



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024

No. 188

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
December 18, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DALE W. STRONG to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

### HONORING HINSDALE VILLAGE PRESIDENT CAULEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the president of the Village of Hinsdale, Illinois, Thomas Cauley, Jr., who will be retiring at the end of this year.

President Cauley is currently serving his fourth term, and he previously served on the Village of Hinsdale's board for 2 years.

He is a graduate of the University of Illinois' College of Law. As a lawyer, he has had a successful career representing numerous entities and is now head of his own law firm.

As president of Hinsdale, he has played an essential role in ensuring its residents have a local government connected to the community and responsive to resident needs.

Mr. Speaker, I thank President Cauley for the critical work he has done to transform lives and honorably represent the Village of Hinsdale.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID C. PERRY

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, I lost a friend, mentor, and man who cared about making Chicago and Chicagoland a better, more livable location, Dr. David C. Perry.

David was an urban planner who spent the last 12 years of his life leading the Great Cities Institute at the University of Illinois-Chicago and bridging the gap across academia, community, and practice.

When I enrolled in the master's in urban planning program at UIC, Professor Perry was one of my favorites. His belief in involving and informing communities to help address the problems they faced had an important impact on my professional development, and it is a concept I have consistently practiced as an elected official.

Professor Perry was a prolific writer who addressed topics such as economic development, race, politics, urban violence, and public infrastructure in American cities.

Professor Perry will be sorely missed. My wife and I are thinking about his wife, Judy, his children, and his grandchildren during this difficult time.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF FRED LEE ADAMS

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a great friend and community activist, Fred Lee Adams, who passed away on November 24.

Fred was born in segregated Mississippi in 1934 and later moved to Chicago. Having experienced the worst of Jim Crow growing up, Fred became an organizer looking to improve the conditions of his community in Chicago.

He became part of the Corkery Elementary School's Men's Club, a group of mentors who organized sports teams in the school in my neighborhood of Little Village in North Lawndale.

In 1982, Fred joined my friend and community leader Rudy Lozano and me as a member of the 22nd Ward Independent Political Organization, and he remained one of its core members. The following year, together, we worked to elect the first Black mayor of Chicago, Harold Washington.

Fred continued working to help elect Presidents, mayors, Governors, State senators, aldermen, and Congressmen until his death.

I believe some of the strongest brotherhoods are forged in the heat of fighting for our communities and in the struggle for social justice.

Fred L. Adams was my brother, and he will live in my memory forever.

### HONORING PACE'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, I celebrate the 40th anniversary of Pace, the public transportation agency that provides bus and paratransit services in the Chicago metro area. For many in the suburbs, it is the only mode of transportation.

For four decades, Pace has been a vital part of our public transportation network in the region, offering safe and efficient services that connect communities, reduce traffic, and promote environmental sustainability.

As ridership surges to its highest levels since the pandemic, reaching more than 2 million riders in October, Pace is expanding service hours and frequency in Cook, DuPage, and Lake Counties.

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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As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and co-founder of the Future of Transportation Caucus, I believe that riders have the right to affordable and environmentally responsible transit options like Pace to get to their jobs, schools, and homes.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to Pace's future innovations, improvements, and expansion of services, and I congratulate them on their 40th anniversary.

#### RECOGNIZING MEMBERS LEAVING HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

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 a few of my distinguished colleagues on the House Committee on Agriculture. These colleagues have been invaluable teammates in our fight for America's farmers and ranchers, but they are also colleagues who will be moving on to other adventures next year.

First, the gentleman from Missouri, MARK ALFORD, representing the Fourth District, is a former news anchor and now the host of "MARK ALFORD's America" radio show. Congressman ALFORD is a megaphone for Missouri's number one industry, agriculture.

I was fortunate enough to visit the Missouri State Fair with Mr. ALFORD last year, and I know that he will continue to be a fighter for America's farmers and ranchers.

Next is Congresswoman LORI CHAVEZ-DEREMÉR from Oregon's First District. Congresswoman CHAVEZ-DEREMÉR graciously hosted the Agriculture Committee in her district for one of our farm bill listening sessions, which provided us with critical producer input crucial to the drafting of the committee's farm bill.

