors, masters, and juris doctor degrees from the University of South Dakota;

Whereas Tim Johnson was first elected to the State legislature in 1978, and became the longest-serving public official in South Dakota history, serving in the South Dakota House, the South Dakota Senate, the Senate, and the House of Representatives before retiring in 2015;

Whereas Tim Johnson served as Chairman of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate from 2011 to 2015;

Whereas Tim Johnson was honored by the Lakota people with the name “Wacante Ognake”, which means “holds the people in his heart”;

Whereas Tim Johnson, despite suffering a life-threatening brain aneurysm in 2006, served as an inspiration to millions when he returned to work in the Senate, learned to write with his left hand, learned to drive again and then won re-election in 2008;

Whereas Tim Johnson served the people of South Dakota in the Senate and elsewhere for decades with honor and distinction and was known for his work ethic and commitment to South Dakota constituents; and

Whereas Tim Johnson is survived by his wife, Barbara, 3 children, and 8 grandchildren; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Timothy Peter Johnson, former member of the Senate;

(B) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate—

(i) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(ii) transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Timothy Peter Johnson.

SENATE RESOLUTION 903—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 8, 2024, AS “NATIONAL FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE CELEBRATION DAY”

Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 903

Whereas a “first-generation college student” means an individual whose parents did not complete a baccalaureate degree, or in the case of any individual who regularly resided with and received support from only 1 parent, an individual whose parent did not complete a baccalaureate degree;

Whereas November 8 honors the anniversary of the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) by President Lyndon B. Johnson on November 8, 1965;

Whereas the Higher Education Act of 1965 was focused on increasing postsecondary education access and success for students, particularly low-income and first-generation college students;

Whereas the Higher Education Act of 1965 helped usher in programs necessary for low-income, first-generation college students to access, remain in, and complete postsecondary education, including the Federal TRIO programs under chapter 1 of subpart 2 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–11 et seq.) and the Federal Pell Grant program under section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a);

Whereas the Federal TRIO programs are the primary national effort supporting underrepresented students in postsecondary education and are designed to identify individuals from low-income backgrounds that would be first-generation college students and prepare them for postsecondary education, provide them support services, and motivate and prepare them for doctoral programs;

Whereas the Federal Pell Grant program under section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) is the primary Federal investment in financial aid for low-

income college students and is used by students at institutions of higher education of their choice;

Whereas first-generation college students may face additional academic, financial, and social challenges that their peers do not face in pursuing higher education;

Whereas 54 percent of all current college students currently pursuing degrees are first-generation college students;

Whereas the Council for Opportunity in Education and the Center for First-generation Student Success jointly launched the inaugural First-Generation College Celebration in 2017; and

Whereas the First-Generation College Celebration has continued to grow, and institutions of higher education, corporations, nonprofit organizations, and elementary and secondary schools now celebrate November 8 as “First-Generation College Celebration Day”; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of November 8, 2024, as “National First-Generation College Celebration Day”; and

(2) urges all people of the United States to—

(A) celebrate “National First-Generation College Celebration Day” throughout the United States;

(B) recognize the important role that first-generation college students play in helping to develop the future workforce; and

(C) celebrate the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) and its programs that help underrepresented students access higher education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 904—RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANTIQUARIAN BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 904

Whereas the Antiquarian Booksellers’ Association of America (referred to in this preamble as the “ABAA”), founded in 1949 in New York City, is the oldest association of professional antiquarian booksellers in the United States;

Whereas, in all parts of the country, the ABAA’s member businesses advocate the highest standards in the book trade, maintaining trust and integrity with the public by upholding a strict code of ethics while striving to create harmony between sellers, librarians, scholars and collectors;

Whereas the ABAA promotes interest in rare and antiquarian books and book collecting by supporting educational programs and research, including the Elisabeth Woodburn Educational Fund, which provides scholarships to rare book schools and offers ongoing financial support to the Bibliographical Society of America and the National Collegiate Book Collecting Contest;

Whereas the ABAA fosters collegial relations between members of the trade, runs a mentorship program for new booksellers, and administers the Antiquarian Booksellers’ Benevolent Fund to support member and non-member businesses alike in times of unexpected hardship;

Whereas the ABAA is a member of the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers and, therefore, is part of a global network that promotes and connects booksellers worldwide;

Whereas the ABAA has consistently worked for booksellers and the book community at large in a rapidly changing world;

Whereas the ABAA has adapted to new arenas of collecting, including handmade ephemera, games, photographs, historic documents, letters, and electronic media;

Whereas the ABAA promotes the progression of the skill and general knowledge that is particular to the trade;

Whereas the ABAA has arranged special events in combination with its annual fairs to commemorate its 75th anniversary;

Whereas the ABAA is committed, through internships, prizes, and educational programming, to cultivating a vibrant and welcoming community of booksellers and book buyers; and

Whereas the ABAA continues to innovate and adapt, searching for new ways to expand and serve the evolving community of collectors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and celebrates the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America; and

(2) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit enrolled copies of this resolution to the president and executive director of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America.

SENATE RESOLUTION 905—RECOGNIZING THE ROLE OF THE SCARBORO 85 IN THE DESEGREGATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOLLOWING THE LANDMARK DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES IN BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 905

Whereas, on May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court of the United States delivered a unanimous opinion in *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), holding that—

(1) separate educational facilities are inherently unequal; and

(2) the “separate but equal” doctrine violated the 14th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, which states that no citizen may be denied equal protection under the law;

Whereas, in a second opinion issued on May 31, 1955, the Supreme Court of the United States decreed that schools should be desegregated “with all deliberate speed”;

Whereas, on September 6, 1955, Oak Ridge High School and Robertsville Junior High, located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, became the first public schools in the Southeast region to implement the ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Brown v. Board of Education*;

Whereas the integration of Oak Ridge High School and Robertsville Junior High was conducted in a peaceful manner;

Whereas the “Scarboro 85” consisted of the 85 African American students from Oak Ridge, Tennessee, who led the historic integration of public schools in the Southeast, including—

- (1) Ernestine Avery;
- (2) Donald Avery;
- (3) Willis Lee Avery;
- (4) Richard Bates;
- (5) Robert Berry;
- (6) Will C. Booker;
- (7) Stella Brantley;
- (8) Marshall Butler;

- (9) Jaqueline Bynam;
- (10) William Henry Carroll;
- (11) Pete Clark;
- (12) Randolph Collins;
- (13) Eviandies Copeland;
- (14) Ethel Davidson;
- (15) Minnie Davidson;
- (16) Lola B. Dowdell;
- (17) Georgia Lee Dowdell;
- (18) James Drake;
- (19) Willie Lee Edwards;
- (20) Shirley Reed Freeman;
- (21) John D. Ghosten Jr.;
- (22) L.C. Gipson;
- (23) Nannie Mae Goodman;
- (24) Lawrence Graham;
- (25) Mazie Graham;
- (26) Rufus Graham;
- (27) Henry Fred Guinn;
- (28) Gwendolyn Guinn;
- (29) Margaret Strickland Guinn;
- (30) Eugene Hawkins;
- (31) Roberta Hawkins;
- (32) Shirley Hawkins;
- (33) Helen Hill;
- (34) Mable Jean Hill;
- (35) Robert Hill;
- (36) Deloris Holmes;
- (37) Edward Holmes;
- (38) Dorothy Ann Hudgens;
- (39) A.C. Hunter Jr.;
- (40) Webster Jackson;
- (41) Leroy Justice;
- (42) Willie Frank Kirk;
- (43) Archie Lee;
- (44) Jo Ann Lee;
- (45) Charles Lewis;
- (46) Dorothy Kirk Lewis;
- (47) Jimmy Lewis;
- (48) Spencer Lindsay;
- (49) Ernestine Maddox;
- (50) Bernice Mahone;
- (51) Leon Mahone;
- (52) Mary Ellen Mahone;
- (53) Winfred Malone;
- (54) Barbara Jean Mason;
- (55) Emma McCaskill;
- (56) Paul Kylen McCaskill;
- (57) Jesse McClanahan;
- (58) Alma McKinney;
- (59) Eloise Mitchell;
- (60) Maxine Officer;
- (61) Barbara Sue Perry;
- (62) Bobby Phillips;
- (63) Amos William Robinson;
- (64) Arthur Charles Robinson;
- (65) Hazel Marie Robinson;
- (66) C.H. Shannon;
- (67) Mary Jo Shannon;
- (68) Barbara Jean Sims;
- (69) Willy Smith;
- (70) Sarah Mae Spratling;
- (71) Emma Jean Strickland;
- (72) Pearl Strickland;
- (73) Frank Summerville;
- (74) Joe Summerville;
- (75) Edward Lewis Threat;
- (76) Joe Torry;
- (77) Charles Walker;
- (78) Estelle Warmley;
- (79) Donald Washington;
- (80) Joe West Jr.;
- (81) Roy Lee White;
- (82) Leroy Williams;
- (83) Nehemiah Williams; and
- (84) 2 additional students, names unknown;

Whereas Lawrence Graham Jr., Henry Fred Guinn, and Robert Berry of the Scarboro 85 were the first African American students to participate in public school and university athletics in the Southeast region;

Whereas African American staff members of Oak Ridge High School and Robertsville Junior High included—

- (1) Fred Brown;
- (2) Douglas Freeman;
- (3) Hurley Hardin;
- (4) Ms. McSwain;

- (5) Mrs. Roach;
- (6) Madeline Scales; and
- (7) Mrs. Vernon; and

Whereas the Scarboro 85 were aided by pillars of the Oak Ridge community, including—

(1) the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church;

(2) the Oak Valley Baptist Church;

(3) the Spurgeon Chapel African American Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; and

(4) the Scarboro Church of Christ: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes and celebrates—

(1) the Scarboro 85 as the first group of African American students to integrate public schools in the Southeast region following the landmark decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Brown v. Board of Education*; and

(2) the role of the Scarboro 85 in leading the desegregation movement in the Southeast region.

SENATE RESOLUTION 906—COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE UNITED STATES TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2024 SOLHEIM CUP

Mr. BOOZMAN submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 906

Whereas the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) was founded in 1950, with a mission to change the face of golf by providing a platform for women to play professional golf;

Whereas the Solheim Cup is a biennial, transatlantic team match-play competition, featuring the 12 leading United States players from the LPGA and the top 12 European players from the Ladies European Tour (LET);

Whereas the LPGA members competed for the Solheim Cup from September 13 to September 15, 2024, at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Gainesville, Virginia;

Whereas United States Team reclaimed the Solheim Cup by defeating Team Europe with a score of 15.5 to 12.5;

Whereas the United States leads Europe in winning the Solheim Cup, having won 11 out of 19 competitions;

Whereas Stacy Lewis led the 2024 United States Solheim Cup Team as the captain, using her expertise in the sport of golf and in competing for the Solheim Cup, as she—

(1) became the youngest captain in the history of the United States Solheim Cup Team in the 2023 competition;

(2) served as an assistant captain in 2021; and

(3) has played in the Solheim Cup 4 times (in 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017); and

Whereas the United States Solheim Cup Team and the LPGA should all be congratulated and celebrated for their triumph and commitment to the game of golf, highlighting women in sports, and their contributions to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the United States Team for its victory at the 2024 Solheim Cup;

(2) recognizes the achievements, excellence, dedication, and teamwork of the members of the United States Solheim Cup Team;

(3) commends the LPGA and its members for their contributions to the game of golf and their efforts to make golf accessible; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the United States Solheim Cup Team captain, Stacy Lewis; and

(B) the Commissioner of the LPGA, Mollie Marcoux Samaan.

SENATE RESOLUTION 907—TO AUTHORIZE REPRESENTATION BY THE SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL IN THE CASE OF DR. RALPH DE LA TORRE V. BERNARD SANDERS, ET AL

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 907

Whereas, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Committee Chairman Bernard Sanders, Ranking Member Bill Cassidy, and 18 other Members of the Committee have been named as defendants in the case of *Dr. Ralph de la Torre v. Bernard Sanders, et al.*, Civil Action No. 1:24-cv-02776-TNM, pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§ 288b(a) and 288c(a)(1), the Senate may direct its counsel to defend Committees and Members of the Senate in civil actions relating to their official responsibilities: Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Committee Chairman Bernard Sanders, Ranking Member Bill Cassidy, and 18 other Committee Members named as defendants in the case of *Dr. Ralph de la Torre v. Bernard Sanders, et al.*

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3304. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1153, to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the National Manufacturing Advisory Council within the Department of Commerce, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3304. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1153, to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the National Manufacturing Advisory Council within the Department of Commerce, 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 “National Manufacturing Advisory Council for the 21st Century Act”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL MANUFACTURING ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ADVISORY COUNCIL.**—The term “Advisory Council” means the National Manufacturing Advisory Council established under subsection (b).

(2) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(F) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate;

(G) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;

(H) the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives;

(I) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives;

(J) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

(K) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(L) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

(3) **ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREA.**—The term “economically distressed area” means an area that meets 1 or more of the requirements described in section 301(a) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161(a)).

(4) **RURAL AREA.**—The term “rural area” means an area located outside a metropolitan statistical area, as designated by the Office of Management and Budget.

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

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, the United States Trade Representative, and the Secretary of Education, shall establish within the Department of Commerce the National Manufacturing Advisory Council.

(c) **MISSION.**—The mission of the Advisory Council shall be to—

(1) provide a forum for—

(A) regular communication between the Federal Government and the manufacturing sector, including manufacturing workers, in the United States; and

(B) discussing and proposing solutions to problems relating to the manufacturing sector in the United States, including the manufacturing workforce, supply chain interruptions, and regulatory and other logistical challenges;

(2) advise the Secretary regarding policies and programs of the Federal Government that affect manufacturing, including the manufacturing workforce, in the United States; and

(3) annually produce a national strategic plan, as described in subsection (g), that provides recommendations to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress regarding how to help the United States remain the preeminent destination throughout the world for investment in manufacturing, which shall be based on the execution of the duties of the Advisory Council.

(d) **DUTIES.**—The duties of the Advisory Council shall include the following:

(1) Meeting not less frequently than once every 180 days, in a manner to be determined by the Secretary and that is in compliance with chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, in order to provide independent advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding issues involving manufacturing in the United States.

(2) Identifying and assessing the impact that technological developments, critical production capacity, skill availability, investment patterns, and emerging defense needs have on the manufacturing competitiveness of the United States and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding that impact.

(3) Soliciting input from the public and private sectors and academia relating to emerging trends in manufacturing, and the responsiveness of Federal programming with

respect to manufacturing, and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary for areas of increased Federal attention with respect to manufacturing.

(4) Identifying, and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding, global and domestic manufacturing trends, including on matters such as supply chain interruptions, logistical challenges, and demographic and technological changes affecting the manufacturing base in the United States.

(5) Providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary on matters relating to investment in, and support of, the manufacturing workforce in the United States, including on matters such as—

(A) worker participation in planning for the deployment of new technologies across the manufacturing sector in the United States and within workplaces in that sector;

(B) training and education priorities for the Federal Government and employers to assist workers in adapting the skills and experiences of those workers to fit the demands of the manufacturing sector in the United States in the 21st century;

(C) how the development of new technologies and processes have impacted, and will impact, the manufacturing workforce of the United States and the economy of the United States, which shall be based on input from manufacturing workers;

(D) policies and procedures that expand access to jobs, career advancement opportunities, and management opportunities in the manufacturing sector in the United States for low-income individuals in the United States, or new entrants into that sector, in both urban and rural areas; and

(E) how to improve access to demand-driven manufacturing-related education, training, and re-training for workers, including at community and technical colleges, through other institutions of higher education and through apprenticeships and work-based learning opportunities.

(6) Providing recommendations to the Secretary on ways to—

(A) provide—

(i) manufacturing-related worker education, training, and development; and

(ii) entrepreneurship training relating to manufacturing;

(B) connect individuals and businesses with services described in subparagraph (A) that are offered in the communities of those individuals or businesses;

(C) coordinate services relating to manufacturing employee engagement, including employee ownership and workforce training;

(D) connect manufacturers with community and technical colleges, other institutions of higher education, State or local workforce development boards established under section 101 or 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111, 3122), labor organizations, and nonprofit job training providers to develop and support training and job placement services, and apprenticeship and online learning platforms, for new and incumbent manufacturing workers;

(E) integrate new technologies and processes into the manufacturing sector in the United States and address the workforce impacts of those new technologies and processes; and

(F) develop best practices for manufacturers to incorporate, or transition to, employee ownership structures.

(7) With respect to the matters described in paragraphs (1) through (6), soliciting input from—

(A) economically distressed areas;

(B) geographically diverse regions of the United States, including both urban and rural areas; and

(C) areas of the United States that have suffered mass layoffs in the manufacturing sector.

(8) Identifying Federal, State, or other regulations that may have caused, or will cause, unnecessary supply chain disruptions, impaired business operations, increased prices, or other costly burdens for consumers and the manufacturing sector in the United States and recommending to the Secretary steps to—

(A) mitigate those consequences; and

(B) foster an environment in the United States that is favorable to manufacturers, manufacturing workers, and consumers.

(9) Completing other specific tasks requested by the Secretary.

(e) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Council shall—

(A) consist of not more than 30 individuals appointed by the Secretary with a balance of backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints; and

(B) include individuals with manufacturing experience who represent—

(i) private industry, including small and medium-sized manufacturers and any relevant standards development organizations or relevant trade associations;

(ii) academia; and

(iii) labor.

(2) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, accept recommendations from the public regarding the appointment of individuals under paragraph (1).

(3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Advisory Council shall be appointed by the Secretary for a term of 3 years.

(B) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may renew an appointment made under subparagraph (A) for not more than 2 additional terms.

(C) STAGGER TERMS.—The Secretary may stagger the terms of the members of the Advisory Council to ensure that the terms of those members expire during different years.

(D) VACANCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), a member appointed to fill a vacancy on the Advisory Council occurring before the expiration of the term for which the predecessor of the newly appointed member was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term of the predecessor.

(ii) FURTHER SERVICE.—A member of the Advisory Council who is appointed for the remainder of a term of a predecessor under clause (i) may serve after the expiration of that term of the predecessor and until the date on which the Secretary has appointed a successor.

(f) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—All functions of the United States Manufacturing Council of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce, as in existence on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be transferred to the Advisory Council.

(2) DEEMING OF NAME.—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States Manufacturing Council of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce shall be deemed a reference to the Advisory Council.

(3) EXISTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Any Federal advisory committee of the Department of Commerce that is operating on the day before the date of enactment of this Act under a charter filed in accordance with section 1008(c) of title 5, United States Code, for the purpose of addressing the purposes and duties described in this section shall satisfy the requirement under subsection (b) to establish the Advisory Council if, not later

than 180 days after that date of enactment, the Federal advisory committee is modified, as necessary, to comply with the requirements of this section.

(g) NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Advisory Council holds the initial meeting of the Advisory Council, and annually thereafter, the Advisory Council shall submit to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress—

(1) a national strategic plan for manufacturing in the United States that is based on the execution of the duties of the Advisory Council under subsection (d); and

(2) a detailed statement of the activities that the Advisory Council conducted to carry out the duties of the Advisory Council under subsection (d).

(h) DEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT.—In accordance with prevailing laws and regulations, the Secretary, as the Secretary considers appropriate, shall furnish to the Advisory Council relevant information that—

(1) is in the possession of the Department of Commerce; and

(2) relates to the mission of the Advisory Council.

(i) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section.

(j) SUNSET.—The Advisory Council shall terminate on September 30 of the fifth year after the year in which the Advisory Council holds the first meeting of the Advisory Council.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have eight 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 ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 9:45 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 20, 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 Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 3 p.m., to conduct a classified briefing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 11 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session

of the Senate on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 3 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC POLICY

The Subcommittee on Economic Policy of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet in open session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that my legislative fellows Julia Burnell, Steven Ramdillal, and Ryan Gallagher be granted floor privileges for the duration of their fellowships with my office.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Paul Ghiotto, a State Department fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 118th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection,

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following intern from my office be granted floor privileges until November 21, 2024: Jameson Sheehan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL MANUFACTURING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 285, S. 1153.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1153) to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the National Manufacturing Advisory Council within the Department of Commerce, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Manufacturing Advisory Council for the 21st Century Act".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL MANUFACTURING ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) **ADVISORY COUNCIL.**—The term “Advisory Council” means the National Manufacturing Advisory Council established under subsection (b).

(2) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(F) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate;

(G) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;

(H) the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives;

(I) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives;

(J) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

(K) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(L) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

(3) **ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREA.**—The term “economically distressed area” means an area that meets 1 or more of the requirements described in section 301(a) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161(a)).

(4) **RURAL AREA.**—The term “rural area” means an area located outside a metropolitan statistical area, as designated by the Office of Management and Budget.

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

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, the United States Trade Representative, and the Secretary of Education, shall establish within the Department of Commerce the National Manufacturing Advisory Council.

(c) **MISSION.**—The mission of the Advisory Council shall be to—

(1) provide a forum for—

(A) regular communication between the Federal Government and the manufacturing sector, including manufacturing workers, in the United States; and

(B) discussing and proposing solutions to problems relating to the manufacturing sector in the United States, including the manufacturing workforce, supply chain interruptions, and other logistical challenges;

(2) advise the Secretary regarding policies and programs of the Federal Government that affect manufacturing, including the manufacturing workforce, in the United States; and

(3) annually produce a national strategic plan, as described in subsection (g), that provides recommendations to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress regarding how to help the United States remain the pre-eminent destination throughout the world for investment in manufacturing, which shall be based on the execution of the duties of the Advisory Council.

(d) **DUTIES.**—The duties of the Advisory Council shall include the following:

(1) Meeting not less frequently than once every 180 days, in a manner to be determined by the Secretary and that is in compliance with chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, in order to provide independent advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding issues involving manufacturing in the United States.

(2) Identifying and assessing the impact that technological developments, critical production capacity, skill availability, investment patterns,

and emerging defense needs have on the manufacturing competitiveness of the United States and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding that impact.

(3) Soliciting input from the public and private sectors and academia relating to emerging trends in manufacturing, and the responsiveness of Federal programming with respect to manufacturing, and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary for areas of increased Federal attention with respect to manufacturing.

(4) Identifying, and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding, global and domestic manufacturing trends, including on matters such as supply chain interruptions, logistical challenges, and demographic and technological changes affecting the manufacturing base in the United States.

(5) Providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary on matters relating to investment in, and support of, the manufacturing workforce in the United States, including on matters such as—

(A) worker participation, including through labor organizations and through other methods determined by the Advisory Council, in planning for the deployment of new technologies across the manufacturing sector in the United States and within workplaces in that sector;

(B) training and education priorities for the Federal Government and employers to assist workers in adapting the skills and experiences of those workers to fit the demands of the manufacturing sector in the United States in the 21st century;

(C) how the development of new technologies and processes have impacted, and will impact, the manufacturing workforce of the United States and the economy of the United States, which shall be based on input from manufacturing workers;

(D) policies and procedures that expand access to jobs, career advancement opportunities, and management opportunities for underrepresented populations in both urban and rural areas; and

(E) how to improve access to demand-driven manufacturing-related education, training, and re-training for workers, including at community and technical colleges, through other institutions of higher education, and through apprenticeships and work-based learning opportunities.

(6) Providing recommendations to the Secretary on ways to—

(A) provide—

(i) manufacturing-related worker education, training, and development; and

(ii) entrepreneurship training relating to manufacturing;

(B) connect individuals and businesses with services described in subparagraph (A) that are offered in the communities of those individuals or businesses;

(C) coordinate services relating to manufacturing employee engagement, including employee ownership and workforce training;

(D) connect manufacturers with community and technical colleges, other institutions of higher education, State or local workforce development boards established under section 101 or 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111, 3122), labor organizations, and nonprofit job training providers to develop and support training and job placement services, and apprenticeship and online learning platforms, for new and incumbent manufacturing workers;

(E) integrate new technologies and processes into the manufacturing sector in the United States and address the workforce impacts of those new technologies and processes; and

(F) develop best practices for manufacturers to incorporate, or transition to, employee ownership structures.

(7) With respect to the matters described in paragraphs (1) through (6), soliciting input from—

(A) economically distressed areas;

(B) geographically diverse regions of the United States, including both urban and rural areas; and

(C) areas of the United States that have suffered mass layoffs in the manufacturing sector.

(8) Completing other specific tasks requested by the Secretary.

(e) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Advisory Council shall—

(A) consist of not more than 30 individuals appointed by the Secretary with a balance of backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints; and

(B) include individuals with manufacturing experience who represent—

(i) private industry, including small and medium-sized manufacturers and any relevant standards development organizations or relevant trade associations;

(ii) academia; and

(iii) labor.

(2) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, accept recommendations from the public regarding the appointment of individuals under paragraph (1).

(3) **PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Each member of the Advisory Council shall be appointed by the Secretary for a term of 3 years.

(B) **RENEWAL.**—The Secretary may renew an appointment made under subparagraph (A) for not more than 2 additional terms.

(C) **STAGGER TERMS.**—The Secretary may stagger the terms of the members of the Advisory Council to ensure that the terms of those members expire during different years.

(D) **VACANCIES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to clause (ii), a member appointed to fill a vacancy on the Advisory Council occurring before the expiration of the term for which the predecessor of the newly appointed member was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term of the predecessor.

(ii) **FURTHER SERVICE.**—A member of the Advisory Council who is appointed for the remainder of a term of a predecessor under clause (i) may serve after the expiration of that term of the predecessor and until the date on which the Secretary has appointed a successor.

(f) **TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—All functions of the United States Manufacturing Council of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce, including the personnel, assets, and obligations of the United States Manufacturing Council of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce, as in existence on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be transferred to the Advisory Council.

(2) **DEEMING OF NAME.**—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States Manufacturing Council of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce shall be deemed a reference to the Advisory Council.

(3) **UNEXPENDED BALANCES.**—Unexpended balances of appropriations, authorization, allocations, or other funds related to the United States Manufacturing Council of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce shall be available for use by the Advisory Council for the purpose for which the appropriations, authorizations, allocations, or other funds were originally made available.

(4) **EXISTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—Any Federal advisory committee of the Department of Commerce that is operating on the day before the date of enactment of this Act under a charter filed in accordance with section 1008(c) of title 5, United States Code, for the purpose of addressing the purposes and duties described in this section shall satisfy the requirement under subsection (b) to establish the Advisory Council

if, not later than 90 days after that date of enactment, the Federal advisory committee is modified, as necessary, to comply with the requirements of this section.

(g) NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Advisory Council holds the initial meeting of the Advisory Council, and annually thereafter, the Advisory Council shall submit to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress—

(1) a national strategic plan for manufacturing in the United States that is based on the execution of the duties of the Advisory Council under subsection (d); and

(2) a detailed statement of the activities that the Advisory Council conducted to carry out the duties of the Advisory Council under subsection (d).

(h) DEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT.—In accordance with prevailing laws and regulations, the Secretary, as the Secretary considers appropriate, shall furnish to the Advisory Council relevant information that—

(1) is in the possession of the Department of Commerce; and

(2) relates to the mission of the Advisory Council.

(i) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section.

(j) SUNSET.—The Advisory Council shall terminate on September 30 of the fifth year after the year in which the Advisory Council holds the first meeting of the Advisory Council.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; that the Peters substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 3304), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(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.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill, as amended?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

The bill (S. 1153), as amended, was passed as follows:

S. 1153

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 "National Manufacturing Advisory Council for the 21st Century Act".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL MANUFACTURING ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The term "Advisory Council" means the National Manufacturing Advisory Council established under subsection (b).

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(F) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate;

(G) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;

(H) the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives;

(I) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives;

(J) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

(K) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(L) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

(3) ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREA.—The term "economically distressed area" means an area that meets 1 or more of the requirements described in section 301(a) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161(a)).

(4) RURAL AREA.—The term "rural area" means an area located outside a metropolitan statistical area, as designated by the Office of Management and Budget.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, the United States Trade Representative, and the Secretary of Education, shall establish within the Department of Commerce the National Manufacturing Advisory Council.

(c) MISSION.—The mission of the Advisory Council shall be to—

(1) provide a forum for—

(A) regular communication between the Federal Government and the manufacturing sector, including manufacturing workers, in the United States; and

(B) discussing and proposing solutions to problems relating to the manufacturing sector in the United States, including the manufacturing workforce, supply chain interruptions, and regulatory and other logistical challenges;

(2) advise the Secretary regarding policies and programs of the Federal Government that affect manufacturing, including the manufacturing workforce, in the United States; and

(3) annually produce a national strategic plan, as described in subsection (g), that provides recommendations to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress regarding how to help the United States remain the preeminent destination throughout the world for investment in manufacturing, which shall be based on the execution of the duties of the Advisory Council.

(d) DUTIES.—The duties of the Advisory Council shall include the following:

(1) Meeting not less frequently than once every 180 days, in a manner to be determined by the Secretary and that is in compliance with chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, in order to provide independent advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding issues involving manufacturing in the United States.

(2) Identifying and assessing the impact that technological developments, critical production capacity, skill availability, investment patterns, and emerging defense needs have on the manufacturing competitiveness of the United States and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding that impact.

(3) Soliciting input from the public and private sectors and academia relating to emerging trends in manufacturing, and the responsiveness of Federal programming with respect to manufacturing, and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary for areas of increased Federal attention with respect to manufacturing.

(4) Identifying, and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding, global and domestic manufacturing trends, including on matters such as supply chain interruptions, logistical challenges, and demographic and technological changes affecting the manufacturing base in the United States.

(5) Providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary on matters relating to investment in, and support of, the manufacturing workforce in the United States, including on matters such as—

(A) worker participation in planning for the deployment of new technologies across the manufacturing sector in the United States and within workplaces in that sector;

(B) training and education priorities for the Federal Government and employers to assist workers in adapting the skills and experiences of those workers to fit the demands of the manufacturing sector in the United States in the 21st century;

(C) how the development of new technologies and processes have impacted, and will impact, the manufacturing workforce of the United States and the economy of the United States, which shall be based on input from manufacturing workers;

(D) policies and procedures that expand access to jobs, career advancement opportunities, and management opportunities in the manufacturing sector in the United States for low-income individuals in the United States, or new entrants into that sector, in both urban and rural areas; and

(E) how to improve access to demand-driven manufacturing-related education, training, and re-training for workers, including at community and technical colleges, through other institutions of higher education and through apprenticeships and work-based learning opportunities.