Tapped by President Trump to serve as the next Secretary of Labor, I know she will do great things, and I wish Congresswoman CHAVEZ-DEREMÉR the very best.

Congressman JOHN DUARTE brought his firsthand experience as a California farmer to our committee in a pivotal year for our Nation's farmers and ranchers. In what some have called a perfect poster child for the regulatory issues we need fixed, Mr. DUARTE came in the crosshairs of the Obama administration's regulatory state due to the overreaching "waters of the United States" definition.

In a way only possible in America, Mr. DUARTE ultimately earned a spot in Congress and a seat on the Agriculture Committee, where he was able to vote to rescind the Biden administration's flawed WOTUS rule. We will miss having him on our committee, and I wish him the best.

Next, Congressman MAX MILLER has been a real fighter for Ohio's agricultural industry. During his time on the committee, we traveled to listening

sessions together, and I joined his agricultural advisory board calls. He has been a constant champion for our producers. He even became a father.

As he leaves the Agriculture Committee, I know Mr. MILLER will continue to advocate for the Buckeye State's farmers through his work on the Ways and Means Committee.

From upstate New York's 19th District, Congressman MARC MOLINARO immediately brought a unique perspective to the Agriculture Committee. Too often, the Halls of Congress seem stuck in the ways of the past, but Mr. MOLINARO taught us to think differently. He was a fierce advocate for the farmers and producers from New York, and we will miss having him behind the dais.

I can't forget my friends on the other side of the aisle, either. The Agriculture Committee has a rich history of bipartisanship that started long before my chairmanship and will hopefully continue long into the future.

Congresswoman CARAVEO from Colorado's Eighth District, Congresswoman SLOTKIN from Michigan's Seventh District, and Congresswoman SPANBERGER from Virginia's Seventh District are bidding farewell to the Agriculture Committee. Each represented their diverse communities with distinction on our committee, and I want to wish each of them the very best.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge my friend and brother in Christ, the current ranking member, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT), who is not retiring but rather stepping down as ranking member.

Since 2021, Congressman SCOTT has led the Democrats on the Agriculture Committee with distinction.

Agriculture really is not and never should be a partisan issue. In fact, it is one of the few that still unites Members from very different political backgrounds.

I am proud of the fact we have been able to find common ground on so many issues over the years. I look forward to continuing to work across the aisle with Mr. SCOTT, and I thank him for his service to the Agriculture Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of our colleagues for their contributions to American agriculture and wish them good luck in their next chapters.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE EARL BLUMENAUER

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, for many people across the country, their first introduction to Portland, Oregon, was the sketch comedy show "Portlandia." Like any parody, it exaggerates reality. Contrary to popular belief, most Portlanders don't spend their time asking about a chicken's backstory at a farm-to-table restaurant and sorting their recycling into 50 bins.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you firsthand that the City of Roses is a place where people care about the environment, where their food comes from, sustainable transportation, and inclusive communities. There is no better advocate and no truer representative of Portland than my good friend, colleague, and mentor, Congressman EARL BLUMENAUER.

EARL has been in public service for more than 50 years, 28 years here in Congress and 25 years in State and local government. He has devoted his career to making Oregon and the country more livable so individuals and families can be safe, healthy, and economically secure. As he has said, it is in his DNA to care about the community and to bring people together to accomplish a goal.

EARL came to Congress after a special election in April 1996 when RON WYDEN moved to the Senate in one of five special elections that year. On the Hill, people know EARL by his bow ties, bike pins, and annual comedy events, but to those of us who know him well, he is so much more.

EARL has a wide breadth of knowledge and extensive expertise gathered through his years in State and local government and now in Congress. When I went on a tour of the Library of Congress several years ago, I noticed how quiet and empty it was. When I asked if any Members of Congress actually use the Library, my tour guide asked: Do you know EARL BLUMENAUER?

That is EARL. As former Congressman Peter DeFazio remarked, EARL goes to people with facts, and he goes back to them with facts, and he tries to wear them down.

EARL can be very convincing. He is a long-term thinker, a skill that is sometimes in short supply in the policymaking arena, and a quintessential policy wonk.