(6) Providing recommendations to the Secretary on ways to—

(A) provide—

(i) manufacturing-related worker education, training, and development; and

(ii) entrepreneurship training relating to manufacturing;

(B) connect individuals and businesses with services described in subparagraph (A) that are offered in the communities of those individuals or businesses;

(C) coordinate services relating to manufacturing employee engagement, including employee ownership and workforce training;

(D) connect manufacturers with community and technical colleges, other institutions of higher education, State or local workforce development boards established under section 101 or 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111, 3122), labor organizations, and nonprofit job training providers to develop and support training and job placement services, and apprenticeship and online learning platforms, for new and incumbent manufacturing workers;

(E) integrate new technologies and processes into the manufacturing sector in the United States and address the workforce impacts of those new technologies and processes; and

(F) develop best practices for manufacturers to incorporate, or transition to, employee ownership structures.

(7) With respect to the matters described in paragraphs (1) through (6), soliciting input from—

(A) economically distressed areas;
 (B) geographically diverse regions of the United States, including both urban and rural areas; and

(C) areas of the United States that have suffered mass layoffs in the manufacturing sector.

(8) Identifying Federal, State, or other regulations that may have caused, or will cause, unnecessary supply chain disruptions, impaired business operations, increased prices, or other costly burdens for consumers and the manufacturing sector in the United States and recommending to the Secretary steps to—

(A) mitigate those consequences; and

(B) foster an environment in the United States that is favorable to manufacturers, manufacturing workers, and consumers.

(9) Completing other specific tasks requested by the Secretary.

(e) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Council shall—

(A) consist of not more than 30 individuals appointed by the Secretary with a balance of backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints; and

(B) include individuals with manufacturing experience who represent—

(i) private industry, including small and medium-sized manufacturers and any relevant standards development organizations or relevant trade associations;

(ii) academia; and

(iii) labor.

(2) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, accept recommendations from the public regarding the appointment of individuals under paragraph (1).

(3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Advisory Council shall be appointed by the Secretary for a term of 3 years.

(B) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may renew an appointment made under subparagraph (A) for not more than 2 additional terms.

(C) STAGGER TERMS.—The Secretary may stagger the terms of the members of the Advisory Council to ensure that the terms of those members expire during different years.

(D) VACANCIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), a member appointed to fill a vacancy on the Advisory Council occurring before the expiration of the term for which the predecessor of the newly appointed member was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term of the predecessor.

(ii) FURTHER SERVICE.—A member of the Advisory Council who is appointed for the remainder of a term of a predecessor under clause (i) may serve after the expiration of that term of the predecessor and until the date on which the Secretary has appointed a successor.

(f) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—All functions of the United States Manufacturing Council of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce, as in existence on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be transferred to the Advisory Council.

(2) DEEMING OF NAME.—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States Manufacturing Council of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce shall be deemed a reference to the Advisory Council.

(3) EXISTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Any Federal advisory committee of the Department of Commerce that is operating on the day before the date of enactment of this Act under a charter filed in accordance with section 1008(c) of title 5, United States Code, for

the purpose of addressing the purposes and duties described in this section shall satisfy the requirement under subsection (b) to establish the Advisory Council if, not later than 180 days after that date of enactment, the Federal advisory committee is modified, as necessary, to comply with the requirements of this section.

(g) NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Advisory Council holds the initial meeting of the Advisory Council, and annually thereafter, the Advisory Council shall submit to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress—

(1) a national strategic plan for manufacturing in the United States that is based on the execution of the duties of the Advisory Council under subsection (d); and

(2) a detailed statement of the activities that the Advisory Council conducted to carry out the duties of the Advisory Council under subsection (d).

(h) DEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT.—In accordance with prevailing laws and regulations, the Secretary, as the Secretary considers appropriate, shall furnish to the Advisory Council relevant information that—

(1) is in the possession of the Department of Commerce; and

(2) relates to the mission of the Advisory Council.

(i) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section.

(j) SUNSET.—The Advisory Council shall terminate on September 30 of the fifth year after the year in which the Advisory Council holds the first meeting of the Advisory Council.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY SCREENING MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 484, S. 3959.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3959) to require the Transportation Security Administration to streamline the enrollment processes for individuals applying for a Transportation Security Administration security threat assessment for certain programs, including the Transportation Worker Identification Credential and Hazardous Materials Endorsement Threat Assessment programs of the Administration, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Transportation Security Screening Modernization Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

(2) HAZMAT ENDORSEMENT.—The term “HAZMAT Endorsement” means the Hazardous

Materials Endorsement Threat Assessment program authorized under section 5103a of title 49, United States Code.

(3) STATE.—The term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and the territories and possessions of the United States.

(4) TSA.—The term “TSA” means the Transportation Security Administration.

(5) TWIC.—The term “TWIC” means the Transportation Worker Identification Credential authorized under section 70105 of title 46, United States Code.

SEC. 3. STREAMLINING OF APPLICATIONS FOR CERTAIN SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS OF THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

(a) STREAMLINING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall take such actions as are necessary, including issuance of an interim final rule if needed, to streamline the procedures for individuals applying for or renewing enrollment in more than one TSA security threat assessment program, in particular, the TWIC and HAZMAT Endorsement programs, and any other credentialing programs as determined by the Administrator, by—

(A) permitting an individual to enroll at any TSA authorized enrollment center once for a threat assessment program endorsement and use the application, including associated biometric and biographic data, as well as information generated by TSA’s vetting, for one of such programs to enroll in any other of such programs;

(B) permitting an individual to visit any TSA authorized enrollment center and enroll in more than one TSA security threat assessment program at the same time for a fee that is less than the cumulative fee that would otherwise be incurred for each such program separately;

(C) permitting an individual to undergo a streamlined and expeditious renewal process;

(D) aligning the expiration of an individual’s successful, valid eligibility determination with the expiration of that individual’s eligibility to participate in subsequent TSA security threat assessment programs to which the individual applies;

(E) providing to States the expiration dates for each individual’s TSA security threat assessment to ensure a commercial driver’s license of an individual who holds a HAZMAT Endorsement does not indicate the individual is authorized to transport hazardous materials after the expiration date of the enrollment of the individual in the HAZMAT Endorsement security threat assessment program if such commercial driver’s license has an expiration date that is different from the expiration date of such enrollment; and

(F) enrolling an individual in a subsequent TSA security threat assessment program at the minimum cost necessary for the TSA to cover printing, issuance, and case management costs, costs associated with the collection of any additional biometric and biographic data in accordance with paragraph (3), and other costs that are not duplicative.

(2) STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR STREAMLINING.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the States shall carry out the responsibilities of the States pursuant to section 5103a of title 49, United States Code.

(3) SPECIAL RULE.—If an individual under this subsection is at different times applying for or renewing enrollment in more than one TSA security threat assessment program, such individual may be required to revisit a TSA authorized enrollment center for the collection of additional data, such as biometrics, necessary for any such program that were not so collected in connection with any other such program.

(b) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall post on a publicly available website of the TSA information relating to the streamlining of the

enrollment processes for individuals applying for more than one TSA security threat assessment program described in subsection (a).

(c) **EXPEDITED RULEMAKING.**—Notwithstanding sections 551 through 559 of title 5, United States Code, nothing in this section shall require notice and comment rulemaking, and to the extent it is necessary to add additional requirements for which limited rulemaking may be advisable, the Administrator shall implement such requirements through publication of an interim final rule.

(d) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief Congress on progress made toward the implementation of this section.

SEC. 4. ELIMINATING DUPLICATIVE COSTS.

(a) **AUDIT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall audit the administration of the security threat assessment programs by the TSA and the States, including the TWIC and HAZMAT Endorsement programs.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—

(1) **TSA AUDIT.**—In conducting the audit of the TSA required by subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall—

(A) identify any redundancies and duplications in costs and administration of security threat assessment programs that if eliminated would not impact national security and any benefits of eliminating such redundancies and duplications and improving the experiences for individuals applying for or renewing enrollment in more than one TSA security threat assessment program;

(B) review the impacts of the implementation by the TSA of recommendations from previous studies conducted by the Comptroller General, including GAO-07-756 and GAO-17-182, on increasing the efficiency and effectiveness, and reducing costs, of processing applications for enrollment and renewal in TSA security threat assessment programs;

(C) review the findings of the assessment required by section 1(b) of the Act entitled “An Act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive security assessment of the transportation security card program, and for other purposes”, approved December 16, 2016 (46 U.S.C. 70105 note; Public Law 114-278) and determine whether the TSA has implemented any remedies to redundancies and duplication identified by that assessment and whether such implementation impacted national security;

(D) determine whether there are unique challenges rural applicants have with accessing TSA security threat assessment programs;

(E) assess the numbers and locations of enrollment centers for meeting the needs of such programs, including determining the access provided to rural applicants;

(F) identify potential opportunities that exist to improve the enrollment center operations of and customer experience with such programs;

(G) identify potential opportunities to harmonize the enrollment, vetting, and renewal processes of such programs in which similar information is collected for similar security threat assessment processes for different vetted credentials while not impacting national security;

(H) identify other ways the TSA can reduce the costs of the TSA security threat assessment programs while not impacting national security; and

(I) review the vetting, application, and enrollment processes of each TSA security threat assessment program.

(2) **STATE AUDIT.**—In conducting the audit of the States required by subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall review—

(A) the administration of the HAZMAT Endorsement program by the States;

(B) methods by which the States could streamline the HAZMAT Endorsement program; and

(C) any potential barriers States face administering TSA security threat assessment programs for individuals applying to TWIC and the HAZMAT Endorsement program or individuals that already have a TWIC credential.

(c) **REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the completion of the audit required by subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Administrator, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) a summary and analysis of the costs associated with the operation and administration of each individual TSA security threat assessment program;

(2) a summary and analysis of the application and enrollment costs associated with providing an individual multiple credentials under TSA security threat assessment programs;

(3) an identification of any potential duplicative processes associated with an applicant applying for, or the vetting or enrollment by the TSA of an individual in, a subsequent or multiple TSA security threat assessment programs;

(4) a breakdown of costs borne by applicants for current enrollment and renewal processes of such programs;

(5) ways to improve access to such programs, including for rural applicants;

(6) any potential recommendations to the TSA for reducing costs and streamlining the administration and operation of each TSA security threat assessment program while not impacting national security;

(7) any potential recommendations for the TSA to administer such programs in a way that would improve national security; and

(8) any potential recommendations for ways States can improve their role in administering the HAZMAT Endorsement program and streamline the application process or reduce costs for individuals seeking multiple transportation security credentials.

(d) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the receipt of the report required by subsection (c), the Administrator shall—

(A) implement the recommendations from such report;

(B) provide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a written notification detailing—

(i) the timeline for implementation of each recommendation from the report;

(ii) justifications for any implementation timeline lasting longer than 2 years; and

(iii) justifications for recommendations that the Administrator has declined to pursue or implement.

(2) **BRIEFINGS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the receipt of the report required by subsection (c), and annually thereafter until the date that the TSA has implemented each recommendation made in such report, the Administrator shall brief the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives on the implementation of recommendations from the report.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment 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 made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 3959), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

BOLD INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ALZHEIMER'S REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7218, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7218) to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to extend the program for promotion of public health knowledge and awareness of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and for other purposes.

There being no objection the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 (H.R. 7218) was passed.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.

FAFSA DEADLINE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 8932, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 8932) to establish an earlier application processing cycle for the FAFSA.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 8932) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—S. RES. 894

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and

Transportation be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 894 and the resolution be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RELATING TO THE DEATH OF TIMOTHY PETER JOHNSON, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 902, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 902) relating to the death of Timothy Peter Johnson, former Senator for the State of South Dakota.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 902) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions: S. Res. 903, S. Res. 904, S. Res. 905, S. Res. 906, S. Res. 907.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this resolution concerns a lawsuit filed in Federal court in the District of Columbia against the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Chairman SANDERS, Ranking

Member CASSIDY, and 18 other members of the committee. That suit was brought by an individual, Dr. Ralph de la Torre, who had been subpoenaed to testify at a hearing before the Committee but chose to disregard his legal duty and failed to appear at the committee's hearing. After Dr. de la Torre failed to appear, the Committee reported to the Senate, and the Senate agreed to, a resolution directing the President of the Senate to certify the fact of his default to the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia for consideration of prosecution for contempt of Congress.

Dr. de la Torre then filed suit to try to prevent any sanction from being imposed on him for his default of a duly authorized Senate committee subpoena, claiming that the subpoena served no valid legislative purpose and that requiring him to appear at the hearing violated his Fifth Amendment rights, despite the fact that the committee made clear that he could assert a Fifth Amendment privilege in response to questions at the hearing, if applicable.

Dr. de la Torre's suit against the committee and its members seeking to prevent any consequences for his default on the subpoena threatens to interfere with the independence of the Senate in conducting its legislative and oversight duties and improperly seeks to use a civil suit to forestall a criminal matter. This resolution would authorize the Senate legal counsel to represent the committee and the members named as defendants in this suit in order to seek its dismissal.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

**ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 21, 2024**

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that

when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned, under the provisions of S. Res. 902, until 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 21; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceeding be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Wise nomination; further, that at 11 a.m., the Senate vote on the cloture motions with respect to the Wise and Weilheimer nominations in the order listed; further, that following the cloture vote on the Weilheimer nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the Desai nomination and that the Senate vote on the nomination of Desai at 1:45 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday'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.

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW**

Mr. SCHUMER. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, under the previous order and pursuant to S. Res. 902, as a further mark of respect to the late Tim Johnson, former Senator from South Dakota, the Senate, at 12:34 a.m., adjourned until Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 20, 2024:

THE JUDICIARY

AMIR H. ALI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

REBECCA L. PENNELL, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING MARYVILLE ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTER

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it was my pleasure to visit the Maryville Addiction Treatment Center in Vineland, South Jersey, and to congratulate them on 75 years of service in New Jersey. Founded in Williamstown, Maryville has been serving the community since 1949 when Father Bennett Conway established the institute to help alcoholic men achieve sobriety. Over the years, it has evolved into a comprehensive organization with four separate campuses across New Jersey, providing assistance to individuals and families struggling with addiction. Maryville opened its first outpatient clinic in 1979, followed by the Vineland office. Just recently, they also acquired the Burlington County 54-bed residential facility, now known as the Post House at Maryville. They offer a variety of services, including withdrawal management, residential treatment, medication-assisted treatment, and outpatient care. Maryville also has a treatment continuum for individuals dealing with multiple mental health conditions, provided by licensed counselors and Advanced Practice Nurses. Maryville's commitment to healing is a true asset to South Jersey, and I am proud to support their work. God bless Maryville Integrated Care, and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING NANCY NEVERS

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional public servant, Nancy Nevers, who has dedicated twenty years of service to Macomb Township as an elected trustee. Born on September 17, 1941, in Detroit, Michigan, Nancy's journey has been one marked by a deep commitment to her community and a passion for public service. She attended Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School in Detroit before her family relocated to Dearborn Heights, where she completed her high school education. Nancy went on to further her education at Central Michigan University where she studied business administration. She also received further education from Michigan State University through the citizen planner program.

In 1962, Nancy married Larry Nevers, and together they raised a daughter, Kelly. Today, Nancy is the exceptionally proud and devoted grandmother to Madeleine Bingham, a role that brings her immense joy and fulfillment.

A resident of Macomb Township for the past twenty-four years, Nancy has been an elected

member of the Macomb Township Board of Trustees since 2004. Over the years, she has shown an unwavering dedication to the welfare of her community, contributing her time and talents to a variety of causes and initiatives. Nancy has served as an active member of both the Friends of Macomb Township Foundation and the Kiwanis Club, where she helped raise funds to support scholarships for deserving youth, assisted foster children, and contributed to many other charitable endeavors.

Among her many contributions, one of the most significant is Nancy's leadership in the creation and dedication of a public memorial to first responders and military veterans on the grounds of the Macomb Township Hall. This memorial stands as a tribute to the brave individuals who serve our nation and our community.

Throughout her tenure, Trustee Nevers has been instrumental in guiding Macomb Township through both internal and external challenges with grace, wisdom, and a steadfast commitment to progress. She has played a key role in the expansion of the Township's recreation amenities, roadways, and sidewalks, ensuring that Macomb Township remains a vibrant, accessible, and safe community. Additionally, her work in enhancing public safety resources has been vital to improving the quality of life for all residents.

Beyond her public service, Nancy is a big Elvis Presley fan and enjoys gardening, interior decorating, and design. These personal interests reflect her creative spirit and love for making her surroundings beautiful.

Trustee Nevers' contributions to Macomb Township and her dedication to improving the lives of those around her have made a lasting impact. Her legacy of service, compassion, and leadership will undoubtedly continue to inspire the community for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Nancy Nevers for her remarkable achievements and expressing our gratitude for her unwavering service to Macomb Township.

RECOGNIZING JOHN DEFOORE, SR. FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. John DeFoore, Sr. At 105 years old, Mr. DeFoore is one of the oldest living graduates of Mississippi College. Born on June 12, 1919, Mr. DeFoore left his home at 17 years old to work with a construction crew. When he finished high school, Mr. DeFoore hitchhiked to Clinton, Mississippi, to enroll at Mississippi College. Mr. DeFoore knew the importance of gaining a good education and thought the best place would be Mississippi College. While at Mississippi College, Mr.

DeFoore milked cows to pay for his room and tuition. Mr. DeFoore was an atheist when he entered Mississippi College, but he accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior while a student and became an ordained Baptist minister in 1941.

While in college, Mr. DeFoore joined a National Guard band to keep up his musical skills and gain a school scholarship. Shortly after, the band was inducted into the federal service, and Mr. DeFoore was sent for one-year training at Camp Landing, Florida. What started out as a one-year training turned into seven years after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Mr. DeFoore was promoted from Private-First Class to Second Lieutenant during his service and received the Bronze Cross for service "above and beyond" during an amphibious landing on Morotai Island, Indonesia.

After his service, Mr. DeFoore returned to Mississippi College and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 1947. Mr. DeFoore went on to earn his Master of Theology from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Since graduating, Mr. DeFoore has continued to invest both in his alma mater, Mississippi College, and in Mississippi. His family still lives in the state, but Mr. DeFoore has retired to Texas.

I am proud to recognize Mr. John DeFoore, Sr. and his service to our country. Stories like Mr. DeFoore's remind us of the value of the American Dream, the significance of living a life of one's calling, and leaving a legacy of service.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE FRANK HORNSTEIN

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legend and a force in Minnesota government—Representative Frank Hornstein. After an impressive 22-year tenure in the Minnesota House, Representative Hornstein is wrapping up his service in the Legislature. I ask you all to join me in recognizing the contributions of this accomplished legislator, devoted organizer, and dear friend.

Representative Hornstein first came to Minnesota to attend Macalester College, majoring in environmental studies. After graduate school, he worked as a community organizer and advocate for environmental issues. He was then appointed to the Metropolitan Council, beginning what would be a long and impressive tenure driving forward an equitable transportation system, environmental justice, and human rights in the Twin Cities and across the state.

Throughout his time in the Minnesota Legislature, Representative Hornstein has been a force for progressive transportation and transit policy. He moved forward major investments in light rail, bus rapid transit, and commuter

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

rail, expanding our transit network to serve thousands of new riders. He advanced legislation to limit speed limits in residential areas, reduce distracted driving, and expand the use of electric buses and vehicles. He also secured major investments in bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Our transportation system is ultimately a reflection of our values and Representative Hornstein has devoted his career to making a transportation system that has a place for all Minnesotans, regardless of their income, zip code, or immigration status. His leadership and movement-building culminated in a “transformative transportation bill that was 20 years in the making,” as he wrote about his departure from the Minnesota House.

Beyond his work on transportation and transit, Representative Hornstein has been a leader on broader environmental justice initiatives—advancing work to reduce food waste and its corresponding climate impacts, mitigating greenhouse gas emissions across the economy, and moving toward a zero-waste society. He has also been a steadfast advocate for human rights for all, leading work to address hate crimes and requiring Holocaust curriculum in all public K–12 schools.

Wherever Representative Hornstein’s future leads him, I know that he will be making the world a better place for every single one of us. His tenure in the House will be remembered for years to come, and I am proud that future generations of Minnesotans will grow up with the benefits of his hard work. Please help me congratulate Representative Frank Hornstein on his retirement from the Minnesota House.

RECOGNIZING OMICRON KAPPA KAPPA CHAPTER OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY INC. FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENT WEEK AND HONOREES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Omicron Kappa Kappa Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. for its Achievement Week and Honorees.

Since 1925, Achievement Week has been an annual, internationally mandated program of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Omega Psi Phi’s Achievement Week is observed in November of each year and is designed to seek out and give due recognition to those individuals at the local and international levels who have made a noteworthy contribution toward improving the quality of life for Black Americans. Chapters celebrate their communities and engage the public through exhibits, activities, meetings and forums in schools, churches, and public halls.

The fraternity’s 2024 International Achievement Week is from November 10, 2024, to November 17, 2024. This year’s Achievement Week theme is “Omega Men Building a Better Society with Friendship as the Foundation.”

The Omicron Kappa Kappa (OKK) Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. received its graduate chapter charter on December 14, 1996, and serves primarily the Fairfax, Herndon, and Reston, VA areas.

The fraternity’s Annual Achievement Week Awards Luncheon serves as an opportunity to

recognize our youth and members of the community for their contributions to the chapter and the community over the past year. This year’s Achievement Week Awards Luncheon serves as a fundraiser in support of OKK Chapter’s charitable and community outreach. OKK awards recipients include:

OKK Founders’ Trailblazer Award: Dr. Gregory Washington, President, George Mason University

OKK Basileus Award for Excellence in Media: Curtis Symonds, President and Co-Founder, HBCU Go

OKK Young Man of the Year Award: Heman Bekele, TIME Magazine Kid of the Year Annual High School Essay Contest Winners: Solomon Broiles, Battlefield HS; Gabrielle Jackson, John Champe HS; Gordon “LJ” Person, Centreville HS; David Ransom, South County HS.

Dr. Ernest Everett Just Award for Excellence in Microbiology: Shumvobi Mitra, Langley HS

Dr. Oscar J. Cooper, M.D. Award for Excellence in Biomedical and Health Sciences: Sampurna Chakravorty, Chantilly HS

Dr. Edgar A. Love Award for Excellence in Biomedical Engineering: Aneesh Mandapati, South Lakes HS

Professor Frank Coleman Award for Excellence in Physics and Astronomy: Emmy Leong, George C. Marshall HS

Charles Vernon Smith Award for Excellence in Computer Science and Mathematics: Manav Gagvani, Thomas Jefferson HS

Brigadier General (Brother) Charles Young Military Leadership Award: Staff Sergeant (Brother) Tres Savage, Virginia National Guard

Citizen of the Year Award: Stacey Seay, Pastoral Assistant, First Baptist Church of Vienna

Founders’ Lifetime Achievement Award: Brother LTC (Ret) Earl Smith, Jr.

Superior Service Award: Brother Gerald Hamilton (Co-Awardee) Brother James Daniels (Co-Awardee)

Omega Man of the Year Award: Brother Keith Evans

Service Pins: Brother Eddie L. Colter, 35 Years of Service; Brother Steve Lewis, 40 Years of Service; Brother George Johnson, 65 Years of Service; Brother Luther Williams, 70 years of Service.

Lastly, the OKK Foundation, Inc. will recognize Brother George Johnson, Immediate Past President, for his years of leadership and service as President from 2009 to 2024.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the men of Omega Psi Phi Inc. and the honorees for this year’s Achievement Week.

COMMEMORATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FRELINGHUYSEN TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the establishment of the Frelinghuysen Township Volunteer Fire Company in Frelinghuysen, NJ.

The establishment of this fire company in 2022 marked the creation of the first all-volunteer company in the State of New Jersey in almost 30 years. As an advocate for local law enforcement in New Jersey, I recognize the Frelinghuysen Volunteer Fire Company as a testament to the hard-working people who tirelessly dedicate themselves to making our communities safer. The volunteers at the Frelinghuysen Fire Company dedicate their time to strengthening community relationships and providing high-quality emergency response services to all of Frelinghuysen Township. As we celebrate and honor this remarkable all-volunteer fire company, I have full confidence and trust that its volunteers will continue to serve with pride and distinction, striving to make a lasting difference in their community.

RECOGNIZING MRS. SYLVIA CHAVEZ

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague Mr. FONG, to honor Mrs. Sylvia Chavez as she is named 2024 Cattlewoman of the Year by the Kern County Cattlewomen’s Association.

Mrs. Chavez was born on February 21, 1943, and is a third-generation native of Kern County. From a young age, she has been deeply involved in the livestock industry, spending her youth competing in county fairs and attending brandings with her parents. At just six years old, Mrs. Chavez won her first horse show at the Kern County Fair. After graduating from South High School in 1961, she continued her education at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Chavez has used her passion for livestock and cattle for meaningful service to her community. After her family relocated to Rosedale in 1968, she became involved in the 4–H agriculture program, volunteering her time to empower youth to explore their interests in livestock. She was instrumental in introducing the 4–H and Future Farmers of America Horse Show to the Kern County Fair, creating hands-on learning experiences for local youth. In 1978, she began working at a resort in Bear Valley Springs to manage the Equestrian Center and was proud to hire many young Central Valley residents interested in the horse business.

Mrs. Chavez’s career has spanned three different ranches. She first joined her husband, Fred in 1978 to work on a large ranch in the panhandle of Idaho. The couple later moved to Oregon where she helped manage a 50,000-acre ranch with 2,000 cattle. They then returned to California to manage Cattani Ranch by Caliente Creek. In addition to ranching, Mrs. Chavez has served her community by working for the California Correctional Institution. Mrs. Chavez is the proud mother of three children—Julie Ann, John, and Megan, and grandmother to five. After her retirement, Mrs. Chavez became deeply involved with the Kern County Cattlewomen’s Association, serving on the board and dedicating countless hours to the association’s events. She is a longtime member of the Kern Sierra Unit of

Backcountry Horsemen of California, where she has served as president.

Through her many years of work and service, Mrs. Chavez's impact has been immense. Since 1962, the Kern County Cattlewomen's Association has named a Cattlewoman of the Year, celebrating the hard work, sacrifice, and dedication that an individual has made for the success of the Kern County cattle industry. As this year's recipient, Mrs. Chavez is recognized for her tremendous impact on the Kern County community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mrs. Sylvia Chavez for being named the 2024 Kern County Cattlewoman of the Year, and thank her for her contributions to the Kern County community and cattle industry.

HONORING ADITI MUTHUKUMAR

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aditi Muthukumar of Westminster, Colorado for earning the Rookie of the Year Award in the 2024 Congressional App Challenge.

Aditi built an interactive app called SafeSpace, which provides young people with mental and behavioral health resources and uses a trained machine learning model to help give advice on symptoms and share resources.

Aditi spent countless hours and used many tools to develop her app and advance her STEM education.

I congratulate Aditi Muthukumar for her success in the Congressional App Challenge. I am certain she will exhibit the same dedication and character in her future accomplishments. I am excited to see all she will accomplish.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HENRY GORINO

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Henry Gorino, who left a profound impact on Western New York's restaurant industry and the region as a whole. Mr. Gorino, a legendary restaurateur and a beloved figure, was a visionary behind some of Western New York's most iconic and flavorful establishments.

As the force behind restaurants such as Oliver's, Siena, 800 Maple, Rocco's Pizza, and JT's, Mr. Gorino had been in the restaurant industry for nearly thirty years. Throughout his tenure, he mentored some of the region's most well-known chefs and provided a space for friends and family to gather for great food and conversation. Henry's ability to lovingly push aspiring chefs and owners to the next level was an example of why his legacy will live on in the hospitality industry of our region.

Henry Gorino's legacy is not just in his culinary achievements but in the countless lives

he touched with his kindness, generosity, and unwavering support. He truly embodied the spirit of community, showing us all what it means to give oneself toward the betterment and nourishment of others. His love and dedication to service will forever be an inspiration to us all.

Today, as we commemorate the life and legacy of Henry Gorino, let us remember him not only for his outstanding service and compassion but also for his dedication to continuously uplifting others. While he may no longer be with us in body, his spirit lives on in the community he cherished so deeply.

HONORING VINELAND FIRE CHIEF LOU A. TRAMONTANA, JR.

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor retiring Vineland Fire Chief Lou A. Tramontana, Jr. Lou is a city official, local businessman, and dedicated volunteer who has served as the Chief of the Vineland Fire Department since 2017. He has had a passion for firefighting for many years, beginning his service 37 years ago when he joined the New Jersey State Forest Fire Service, where he is still the District Warden. In 1992, Lou joined the City of Vineland Fire Department, becoming a career firefighter two years later and achieving the rank of Captain in 2006. He earned countless New Jersey fire certifications, including Fire Official, Officer, and Investigator, as well as becoming a Level 2 Instructor with an FAA Drone Pilot License. Lou was also recognized as Fireman of the Year, served as president of the Vineland Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association, and raised over \$200,000 for burn victims. In addition to his firefighting duties, Lou serves as the president of the board of the Cumberland Cape Atlantic YMCA, a position he has held for 11 years. Lou credits his wife, Lisa, and his two stepchildren, D.J. and Carli, along with his longtime friend Brandon, as the people who have made his life complete. I thank Lou for his many years of dedicated service to Vineland. God bless Lou, and God bless our United States of America.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF NEIL MIDDLETON

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Neil Middleton for his distinguished and award-winning career in journalism, as a long-time trusted news broadcaster and Vice President of WYMT-TV, a CBS affiliate in Hazard, Kentucky.

Broadcasting from the heart of Kentucky's Appalachian region, the station's call letters stand for, "We're Your Mountain Television." It's much more than an acronym. It's the station's mission. WYMT-TV has become synonymous with the very region it serves, thanks in large part to the leadership and journalistic

integrity of Neil Middleton, and those who blazed a trail for news coverage and weather alerts in one of the most rural areas of the United States. In an expansive region, separated by mountainous terrain, national media outlets have only made their way to Appalachia after major disasters, while others have blistered our communities by dredging up negative stereotypes that have misrepresented our beloved hometowns that are filled with hard-working, innovative and extremely talented people. As both well-known and unknown reporters from the around the country have breezed in and out of our region for 15-seconds of fame, it is WYMT that has earned the trust of southern and eastern Kentuckians since the station first signed on the air in 1985. They have not only provided life-saving weather alerts during catastrophic floods and tornado outbreaks, but they have followed their news coverage with fundraising telethons, using the power of the airwaves to collect vital donations to help our communities recover in the wake of disaster. WYMT has also built a reputation for holding local, state and federal leaders accountable in the public eye, while not only providing critical news to the region in every newscast, but also celebrating our victories in regional development and success. Thanks to their central location in the region, mountain student athletes have had an exclusive highlight reel on the station's Sports Overtime program, swelling up pride through every rural county for student athletes who get little notoriety elsewhere. In fact, that's where Neil Middleton started his broadcast television news career in 1987, driving across the mountains from Harlan County every day to cover news and sports in southeastern Kentucky for WYMT and WKYT-TV in Lexington, Kentucky.

Starting out as a radio DJ in high school, Neil worked his way up the ranks as a broadcaster, eventually taking over the helm of WYMT as Vice President and General Manager. Under his leadership, WYMT achieved record-breaking growth in advertising sales, expanded newscasts for news, sports and weather, developed new digital media assets, and earned countless accolades, including regional Emmy awards. The Associated Press has also recognized Neil's personal excellence in journalism with numerous awards throughout his career. His same passion and work for the region has also been recognized by the Kentucky National Guard, local Chambers of Commerce and many others.

Over the last four decades, Neil's passion to serve Kentucky's Appalachian region has reached far beyond the news desk. He has served as a board member for several organizations in the region, including the Center for Rural Development, One East Kentucky, Alice Lloyd College, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, East Kentucky Leadership Foundation, the Challenger Learning Center of Kentucky and the Kentucky Associated Press, among others.

As Neil closes this chapter of his career at WYMT, I want to express my deepest gratitude for his unwavering commitment and loyalty to Kentucky's Appalachian region. With every breath, he has advocated for growth and development in the mountains, understanding the value of every investment here, and likewise, the pain of every opportunity sent away from Central Appalachia. It has been an honor to work in tandem with Neil on many projects, including a hard-fought battle to add WYMT to satellite broadcasts in select

areas to ensure local people have access to news and weather alerts close to home. Neil should take great pride in his efforts to make southern and eastern Kentucky a better place to live.

CONGRATULATING STEVEN R.
SCHNEIDER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Steven R. Schneider, who is retiring after 30 years of dedicated service as Village President of Almont, Michigan. His unwavering dedication and exceptional leadership have profoundly impacted our community.

Born in Detroit in 1943, Steve's roots are firmly planted in the rich history of this vibrant city. As a first-generation American, he embodies the spirit of resilience, having been raised by parents who were Austrian immigrants fleeing the horrors of World War II in search of a better life.

Steve married the love of his life, Sylvia, in 1985, and together they shared nearly three decades of love, joy, and partnership. Their bond was one of mutual respect and admiration, and they raised a beautiful family in the process. Steve is a proud father to his son, Steven C. Schneider, and a loving grandfather to his two cherished grandchildren, Theodore and Alexander. His role as a father and grandfather is a source of immense pride and joy, and he has always been there with sage advice, quiet support, and endless love.

Steve graduated from Henry Ford High School and pursued higher education at Wayne State University, where he studied history and psychology. His commitment to learning culminated in a Juris Doctorate from Wayne State University Law School in 1967. Steve then began his legal career, notably participating in the landmark Algiers Motel case. He defended clients, including Reverend C.L. Franklin, and served on the Macomb County Law Enforcement Commission, impacting justice in our community. His legal acumen and dedication to justice extended beyond the courtroom. Whether representing the Lapeer County Sheriff's Department in legal matters, educating law enforcement officers through his service on the Macomb County Law Enforcement Commission, or serving as a founding board member of the Lapeer County Community Foundation, his contributions have left a lasting mark on the community.

Steve's passion for nurturing future generations led him to teach moot court at Almont High School, where he inspired and helped young people explore their own potential in the field of law. Today, he continues to be an active member of the community, always staying connected and involved in the betterment of the Village he loves.

Steve was first appointed to the Village Council on April 4, 1995, and was elected President on March 17, 1998. During his tenure, he played a pivotal role in critical initiatives, including resolving issues at the Almont Wastewater Treatment Plant, ensuring compliance with sanitary overflow regulations for the well-being of our citizens and environment.

He contributed to the establishment of the Drakeshire Estates subdivision, fostering com-

munity growth. In 2007, he championed the replacement of the 93-year-old water tower, ensuring reliable water service. His leadership led to the reconstruction of the Cherry Street Bridge, enhancing community accessibility. In 2012, Steve implemented new administrative programs that improved operational efficiency and transparency. He advocated for a new water pumping station in 2016, prioritizing safety for essential services. His commitment to infrastructure was evident in the East Saint Clair lift station project and the authorization of a new police department building in 2018.

Steve's dedication to employee safety included advocating for essential equipment, such as the DPW leaf machine. He supported the transition to remote water meter readings, enhancing productivity. As an ex-officio member of the DDA Board and Planning Commission, he guided his town's growth.

Steve's conviction that public service can make a meaningful difference has greatly influenced both his career and personal life. For Steve, politics is not just about governance; it's about people—understanding their needs, advocating for fairness, and enacting meaningful change. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Steven Schneider on his retirement. His career in public service is one that we should all be grateful for.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
SUELLEN FRIED

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of SuEllen Fried. A shining example of a public servant, SuEllen made the lives of everyone around her brighter, particularly those who often went unseen.

SuEllen began dancing in the St. Louis Muni Opera when she was 17. Later, she received her master's degree in dance therapy and creative arts from Park University. While she had not planned a career in dance therapy, her desire to spread joy to others naturally led her to that vocation. One day she was asked if she would come to Osawatomie State Hospital to give cha-cha lessons to psychiatric patients there. At the time of the initial request, she didn't know how to cha-cha, but she ensured she led a class that was joyful and treated each participant with dignity. The class turned out to be a polestar moment in SuEllen's life, and she spent the following 17 years working at the hospital as a dance therapist and became the 100th person registered to do so nationwide.

SuEllen was also passionate about protecting children. She wrote or co-authored seven books on bullying and spoke at schools in 37 states to raise awareness at a time when bullying was an issue that received little attention. She also started the first state chapter of the organization that would later become Prevent Child Abuse America and served on the organization's board.

It was through her work with children that SuEllen became involved with the justice system. In 1978, she received a newsletter that said that 80 percent of individuals who were incarcerated for lifetime sentences at the Lan-

sing Correctional Facility in Lansing, Kansas, had been abused as children. As a result, she had a series of conversations with the authors of the newsletter, which ultimately led to the 400-page Blue Book on the causes and results of violence. In 1982, that book became the centerpiece of the organization she co-founded. Reaching Out From Within, a program led by justice-involved individuals to empower and heal each other. That program has now been adopted into every state prison in Kansas.

The last time SuEllen left her home before her death, it was to say farewell to her friends in the Lansing Correctional Facility.

SuEllen received a variety of honors throughout her life, including serving on President Richard Nixon's task force on mental health, being named as one of President George H. W. Bush's 1000 Points of Light, and receiving the American Red Cross Humanitarian Award.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of SuEllen Fried. She was a tireless advocate for the voiceless, a star whose light will forever be shining.

CONGRATULATING MR. CLIFTON
MCNEILL, JR. ON BEING IN-
DUCTED INTO THE NORTH CARO-
LINA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
HALL OF FAME

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Clifton McNeill, Jr. on being inducted into the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Hall of Fame. This is a momentous achievement that highlights a lifetime pursuit of agricultural excellence.

Our state has a long and proud farming tradition. I know I speak for our region and entire state when I say thank you to our hard-working farmers, specifically Mr. McNeill, for his dedication to putting food on the table in North Carolina and around our country. From peanuts to sweet potatoes, and in Mr. McNeill's case, strawberries, tomatoes, potatoes and more. North Carolina farmers generate some of the highest quality produce in the world, and we are thrilled to recognize Mr. McNeill for his continuation of that tradition.

This achievement comes alongside many others for Mr. McNeill. He served as chairman of the Cumberland County Soil and Water Board of Supervisors, chairman of Area VII, on the Joint Planning Board and the South River Electric Membership Board of Directors. These are just a few of the many things I am proud of him for, and grateful we have dedicated leaders and farmers in our state.

Again, congratulations to Mr. McNeill on this incredible achievement. He should feel immense pride in all that he has accomplished, and we look forward to celebrating his continued success.

HONORING JOHN PATRICK
MCGAHAN

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my dear friend, John Patrick McGahan, in recognition of his retirement as the leader, CEO and guiding light of Gavin Foundation. Gavin Foundation has been a sanctuary and source of refuge, comfort and rebirth for so many individuals in Massachusetts suffering from the disease of addiction.

And it is my honor to bring to the floor this evening the gratitude of thousands of families from my District and beyond who are grateful beyond words for John McGahan's service to the Massachusetts recovery community over the past 31 years.

John McGahan was born in Concord, New Hampshire on April 3, 1961, to Thomas and Viola McGahan but it was not until 1991, in what can now be seen as divine providence, that John traveled from New Hampshire to South Boston in search of sobriety. And like many before him seeking that help, he found his way to the doors of the Gavin House.

John was a resident of Gavin House for 6 months and it was here that many believe John found his calling and placed him on a path that not only changed his life, but one day at a time helped change the lives of thousands.

Understanding the change sobriety had made in his own life, John McGahan developed a relentless passion for helping others to obtain sobriety. John volunteered and then took a job at Gavin House in 1992. In 1999, in the midst of a teen suicide cluster, John helped to establish and operate the Cushing House for boys—the state's first residential recovery home for adolescent boys. John was a driving force behind the Total Immersion Program (TIP), an alternative to incarceration for those struggling with addiction. Building on the success of the Cushing House for boys, in 2006 John helped create the Cushing House for girls, the only female adolescent recovery home in the state.

In 2007, John was appointed CEO of the Gavin Foundation. John committed himself completely to the mission of the foundation—"the restoration of dignity" for those suffering from addiction. He ensured that every individual could receive the care they needed and had access to sobriety tools and support. John learned and utilized all the elements of funding, education, and advocacy, and combined these key concepts to create the thriving Gavin Foundation recovery network we know today.

Under John's leadership, the Gavin Foundation grew from an initial 25 employees with a \$2 million dollar budget to over 240 employees and a \$27 million dollar budget—serving over 10,000 individuals each year. Throughout his tenure, John had a unique ability to foresee changes and prepare the organization for the future. It was John who made the decision to utilize electronic medical records systems in the houses, an innovative and rare initiative for recovery homes. John always had his eye on the ever-changing recovery landscape and prepared the organization for anticipated challenges and growth. In 2008, the Charlestown

Recovery Home became a part of the Gavin Foundation. In 2015, the Hamilton House recovery home joined the Gavin family and with the courageous assistance of Mayor Tom Koch, Gavin Quincy was established the same year, offering a 64-bed intensive detox and clinical stabilization program.

Most recently, in response to a longtime goal of the Gavin Foundation board, and with the generous support of Jack and Eileen Connors and others, John launched a capital campaign to fund and then open Eileen's House, the organization's first recovery home for adult women.

In addition to his work with Gavin, John has been a trusted advisor to leadership at every level of government. His excellent judgment, advice and counsel has been instrumental in advancing addiction recovery policies at the federal, state and local levels. He has given his time and talent to numerous boards, committees and commissions across the state.

Mr. Speaker, there is not a person in this chamber who hasn't suffered in some way the incredible loss and grief associated with addiction. The heartbreak has been shared across our Nation. John McGahan is one of those rare individuals who has walked in a dark place but has used that experience to shine a light for others to follow. He has dedicated his life to help others lift themselves out of the clutch of addiction and share in the blessings of sobriety and recovery. His life has been an extraordinary example. He is a humble leader who is admired, respected and indeed loved.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss indeed if I failed to acknowledge that John Patrick McGahan has the great good fortune to have the unconditional love and support of his wife Anne and his sons Will and Sean. He has had their love at every step of his life journey.

John Patrick McGahan's legacy is one of relentless compassion in service to the Massachusetts recovery community, the cities of Boston and Quincy and to his family. It is my distinct privilege to take the floor of the House today to join the Gavin Foundation, Mr. McGahan's family and his many friends in recognizing his retirement, and to thank him for his incredible service on behalf of some of our most vulnerable citizens.

I thank John McGahan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANNETTE
PERKINS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Annette Perkins, who passed away on July 26, 2024.

Raised in Portsmouth, Virginia, Ms. Perkins determined her life's work should be focused on education. She worked as a teacher and administrator for Montgomery County Public Schools for many years.

At various points, Ms. Perkins was principal of Christiansburg Middle School, assistant principal of Christiansburg High School, and a history and government teacher at Christiansburg and Blacksburg High Schools.

Her interest in advancing the goals of Montgomery County Public Schools went beyond her service as a teacher.

Starting in 1991, Ms. Perkins was appointed to the Montgomery County School Board. As a member of the school board, she continued to monitor and assess the educational growth of children and teenagers in the county.

Following her tenure with the Montgomery County School Board, county residents elected Ms. Perkins to the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors in 1997. She served in her supervisor role for nearly twenty years.

Important projects came together under Ms. Perkins' watch, including the construction of the new Auburn High School and Blacksburg High School. Montgomery County recognizes her instrumental role in having a 9.25-acre portion of undeveloped property donated to the Town of Blacksburg for a public park known as the Meadow.

During her service in both bodies, she served as chairwoman.

A woman of strong faith, Ms. Perkins contributed time as a Sunday school teacher to Blacksburg Christian Church, where she also served on various committees.

Ms. Perkins was preceded in death by her husband, Bobby H. Perkins.

Montgomery County parents placed enormous trust in Ms. Perkins to be a voice for their kids and their education.

I worked with Ms. Perkins during my years representing Montgomery County in the Virginia House of Delegates, and she was a fierce advocate for the programs that she believed in.

Ms. Perkins will be remembered by her colleagues and students as a dedicated educator who enhanced educational experiences and cared deeply for her community.

RECOGNIZING TOM TROXLER FOR
HIS 32 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
RANKIN COUNTY

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Tom Troxler for his 32 years of service to Rankin First Economic Development Authority and congratulate him on his retirement. Tom has put decades of his time, energy, and resources into Rankin First, making it a key component for economic development across the region and state. Tom has identified and capitalized on many economic development opportunities over the years that have improved Rankin County and the entire state of Mississippi.

Tom's legacy of promoting economic development and improving the lives of his fellow Mississippians will benefit us for decades to come. I am thankful for the opportunity to recognize Tom and his work for our community.

CONGRATULATING VINELAND
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB ON
THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Boys and Girls Club of Cumberland County on 20 years of outstanding

service to children and teenagers in Vineland. Their mission is to empower disadvantaged youth to reach their full potential as successful, kind, and respectful adults and the Vineland chapter serves nearly 260 young people through its various programs. They are committed to providing a world class experience that ensures every child who walks through their doors can achieve success. With their mentorship, they expect every member to graduate from high school with a solid plan, good character, exceptional citizenship, and a commitment to a healthy lifestyle. The Boys & Girls Club recognizes that helping kids succeed requires more than just a single approach. It takes compassionate mentors, a safe environment, and quality programs that encourage youth to excel academically and lead productive lives, ensuring that every child has a bright and promising future. For two decades, the Vineland Boys and Girls Club has gone above and beyond to guarantee that all kids have a fantastic future, and I thank them for their efforts. God bless the Vineland Boys and Girls Club, and God Bless our United States of America.

HONORING MAYOR JIM ADAMS

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the remarkable career and significant contributions of Mayor Jim Adams, who will be retiring as Crystal's Mayor after an extraordinary 25 years of service to the City of Crystal. I wish to thank Mayor Jim Adams for his enduring legacy of service and his lasting contributions to the city he serves.

Starting in 1999, Mayor Adams worked as a firefighter from the West Metro Fire-Rescue District, serving and protecting his neighbors in that role for 15 years. In 2012, he ran for Mayor and won the support of his constituents by putting the needs of all Crystal's residents first. His leadership was defined by four shared goals: having strong, safe neighborhoods, having a thriving business community, having sound financial policies, and being welcoming and inclusive.

Over the past 12 years, Mayor Adams has made great strides for the city, with a focus on good stewardship of the city's infrastructure. He has helped lead the efforts to improve key city parks, including Becker Park, Bassett Creek Park, and the Crystal Aquatics Center—enhancing recreational opportunities and quality of life for Crystal's residents. Mayor Adams helped build a new Police Department and the Public Works Facility while investing in street maintenance, implementing effective long-term planning to enhance Crystal's community assets. Throughout his tenure, Mayor Adams has prioritized an ambitious plan to make Crystal debt-free by 2033. Under his leadership, the city has made significant progress in reducing its debt while making long-term plans for maintenance and investments of city infrastructure.

Mayor Adams also played a pivotal role in keeping Crystal vibrant and affordable for residents. He collaborated directly with small businesses to help make their lives easier, helping to drive Crystal's retail vacancy rate below 5

percent. He advanced regulatory reform and zoning changes to spur new housing developments, leading to 330 more units of housing across the city.

For the past 12 years, Mayor Jim Adams has been deeply committed to improving the lives of his constituents. Residents of Crystal will benefit from his hard work for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mayor Jim Adams for his exceptional service and to wish him well on whatever his future holds.

RECOGNIZING THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE McLEAN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 110th Anniversary of the McLean Citizens Association (MCA). The MCA provides a forum where residents of the greater McLean area can address local issues and advocate for solutions that serve the interests and values of the community.

The McLean Citizens Association was founded in 1914 as the McLean School and Civic League, driven by the needs of a local school. When Franklin Sherman Elementary School, which consolidated oneroom schools in the area, opened that year, it lacked basic supplies. The League rallied to raise money to furnish a school auditorium, buy library books, help pave local roads, and further aid the community. This community effort led to a tradition that is continued to this day: McLean Day.

Eight years later, the citizens of McLean were faced with another challenge, and the group's civic leaders helped launch the McLean Volunteer Fire Department and negotiated with Alexandria Power Co. to bring electricity to McLean. The power company brought a line from Falls Church and created a distribution center around a decade later. The station has since undergone upgrades and is still serving the people of McLean.

In 1953, the League was reincorporated as the McLean Citizens Association. In the years since they have been instrumental in shaping the McLean community that we know today. The MCA helped launch the McLean Community Center, steered county funds to create McLean Central Park, and they helped advocate for the creation of a park that became Scotts Run Nature Preserve.

In addition to their work shaping the physical community of McLean, the MCA has worked to instill a commitment to service in the residents of McLean. The MCA created a committee in 1970 to preserve trees that later turned into the nonprofit McLean Trees Foundation in 2004, and they formed the nonprofit McLean Community Foundation in 1978 to provide philanthropic grants for community projects. The McLean Community Foundation gave its first grant in 1981 to the McLean Volunteer Fire Department and has given more than \$2 million in grants to nonprofits in McLean over the past 43 years.

Today, the MCA continues to study issues and advocate for positions, send representa-

tives to task forces, host candidate debates, forums, and town halls, and collaborates with elected officials and staff at all levels of government to accomplish its goals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the McLean Citizens Association's incredible milestone. Their advocacy and their commitment to community and volunteerism helps make McLean one of the best places to live, work, and raise a family. I thank them for everything they have done for the McLean community over the past 110 years.

HONORING JUDGE RICHARD MEYER

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Judge Richard Meyer of Calhoun County, who passed away on November 18, 2024, at the age of 74. A man of integrity, Judge Meyer's impact on his family, community, and South Texas is a testament to a life well-lived.

Judge Meyer was a proud third-generation Calhoun County resident. His early years were spent exploring the natural beauty of Lavaca Bay alongside his father, instilling in him a deep appreciation for the land and its people. A dedicated farmer and rancher, Judge Meyer was widely recognized for his success, earning accolades from the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce in 1988 and being named Calhoun County's Man of the Year in 2015.

Yet it was his sense of duty and desire to serve his neighbors that led him to public office. In January 2019, Judge Meyer began his tenure as County Judge, bringing the same tenacity and work ethic to governance that had defined his earlier endeavors. As a champion for economic development, he worked tirelessly to ensure that Calhoun County remained a vibrant and prosperous community. His passion for building connections and supporting growth reflected his commitment to serving others.

Despite his many accomplishments, Judge Meyer's greatest joy was his family. He was a devoted husband to Jackie, his wife of 49 years, a loving father to their two children, Ty and Leslie, and a proud grandfather to nine grandchildren. His family was the heart of his life, and his love for them was evident to all who knew him.

Judge Meyer was a man of compassion, generosity, and faith. His legacy will live on in the countless lives he touched and the enduring contributions he made to his community. As we remember him, let us be inspired by his dedication, humility, and unwavering service to others.

May God bless the Meyer family and bring them comfort during this time.

HONORING MR. JUSTIN COLE

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with Representative VALADAO, to honor Mr.

Justin Cole of Delano, California for being named 2024 Kern County Cattleman of the Year.

Mr. Justin Sol Cole was born on February 21, 1970, into a family with a rich heritage in Kern County. Mr. Cole's family was one of the early pioneer families who settled in the area roughly 139 years ago—four generations before Mr. Cole. He was raised alongside his sister Stephanie and three brothers A. Sterling III, Bud, and his late brother Christopher. Today, Mr. Cole continues to raise cattle and advance his family's proud legacy within our community.

With his family heritage in mind, Mr. Cole has gained a close connection to the land of Kern, especially the community of Delano. Mr. Cole is also a skilled cattleman, raising cattle by starting work on his family's cattle business at an early age. This dedication followed him to school as Mr. Cole became immersed in cattle competitions at Delano High School, earning the Angus Steer title at the Cow Palace competition alongside other competitive events and becoming a proud member of the Future Farmers of America. Mr. Cole also took part in a 4-H program, where he raised cattle for several years.

In 1996, Mr. Cole married Diane (Rodriguez) Cole at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Delano, and the couple now has three daughters—Shelby, Kelly, and Sierra. Diane's father-in-law, Jose Rodriguez, introduced Mr. Cole to the world of trucking through his first trucking job, where Mr. Cole helped Jose transport wine grapes to local wineries. This led Mr. Cole to launch his own livestock transportation business, which he still operates today. Such a background, blending entrepreneurship and family, is a pillar of Kern County's strength and pride, and will only continue to be advanced through cattlemen like Mr. Cole.

While Mr. Cole cherishes his livestock transportation and ranching business, above all else, he treasures his family and those in the ranching community. For decades, neighbors and friends of Mr. Cole, who rightly honor him with this award, witnessed the selflessness and duty of care he holds for his rangeland, animal welfare, helping his friends and neighbors who might need a hand.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mr. Justin Cole for being named 2024 Kern County Cattleman of the Year, and thank him for his contributions to the Kern County community and cattle industry.

COMMENDING DAVID ZIMMERMAN
ON 27 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
TAZEWELL COUNTY

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize David Zimmerman for his decades of service to the Central Illinois community. Zimmerman served on the Tazewell County Board for 27 years and was the chairman of the board for the last 16 years.

Zimmerman graduated from Illinois State University with a degree in Political Science and began his service to the Tazewell County Board in 1997. Before becoming chairman,

Zimmerman held many responsibilities as a board member including Finance, HR, Insurance Review, and Land Use Chair. During his tenure on the Board, Zimmerman positively influenced the lives of his constituents by improving the well-being of Tazewell County.

Outside of his work on the Tazewell County Board, Zimmerman has served the people of Central Illinois through different public service roles. Examples include the Greater Peoria Economic Development Commission Executive Board, United Counties Council of Illinois Vice-President, Tazewell County and Peoria Salvation Army Board Member, and Berean Prison Ministry Board Member, among others. A strong leader within the Central Illinois community, Zimmerman was also recognized in the Peoria Magazine through their "40 Leaders Under 40" award.

David Zimmerman's decades long efforts have left a lasting impact on the Greater Peoria community and the state of Illinois. His commitment to our community is truly inspiring and I wish him the best in all future endeavors.

HONORING SPECIALIST JOSHUA
SMITH AS VETERAN OF THE
MONTH

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Specialist Joshua Smith, a distinguished veteran of the Michigan Army National Guard. Raised in Caro, Michigan, he graduated from Caro High School. Josh demonstrated his commitment to service by joining the Army National Guard in 2018. He underwent rigorous training, completing Basic Training at Fort Benning and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood, specializing as an 88M Motor Transport Operator. He was assigned to the 237th Brigade Support Battalion in Bay City.

Josh deployed to Syria from 2022 to 2023, where he served with honor and distinction. During his deployment, his duties included operating a 10k SkyTrak, loading C-130 aircraft, and recovering essential equipment and supplies from airdrops. His efforts were vital to the logistical support of his unit and other forces stationed in the region. In the challenging environment of an active combat zone, Josh excelled as a member of the fuel crew, ensuring that every generator on the base was fully fueled through dedicated shifts. His contributions were crucial to maintaining operational readiness and supporting his fellow service members.

Notably, Josh was present during a rocket attack on March 23, 2023, when 15 122mm rockets were fired from Iraq at Rumalyn Landing Zone in Syria. Thanks to his leadership and quick response, there were no injuries or damage to equipment during this hostile incident. Josh's actions during this time earned him the Combat Action Badge, a testament to his bravery and professionalism.

Additionally, Josh had the unique opportunity to train with special forces during his pre mobilization at Fort Bliss, further enhancing his skills and readiness.

Specialist Josh Smith exemplifies the dedication, resilience, and selflessness that we

honor in our armed forces. I commend him for his service and commitment to our Nation.

HONORING AL SALGADO

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Al Salgado, who for the last 32 years has served the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), helping to grow the Texas economy "One Business at a Time."

Established in 1979, America's Small Business Development Centers (ASBDC) have grown to include approximately 1,000 service centers and more than 5,000 professional business advisors who provide personalized and confidential assistance to small business owners. For twelve years, Mr. Salgado served on the ASBDC board, serving as board chair for two terms. Mr. Salgado also served on the Baldrige, TX-based ASBDC Accreditation Committee for 15 years. Through this work, Mr. Salgado continuously improved the national network and supported entrepreneurs across the country.

Before retirement, Mr. Salgado continued his commitment to helping small businesses reach their full potential as Executive Director of the Texas South-West SBDC Network at the University of Texas at San Antonio. For more than 20 years, the Texas South-West SBDC Network has provided business consulting at every stage of business development, helping small businesses increase capacity and reach their full potential. In 2023 alone, the Network's effort saved over 31,000 jobs and created some 10,400 jobs. Moreover, companies affiliated with the Network generated approximately \$635 million in new sales and \$72 million in tax revenue. Mr. Salgado's impact across the region during his tenure is immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to express my gratitude to Al Salgado, a man who helped transform my city of San Antonio and state of Texas for the better.

RECOGNIZING MELINDA FLEMING
FOR HER LIFE OF SERVICE

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. McCLINTOCK. I rise today to recognize Melinda Franca Fleming, a pillar of the Sonora community.

Melinda was born on the Hoopa Indian Reservation in Northern California and grew up in a small town called Waterford. In her early adult life, she worked to balance part-time jobs and family obligations with her college work, earning an associate degree from Columbia College and later graduating Summa Cum Laude from Stanislaus State. Melinda pursued a substitute teaching job prior to earning her teaching credential from the University of the Pacific.

As a full-time teacher, Melinda became quickly involved in her school community where she taught English, reading, journalism,

speech, yearbook, and newspaper. She was such a positive force that she was twice recognized as teacher of the year.

Melinda would later leave teaching to spend more time with her family, which now includes her husband Ken and their three children, nine grandchildren, and great-grandchild.

Melinda soon continued her community service as Executive Director of the Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources and Environment (TuCARE), a non-profit promoting good stewardship of public lands. By hosting educational lands tours with regional leaders and annual conferences on forest health, Melinda has had an incalculable impact not only on local forestry, but on informing long-term policies needed to save our forests, communities, and local economies for posterity. Due to her twenty years of service, TuCARE has been recognized as a non-profit of the year, a testament to her influence and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, Melinda Fleming spent her life serving her community. Whether educating and mentoring our youth or advising senior policymakers, Melinda's passion to better those around her embodies her true character as a model citizen. We are better for her service, and we know that even in retirement she will continue to serve through the shining example that is her legacy.

HONORING JACK MAZZEO,
HAMMONTON SONS OF ITALY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor Jack Mazzeo from Hammonton, who owns and operates Mazzeo Studio, the oldest photography studio in New Jersey. Since 1946, this family business has built a legacy of excellence in photography. Jack has continued on his father's tradition, creating beautiful portraits, while also training his daughter, Deanna, to carry on the tradition. He has taught his daughter well, as she specializes in capturing images of babies and children. Jack's work has been recognized worldwide, competing with other professionals from around the globe, and earning him the prestigious title of Master of Photography. Many of his award-winning photographs have been showcased at Professional Photographers Conventions in New York, Chicago, New Orleans, and even as far away as South Korea. Jack is one of the world's finest photographers, and I am proud to say he is from my district. God bless Jack, and God bless our United States of America.

RECOGNIZING NOLAN KEATING

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Nolan Keating of Golden, Colorado for winning Best in Show in the 2024 Congressional App Challenge.

Nolan built an interactive app called The Swelling Dark, which is an immersive 3D sur-

vivor horror game with advanced graphics that serves as a metaphor for dealing with mental health.

Nolan spent countless hours and used many tools to develop his app and advance his STEM education.

I congratulate Nolan Keating for his success in the Congressional App Challenge. I am certain he will exhibit the same dedication and character in his future accomplishments. I am excited to see all he will accomplish.

RECOGNIZING MR. DAVID HODGE

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. David Hodge for his dedicated service to the Tulare County community and to congratulate him on his retirement from Tulare Western High School. Mr. Hodge attended the College of the Sequoias before earning his Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education from Fresno State University. During his time at Fresno State, he was a member of the Water Polo team and served as captain of the Swim team his senior year. Mr. Hodge's career in education and passion for student success began in 1993, when he joined Tulare Western High School. Six years later, he received the Staff Yearbook Dedication, recognizing his dedication as an educator and the meaningful connections he made with students. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Hodge has taken on many important roles at Tulare Western, including physical education teacher and head coach of the Varsity Boys Water Polo and Swim teams. In 2020, he was appointed Department Chair of the Physical Education Department. For over thirty years, Mr. Hodge has had a profound impact on students at Tulare Western High School. As both a teacher and a coach, he has dedicated himself to developing the character and leadership skills of all his students. He is known by colleagues as a strong leader and mentor who always puts his students first. Mr. Hodge has received numerous awards throughout his career, including Visalia Times Delta Swim Coach of the Year in 2015 and California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Central Section Division 3 Swim and Water Polo Coach of the Year in 2019. This year, he is nominated for the CIF State Model Coach Award, which recognizes coaches who demonstrate a longstanding commitment to fostering students' potential. One of his greatest accomplishments is the success of his sons, Austin and Daven, both of whom attended Tulare Western and played key roles in the water polo team's championship victory during their time as students. It is because of the commitment of educators like Mr. Hodge that students in the Central Valley community thrive, and I want to thank Mr. Hodge for creating an environment that helps our youth become the best they can be. His dedication to the students at Tulare Western High School is a true testament to his character, and I am confident that his leadership will have a lasting impact on the Tulare Western community for years to come. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Mr. David Hodge for his decades of service to the Cen-

tral Valley and wishing him a happy and well-deserved retirement.

HONORING JOHN BROWNE ON HIS
50TH ANNIVERSARY AS A VOL-
UNTEER FIREFIGHTER

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Browne, an extraordinary individual from Mountainside, New Jersey, as he celebrates his 50th anniversary as a volunteer firefighter with the Mountainside Fire Department. Since joining the department in February 1974, John has responded to no less than 60 percent of fire calls each year during his 50-year tenure—more than any other volunteer firefighter in the history of the department. He has been described as the type of first responder you can always count on to be there, serving in every capacity, including line officer, lieutenant, captain, deputy chief, assistant chief, and even as fire chief on three separate occasions. In his free time, John continues to educate and serve his community by volunteering to help lead free public tours of the John J. Harvey Fireboat Museum and Education Center in New York Harbor. John's dedication and commitment to the community of Mountainside have been immeasurable, and I thank him for his incredible contributions to New Jersey's 7th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF GOOD SHEPHERD HOUS-
ING & FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Good Shepherd Housing (GSH) on their 50th anniversary of dedicated service to Fairfax County, Virginia, and to the thousands of individuals and families whose lives have been transformed by their efforts.

For half a century, Good Shepherd has been a cornerstone in our community, providing safe, stable housing and vital support services to those at risk of homelessness or struggling to remain in their homes due to rising housing costs. Their work has unlocked doors to brighter futures for countless individuals and families, and they remain a beacon of hope for those facing housing insecurity.

Good Shepherd is more than just a provider of affordable housing—it is a catalyst for self-sufficiency and community resilience. Through a unique approach that focuses on the purchase and transformation of properties into affordable housing, GSH has not only provided shelter but has built a foundation for personal growth and long-term success. By offering a comprehensive suite of support services—including case management, financial education, and referrals to specialized assistance—GSH helps families and individuals chart a path to stability, independence, and empowerment.

Each year, GSH manages the needs of over 1,000 families and individuals, helping them overcome obstacles and build a better future. With a small but dedicated team—just 9 full-time staff, 3 part-time staff, and over 40 volunteers—Good Shepherd Housing has managed to accomplish extraordinary things. The work they do, however, is made possible not only by their staff but by the unwavering commitment of their board members, volunteers, and the community that supports them.

As we celebrate Good Shepherd Housing's remarkable 50-year legacy, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has played a part in this incredible work—past and present board members, staff, volunteers, and all the partners who have worked hand-in-hand with GSH to strengthen our community. I would also like to recognize the outstanding leadership of Executive Director Genee Hayes and Deputy Executive Director Candice Bennett. Their dedication and vision have been integral to the organization's growth and success, earning well deserved recognition from the Washington Post, Leadership Fairfax, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Their collective impact serves as a reminder that when we invest in affordable housing and support services, we unlock the potential for families to thrive, not just survive.

Good Shepherd Housing is a true example of how innovative approaches and community partnerships can make a tangible difference in the lives of those who need it most. The organization's case management team works individually with residents to set personal goals, pursue education, and improve financial literacy, helping to break the cycle of poverty and create lasting change.

As we look to the future, I have no doubt that Good Shepherd Housing will continue to be a leader in providing affordable housing solutions and support services in our community. Their work is a testament to the power of compassion, collaboration, and commitment to social justice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Good Shepherd Housing on their 50th anniversary and in expressing our thanks for their tireless dedication to Fairfax County, Virginia.

HONORING MAYOR KATHI HEMKEN

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Kathi Hemken as she concludes 16 years of service leading the City of New Hope. Throughout her time as Mayor, residents have come to know her as a devoted advocate for their well-being, a thoughtful steward of the public good, and a relentless driver of housing and economic development.

Mayor Hemken began her career with the city on the New Hope Planning Commission in 1997. After two years as Chair, she won her first term as Mayor in 2008. She wasted no time in getting to work on behalf of her constituents and fostering a culture of appreciation, respect, and excellence among the staff at City Hall.

Over the past 14 years, New Hope has undergone a remarkable resurgence of new

housing and business. The city's property tax base has grown by over a billion dollars, a surge of 73 percent—an impressive amount of growth that would not have been possible without Mayor Hemken's leadership. They've added nearly 500 new apartment units, 127 single family homes, and through the Scattered Site Housing Program, 30 new or rehabilitated single-family homes. These developments include workforce housing, assisted living, deeply affordable housing, and luxury housing—a diversity that serves all residents of New Hope. The City Center underwent a transformative multi-phase redevelopment, introducing an aquatic park, a performance center, a new City Hall, an upgraded police station, and essential businesses like a Hy-Vee grocery store, resulting in over \$15 million in local improvements and the creation of 400 jobs.

Always accessible, Mayor Hemken builds strong relationships with constituents and city staff, promotes open dialogue on complex issues, and fosters an environment of growth and appreciation within the community. A strong supporter of small businesses, she was even featured on "The Colbert Show." When a small business highlighted on the show required assistance, she connected with the owner and provided essential resources to help them navigate the challenges that arose from their sudden fame and increased demand.

Beyond economic development, Mayor Hemken demonstrates her passion for promoting literacy by collecting and distributing books for local children and engaging with students through reading programs. She has served on countless boards and committees, including the Regional Council of Mayors, the Northwest YMCA, League of Women Voters, and more. Each winter, she personally bakes hundreds of cookies and packages them up with a personal note of appreciation to each and every city employee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our profound gratitude to New Hope Mayor Kathi Hemken for her hard work and dedication. She has led the City Council, City staff, board and commission members, and most importantly, the New Hope community through unprecedented challenges and reshaped the city. There is no question that New Hope will benefit from her thoughtful stewardship for generations to come.

CONGRATULATING MANNSDALE UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR THE NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL DISTINCTION

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mannsdale Upper Elementary School for its National Blue Ribbon School distinction. Since 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools for academic achievements and efforts to close the educational gap within communities. The program aims to showcase schools that demonstrate the importance of ensuring all students can achieve high academic standards. This award is among the highest national honors given to

schools across the United States. This year, only 256 schools received recognition, and Mannsdale Upper Elementary is among the top schools, not only in Mississippi but also nationwide. I am proud to see Mannsdale Upper Elementary honored with this prestigious award.

I want to thank Dr. Nicole Cockrell, Principal of Mannsdale Upper Elementary, Assistant Principal Mrs. Holly Jones, and Madison County School District Superintendent Ted Poore for their dedicated work in fostering such a high-achieving learning environment.

I extend my gratitude to the teachers and leaders in Madison County and across Mississippi for their unwavering and selfless dedication to helping students learn, grow, and strive for continuous improvement.

RECOGNIZING THE LEONARD & SARAH BELL FARM IN UNIONVILLE

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Leonard and Sarah Bell Farm in Unionville, Michigan, which has been named the Farm of the Year by the Michigan Centennial Farm Association for 2024. This prestigious recognition honors farms that exemplify exceptional qualities in five key areas: longevity, stewardship, historic preservation, community involvement, and organizational membership and promotional activity.

The Bell family's 76-acre farm, now owned and operated by David and Phyllis Bell, is an enduring testament to Michigan's agricultural heritage. The farm's origins trace back to 1919, when Leonard and Sarah Bell established the farm as part of their contribution to the agricultural development of Tuscola County. Leonard, a descendant of some of the county's earliest families, cultivated a variety of crops, including wheat, corn, navy beans, oats, and hay, supporting both his livestock and the local economy.

In the decades since its founding, the farm has remained in the Bell family for six generations, with David and Phyllis continuing the proud legacy of sustainable farming. Under their stewardship, the farm grows a diverse range of crops—sugar beets, corn, navy beans, soybeans, and wheat—carefully rotated each year to maintain soil health and productivity.

The Bell farm has also earned several prestigious environmental and historical designations, including a federal Certificate of Farm War Service during World War II, a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat, a Monarch Waystation, and a Certified Butterfly Garden. These efforts not only preserve Michigan's natural beauty but also demonstrate the Bell family's deep commitment to environmental stewardship and biodiversity.

Beyond their agricultural achievements, the Bell family has been active in their local community, participating in farm organizations and sharing their story to promote the importance of preserving Michigan's farming history. Their farm is a living example of the values that the Michigan Centennial Farm Association seeks to honor each year.

It is also worth noting that the next generation of Bells, including great-grandchildren, continue to take part in the farm's daily operations. Whether helping with the animals, or assisting with planting and harvesting, their involvement in the farm ensures that this important piece of Michigan history will continue to thrive for many years to come.

On behalf of my colleagues, I extend heartfelt congratulations to David and Phyllis Bell and their family for being named the Farm of the Year by the Michigan Centennial Farm Association. Their dedication to preserving Michigan's agricultural heritage and fostering a sense of community through farming serves as an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING EAST GREENWICH
TOWNSHIP MAYOR DALE ARCHER

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Mayor Dale Archer of East Greenwich Township, who has dedicated many years of

service to our community, including 11 years as mayor. Under his leadership, East Greenwich has flourished with strong fiscal management and innovative solutions for local governance. He improved the township's finances by implementing a five-year plan with policies that allowed him to manage the community effectively, resulting in the second-lowest tax rate in Gloucester County. Because of his guidance, East Greenwich received the Innovative Government Award from the League of Municipalities for its shared fire department service with Paulsboro. The remarkable progress East Greenwich has made since Mayor Archer took office led to the town being recognized as the Best Small Town in New Jersey by South Jersey Magazine. In addition to his commitment to his community, Mayor Archer served the world's finest fighting force, the United States Marine Corps, and has been a long-time member of both the Veteran of Foreign Wars and the Marine Corps League. I thank Mayor Dale Archer, for his dedicated service to East Greenwich and our country, and I look forward to seeing all that he will accomplish in the future. God bless Mayor Dale Archer, and God bless the United States of America.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6641–S6697

Measures Introduced: Sixteen bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 5349–5364, and S. Res. 901–907. **Pages S6685–86**

Measures Reported:

S. 4370, to amend the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 to improve that Act, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 118–249)

H.R. 5867, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 109 Live Oaks Boulevard in Casselberry, Florida, as the “Colonel Joseph William Kittinger II Post Office Building”.

H.R. 6162, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 379 North Oates Street in Dothan, Alabama, as the “LaBruce ‘Bruce’ Tidwell Post Office Building”.

H.R. 6188, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 420 Highway 17 North in Surfside Beach, South Carolina, as the “Nancy Yount Childs Post Office Building”.

H.R. 6633, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9355 113th Street in Seminole, Florida, as the “Army SSG Ryan Christian Knauss Memorial Post Office Building”.

H.R. 6750, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 501 Mercer Street Southwest in Wilson, North Carolina, as the “Milton F. Fitch, Sr. Post Office Building”.

H.R. 8057, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9317 Bolsa Avenue in Westminster, California, as the “Little Saigon Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Post Office”.

S. 5019, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 South Loudon Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the “United States Representative Elijah E. Cummings Post Office Building”. **Page S6685**

Measures Passed:

National Manufacturing Advisory Council for the 21st Century Act: Senate passed S. 1153, to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the National Manufacturing Advisory Council within the

Department of Commerce, after withdrawing the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S6692–95**

Schumer (for Peters) Amendment No. 3304, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S6694–95**

Transportation Security Screening Modernization Act: Senate passed S. 3959, to require the Transportation Security Administration to streamline the enrollment processes for individuals applying for a Transportation Security Administration security threat assessment for certain programs, including the Transportation Worker Identification Credential and Hazardous Materials Endorsement Threat Assessment programs of the Administration, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S6695–96**

BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s Reauthorization Act: Senate passed H.R. 7218, to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to extend the program for promotion of public health knowledge and awareness of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. **Page S6696**

FAFSA Deadline Act: Senate passed H.R. 8932, to establish an earlier application processing cycle for the FAFSA. **Page S6696**

Death of Former Senator Timothy Peter Johnson: Senate agreed to S. Res. 902, relating to the death of Timothy Peter Johnson, former Senator for the State of South Dakota. **Pages S6685, S6697**

National First-Generation College Celebration Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 903, expressing support for the designation of November 8, 2024, as “National First-Generation College Celebration Day”. **Page S6697**

75th Anniversary of the Antiquarian Booksellers’ Association of America: Senate agreed to S. Res. 904, recognizing the 75th anniversary of the Antiquarian Booksellers’ Association of America. **Page S6697**

The Scarboro 85: Senate agreed to S. Res. 905, recognizing the role of the Scarboro 85 in the desegregation of public schools following the landmark

decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Brown v. Board of Education*. **Page S6697**

2024 Solheim Cup: Senate agreed to S. Res. 906, commending and congratulating the United States Team for winning the 2024 Solheim Cup. **Page S6697**

Authorize Representation: Senate agreed to S. Res. 907, to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of *Dr. Ralph de la Torre v. Bernard Sanders, et al.* **Page S6697**

Measures Considered:

Proposed Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Israel: By 18 yeas to 79 nays, 1 responding present (Vote No. 292), Senate rejected the motion to discharge the Committee on Foreign Relations of S.J. Res. 111, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Israel of certain defense articles and services. **Pages S6653–65**

Proposed Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Israel: By 19 yeas to 78 nays, 1 responding present (Vote No. 293), Senate rejected the motion to discharge the Committee on Foreign Relations of S.J. Res. 113, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Israel of certain defense articles and services. **Page S6665**

Proposed License Amendment for the Export of Certain Defense Articles, Defense Services, and Technical Data to Israel: By 17 yeas to 80 nays, 1 responding present (Vote No. 294), Senate rejected the motion to discharge the Committee on Foreign Relations of S.J. Res. 115, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed license amendment for the export of certain defense articles, defense services, and technical data to Israel. **Pages S6665–66**

Presidential Report With Respect to the Indebtedness of the Government of Ukraine: By 37 yeas to 61 nays (Vote No. 295), Senate rejected the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 117, relating to the disapproval of the Presidential report with respect to the indebtedness of the Government of Ukraine. **Pages S6666–71**

Drive Safer Sunday Referral—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 894, designating December 1, 2024, as “Drive Safer Sunday”, and the resolution be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. **Pages S6684, S6696–97**

Sooknanan Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Sparkle L. Sooknanan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia. **Pages S6671–72**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. 296), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6671**

Murphy Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Brian Edward Murphy, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts. **Page S6672**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. EX. 297), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6672**

Hwang Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Anne Hwang, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California. **Page S6672**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. EX. 298), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6672**

Dixon Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Cynthia Valenzuela Dixon, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California. **Pages S6672–73**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. EX. 299), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6673**

Henry Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Catherine Henry, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. **Page S6673**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. EX. 300), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6673**

Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, during the session of Thursday, November 21, 2024, at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader, Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Noel Wise, of California, to be United States District Judge for the

Northern District of California, and Gail A. Weilheimer, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, in the order in which cloture was filed; that if cloture is invoked on any of the nominations of Sparkle L. Sooknanan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Brian Edward Murphy, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, Anne Hwang, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Cynthia Valenzuela Dixon, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Catherine Henry, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Noel Wise, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, and Gail A. Weilheimer, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, all post-cloture time be considered expired and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader in consultation with the Republican Leader, no earlier than Monday, December 2, 2024; and that the motion to invoke cloture with respect to the nomination of Sharad Harshad Desai, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, be withdrawn, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader, during the session of Thursday, November 21, 2024. **Page S6697**

Wise Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Noel Wise, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, November 21, 2024; that at 11 a.m., Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture with respect to the nominations of Noel Wise, and Gail A. Weilheimer, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, in the order listed; that following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Gail A. Weilheimer, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Sharad Harshad Desai, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 1:45 p.m. **Page S6697**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 50 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. EX. 289), Rebecca L. Pennell, of Washington, to be United States

District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington. **Pages S6641–44**

By 50 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. EX. 291), Amir H. Ali, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia. **Pages S6644–53**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. EX. 290), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6644**

Messages from the House: **Pages S6683–84**

Measures Referred: **Page S6684**

Motion to Proceed Petition: **Page S6684**

Measures Discharged: **Page S6684**

Executive Communications: **Page S6684**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S6684–85**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6686–87**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S6687–91**

Additional Statements: **Page S6683**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S6691–92**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S6692**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S6692**

Record Votes: Twelve record votes were taken today. (Total—300)

Pages S6644, S6653, S6664–66, S6671–73

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m., on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Timothy Peter Johnson, former Senator for the State of North Dakota, in accordance with S. Res. 902, at 12:34 a.m., on Thursday, November 21, 2024, until 10 a.m. on the same day. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6697.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DISASTER FUNDING

Committee on Appropriations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine disaster funding needs, after receiving testimony from Senators Ossoff and Tillis; Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation; Isabel Guzman, Administrator, Small Business Administration; Xochitl Torres Small, Secretary of Agriculture; Adrienne Todman, Deputy Secretary performing the

duties of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; and Deanne Criswell, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

TAX POLICY

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Policy concluded a hearing to examine tax policy in 2025, focusing on implications for the American economy, after receiving testimony from Elizabeth H. Shuler, AFL–CIO, and Brendan Duke, Center for American Progress, both of Washington, D.C.; and Marc H. Morial, National Urban League, New York, New York.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Matthew James Marzano, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Matthew Kaplan, of Maryland, to be Federal Cochairperson of the Great Lakes Authority, and approved 53 General Services Administration resolutions.

SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the 50th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act, focusing on successes, challenges, and charting a path forward, after receiving testimony from Cathy Tucker-Vogel, Kansas Department of Health and Environment Public Water Supply Section Chief, Topeka; Radhika Fox, North Star Strategy, Bethesda, Maryland; and Buu Nygren, Navajo Nation, Arizona.

SECRETARY OF STATE

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee received a closed briefing from Antony Blinken, Secretary of State.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 5310, to amend title 41, United States Code, to make changes with respect to the Federal Acquisition Security Council, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2315, to provide for the creation of the missing Armed Forces and civilian personnel Records Collection at the National Archives, to require the expeditious public transmission to the Archivist and public disclosure of missing Armed Forces and civilian personnel records, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2270, to establish and maintain a database within each agency for executive branch ethics

records of noncareer appointees, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 5302, to amend title 5, United States Code, to address the responsibilities of the Administrator of General Services with respect to Federal advisory committees, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 5312, to require agencies to create consistent organizational hierarchies, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 5102, to require annual reports on counter illicit cross-border tunnel operations, with an amendment;

S. 5313, to improve section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, with an amendment;

S. 5315, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance border security by seeking to expand partnerships with appropriate law enforcement entities in Mexico and Central American and South American countries to combat human smuggling and trafficking operations in Mexico and such countries, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 5321, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a DHS Cybersecurity Internship Program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 5317, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the Homeland Security Information Network, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 5319, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security to conduct an annual audit of the information systems and bulk data of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 5028, to require Federal contractors to implement a vulnerability disclosure policy consistent with NIST guidelines, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 5019, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 South Loudon Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the “United States Representative Elijah E. Cummings Post Office Building”;

H.R. 6972, to amend title 5, United States Code, to require an Executive agency whose head is a member of the National Security Council to notify the Executive Office of the President, the Comptroller General of the United States, and congressional leadership of such head becoming medically incapacitated within 24 hours, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

H.R. 7528, to amend section 206 of the E-Government Act of 2002 to improve the integrity and management of mass comments and computer-generated comments in the regulatory review process, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

H.R. 9592, to amend title 44, United States Code, to modernize the Federal Register;

H.R. 3208, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

H.R. 7832, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to identify, integrate, and deploy new, innovative, disruptive, or other emerging or advanced technologies to enhance, or address capability gaps in, border security operations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

H.R. 6231, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require a prioritized policy issuance review process for the Department of Homeland Security;

H.R. 8631, to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from procuring certain foreign-made batteries, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

H.R. 255, to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments;

H.R. 9596, to amend title 41, United States Code, and title 10, United States Code, to provide best value through the multiple award schedule program;

H.R. 5867, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 109 Live Oaks Boulevard in Casselberry, Florida, as the “Colonel Joseph William Kittinger II Post Office Building”;

H.R. 6162, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 379 North Oates Street in Dothan, Alabama, as the “LaBruce ‘Bruce’ Tidwell Post Office Building”;

H.R. 6188, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 420 Highway 17 North in Surfside Beach, South Carolina, as the “Nancy Yount Childs Post Office Building”;

H.R. 6633, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9355 113th Street in

Seminole, Florida, as the “Army SSG Ryan Christian Knauss Memorial Post Office Building”;

H.R. 6750, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 501 Mercer Street Southwest in Wilson, North Carolina, as the “Milton F. Fitch, Sr. Post Office Building”;

H.R. 8057, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9317 Bolsa Avenue in Westminster, California, as the “Little Saigon Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Post Office”;

The nominations of Val Butler Demings, of Florida, William Zollars, of Kansas, and Gordon Hartogensis, of Connecticut, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, and James Graham Lake, and Nicholas George Miranda, both to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 4643, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Zuni Indian Tribe in the Zuni River Stream System in the State of New Mexico, to protect the Zuni Salt Lake;

S. 4998, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Navajo Nation in the Rio San Jose Stream System in the State of New Mexico; and

The nomination of Patrice H. Kunesh, of Minnesota, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Benjamin J. Cheeks, and Serena Raquel Murillo, both to be a United States District Judge for the Central District of California, after the nominees, who were introduced by Senator Butler, testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 18 public bills, H.R. 10173–10190; and 9 resolutions, H.J. Res. 224–225; and H. Res. 1584–1590, were introduced. **Pages H6154–55**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H6156**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows: H.R. 3290, to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to ensure transparency and oversight of the 340B drug discount program, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–757); and

H.R. 3887, to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program of payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–758). **Page H6154**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Issa to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H6113**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:47 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H6118**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:16 p.m. and reconvened at 4:46 p.m. **Page H6138**

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative Cohen announced his intent to offer a privileged resolution. **Pages H6138–39**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures: North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act: H.R. 3012, amended, To reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 335 yeas to 27 nays, Roll No. 474; **Pages H6121–23, H6139**

Authorizing the Secretary of State to designate additional persons eligible to serve as passport acceptance agents: H.R. 8234, amended, to authorize the Secretary of State to designate additional persons eligible to serve as passport acceptance agents; **Pages H6123–25**

Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts Authorization Act of 2024: H.R. 8368, amended, to establish a Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts in the Department of State, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 334 yeas to 63 nays, Roll No. 475; **Pages H6125–26, H6139–40**

Affirming the nature and importance of the support of the United States for the religious and ethnic minority survivors of genocide in Iraq: H. Res. 554, amended, affirming the nature and impor-

tance of the support of the United States for the religious and ethnic minority survivors of genocide in Iraq; **Pages H6126–29**

Reaffirming the ties between the United States and the Philippines: H. Res. 837, amended, reaffirming the ties between the United States and the Philippines; **Pages H6129–31**

Recognizing the actions of the Rapid Support Forces and allied militias in the Darfur region of Sudan against non-Arab ethnic communities as acts of genocide: H. Res. 1328, recognizing the actions of the Rapid Support Forces and allied militias in the Darfur region of Sudan against non-Arab ethnic communities as acts of genocide; and **Pages H6131–33**

Condemning the global rise of antisemitism and calling upon countries and international bodies to counter antisemitism: H. Res. 1449, condemning the global rise of antisemitism and calling upon countries and international bodies to counter antisemitism, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 388 yeas to 21 nays, Roll No. 476. **Pages H6133–35, H6140–41**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Urging the Government of Ukraine to review and modify its decision to suspend adoption by foreign nationals with a view to resuming such adoptions, particularly in cases where the mutual concerns of the Governments of Ukraine and of the United States can be substantially addressed: H. Res. 915, urging the Government of Ukraine to review and modify its decision to suspend adoption by foreign nationals with a view to resuming such adoptions, particularly in cases where the mutual concerns of the Governments of Ukraine and of the United States can be substantially addressed. **Pages H6135–38**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, November 21st. **Page H6141**

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative Casten announced his intent to offer a privileged resolution. **Page H6141**

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 1585, electing a Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives. **Page H6141**

Discharge Petition: Representative Moulton presented to the clerk a motion to discharge the Committee on Rules from the consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1560) a resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8996) to enhance safety requirements for trains transporting hazardous materials (Discharge Petition No. 20).

Senate Referrals: S. 2546 was held at the desk. S. 3946 was held at the desk. S. 4077 was held at the desk.

Page H6121

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on pages H6120–21.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6139, H6140, and H6140–41.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Committee Meetings

INVESTIGATING THE CRISIS OF MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Investigating the Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women”. Testimony was heard from Patrice Kunesh, Commissioner, Administration for Native Americans, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services; Daron Carreiro, Acting Director, Office of Tribal Justice, Department of Justice; and public witnesses.

ASSESSING THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION FISCAL YEAR 2025 POTENTIAL SHORTFALL

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Assessing the Veterans Health Administration Fiscal Year 2025 Potential Shortfall”. Testimony was heard from Shereef Elnahal, Under Secretary for Health, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Josh Jacobs, Under Secretary for Benefits, Department of Veterans Affairs.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held an oversight hearing on the Social Security Administration. Testimony was heard from Martin O’Malley, Commissioner, Social Security Administration.

OVERSIGHT OF PRUDENTIAL REGULATORS

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of Prudential Regulators”. Testimony was heard from Michael Barr, Vice Chairman for Supervision, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Martin J. Gruenberg, Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; Todd Harper, Chairman, National Credit Union Administration; and Michael Hsu, Acting Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF GLOBAL BRAIN HEALTH: DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled “Meeting the Challenges of Global Brain Health: Diagnosis and Treatment for the 21st Century”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES’ OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration, Integrity, Security, and Enforcement held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Refugee Resettlement”. Testimony was heard from Xavier Becerra, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 6994, the “ROUTES Act”; H.R. 2685, the “Mining Schools Act of 2023”; H.R. 8665, the “Supercritical Geothermal Research and Development Act”; H.R. 3173, the “Northern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act of 2023”; H.R. 390, the “Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Enhancement Act”; H.R. 4338, the “Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act”; H.R. 1395, the “Delaware River Basin Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2023”; H.R. 1584, the “Plum Island National Monument Act”; H.R. 2687, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to exclude certain payments to aged, blind, or disabled Alaska Natives or descendants of Alaska Natives from being used to determine eligibility for certain programs, and for other purposes; H.R. 3047, the “Apache County and Navajo County Conveyance Act of 2023”; H.R. 3971, the “Flatside Wilderness Additions Act”; H.R. 4748, the “Unrecognized Southeast Alaska Native Communities Recognition and Compensation Act”; H.R. 5401, the “9/11 Memorial and

Museum Act”; H.R. 6127, the “MAPWaters Act”; H.R. 6210, to designate the General George C. Marshall House, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes; H.R. 7516, the “Purchased and Referred Care Improvement Act of 2024”; H.R. 7938, the “Klamath Basin Water Agreement Support Act of 2024”; H.R. 8012, the “Jackie Robinson Commemorative Site Act”; H.R. 9516, the “Military Families National Parks Access Enhancement Act”; H.R. 6489, the “Alaska Native Village Municipal Lands Restoration Act of 2023”; H.R. 8308, the “Nutria Eradication and Control Reauthorization Act of 2024”; H.R. 8931, to redesignate Saratoga National Historical Park as Saratoga National Battlefield Park; and H.R. 8946, the “Revisionary Interest Conveyance Act”. H.R. 6994, H.R. 2685, H.R. 8665, H.R. 3173, H.R. 390, H.R. 4338, H.R. 1395, H.R. 1584, H.R. 2687, H.R. 3047, H.R. 3971, H.R. 4748, H.R. 5401, H.R. 6127, H.R. 6210, H.R. 7516, H.R. 7938, H.R. 8012, and H.R. 9516 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 6489, H.R. 8308, H.R. 8931, H.R. 8946 without amendment.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a hearing on H.R. 7642, to reauthorize the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 719 et seq.); H.R. 9514, the “Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act”; H.R. 9515, the “Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2024”; and H.R. 9969, to provide for a memorandum of understanding to address the impacts of a certain record of decision on the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund. Testimony was heard from Representatives Boebert, Calvert, and Hageman; Roque Sánchez, Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior; Rosemary Henry, Executive Director, Wyoming Municipal Power Agency, Lusk, Wyoming; Bill Long, President, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy, Pueblo, Colorado; Jessica Neuwerth, Acting Executive Director, Colorado River Board of California, Boulder, Colorado; and a public witness.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 10133, the “Timely Stock Disclosure Act”; H.R. 10132, the “Federal Agency Performance Act”; H.R. 10155, the “Financial Management Risk Reduction Act”; H.R. 10062, the “Freedom to Petition the Government Act”; H.R. 8690, the “Stop Secret Spending Act of 2024”; H.R. 9040, the “Taxpayer Exposure Risk Reduction Act”; H.R. 10151, the “Modernizing Data Practices

to Improve Government Act”; H.R. 8706, the “Dismantle DEI Act”; H.R. 8753, to direct the United States Postal Service to designate single, unique ZIP codes for certain communities, and for other purposes; H.R. 9360, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 Macedonia Lane in Knoxville, Tennessee, as the “Reverend Harold Middlebrook Post Office Building”; H.R. 9544, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 South Loudon Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the “United States Representative Elijah E. Cummings Post Office Building”; H.R. 9775, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 119 North Anderson Street in Elwood, Indiana, as the “Officer Noah Jacob Shahnava Post Office Building”; and H.R. 10065, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 802 North Tanchua Street in Corpus Christi, Texas, as the “Captain Robert E. ‘Bob’ Batterson Post Office”. H.R. 10133, H.R. 10132, H.R. 10155, H.R. 10062, H.R. 8690, H.R. 9040, H.R. 10151, H.R. 8706, and H.R. 8753 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 9360, H.R. 9544, H.R. 9775, H.R. 10065 were ordered reported, without amendment.

LIFE AFTER LIMB LOSS: EXAMINING VA AMPUTEE PROSTHETICS CARE

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Life After Limb Loss: Examining VA Amputee Prosthetics Care”. Testimony was heard from M. Christopher Saslo, Assistant Under Secretary for Patient Care Services/Chief Nursing Officer, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

VA CYBERSECURITY: PROTECTING VETERAN DATA FROM EVOLVING THREATS

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a hearing entitled “VA Cybersecurity: Protecting Veteran Data from Evolving Threats”. Testimony was heard from Kurt DelBene, Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology, and Chief Information Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs; Michael Bowman, Director, Information Security Audits, Office of Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs, and a public witness.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 21, 2024**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine threats to the homeland, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 1306, to reauthorize the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, S. 2220, to amend title 35, United States Code, to invest in inventors in the United States, maintain the United States as the leading innovation economy in the world, and protect the property rights of the inventors that grow the economy of the United States, S. 2082, to

make technical corrections relating to the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, and the nominations of Anthony J. Brindisi, and Elizabeth C. Coombe, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York, Sarah Morgan Davenport, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico, Tiffany Rene Johnson, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, Keli Marie Neary, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and Miranda L. Holloway-Baggett, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Alabama, Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, November 21

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Noel Wise, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, and vote on the motions to invoke cloture with respect to the nominations of Noel Wise and Gail A. Weilheimer, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, at 11 a.m.

Following disposition of the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Gail A. Weilheimer, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Sharad Harshad Desai, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, and vote on confirmation thereon at 1:45 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, November 21

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 9495—Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act.

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