EARL's vision and tireless work have made real, game-changing progress for his hometown of Portland and for our State, for the region, for the Nation, and, in fact, around the world. He has been a key part of promoting curbside recycling; investing in bike and pedestrian infrastructure; advocating for animal welfare, transit, and water infrastructure; supporting Afghan interpreters; changing the regulatory structure of cannabis; reimagining food policy; and more.

EARL always seeks to share what he knows. As a Portland city commissioner, EARL wanted to provide a way for Portland residents to engage constructively with the transportation system, so he created an evening class to give people the opportunity to learn about the system and suggest changes, a program that continues to this day at Portland State University.

When new Members come to Congress, EARL welcomes them with a gift, a very thorough, multipage letter sharing some of his lessons and some of the knowledge that he has absorbed throughout his service. I came back to

that letter, and to EARL, for guidance as I found my way. Even Snoop Dogg asked EARL for advice on how he could help with cannabis legislation.

Yes, EARL has friends everywhere, and I know many of us in Congress will miss him tremendously when he retires at the end of the 118th Congress, but for those of us who live, work, and visit Portland, EARL is not going anywhere. In his next role in Portland State's metropolitan studies program, he will continue to make things better for Oregonians with his typical thoughtful, methodical, and data-informed approach.

□ 1015

As the incoming dean of the Oregon delegation, I acknowledge that I have big shoes to fill, but EARL has charted a good and worthy path, and I know he will be around for advice when we need his wisdom, his sense of humor, and his sincerity about creating a better future.

We wish EARL BLUMENAUER well, and I know he will appreciate his additional time with his wife, Margaret, and his children and grandchildren.

Congress will not be the same without Congressman EARL BLUMENAUER.

#### FAREWELL FOR NOW

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, imagine winning a war for a country that didn't yet exist and had no government. That was our beginning.

What our Founders did have was freedom-loving people who believed that our rights come from God. There were 13 independent Colonies that united for a common purpose to form the United States of America. Eventually, they formed three branches of government: the executive, judicial, and legislative. Here we are in this beautiful Chamber right now.

Growing up, I watched "Superman," and each show began with the motto: Fighting for "truth, justice, and the American way." I bought in, and I truly believe that most of America does, as well.

At a young age, I knew that I wanted to be a doctor. I didn't imagine that that would lead to military and legislative careers as well. That is my version of the American Dream, I suppose.

I have loved every chapter, not knowing that they all would overlap, and, on occasion, God would put me right where I could serve best. Sometimes he would perform miracles: Long live Majority Leader STEVE SCALISE, an American hero.

When one chapter ends, another chapter begins. With the priorities of God, family, and country in mind, I will return home to further elevate my roles as husband, father, coach, and provider, while God, family, and country are all still priorities.

I cherish all the great Americans who I have served with along the way.

Thanks for keeping me company. I have been blessed.

My wife, Monica; and my children, Brad and Sophia, are my blessings, as well.

Farewell for now. God bless all of you, and God bless the United States of America.

#### END PARTISAN GERRYMANDERING ONCE AND FOR ALL

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

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, as my term in Congress ends, I express my heartfelt gratitude to those who made it possible: the people of North Carolina. Representing North Carolina's 13th District has been the honor of a lifetime.

I am proud of the impact our office has had over the past 2 years. We have helped more than 1,600 constituents resolve issues with Federal agencies, returning nearly \$2.8 million to my constituents in the process. We have hosted and attended nearly 300 public events, including 16 townhalls, to connect with our neighbors and make their voices heard in Washington.

We responded to over 70,000 pieces of correspondence, ensuring that every constituent knew that their voice mattered, and we brought back millions through the Federal budget to North Carolina's 13th District.

Legislatively, we have worked to make life better for the people we served. I introduced 13 bills and cosponsored over 450 pieces of legislation, fighting for affordable healthcare, safer schools, better infrastructure, and an economy that works for everyone. I took to this floor 70 times to advocate for my district's priorities and to share their stories with the American people.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a normal farewell speech. I am not giving this speech by choice. As someone who first came to Congress 30 years ago as an intern for Senator Dianne Feinstein, I can guarantee one thing: Nobody has truly loved serving in Congress more than me.

That is, in part, because we knew there was a good chance that my district would be erased by partisan gerrymandering and my time here would be short. I had a lot of work to do in a short amount of time.

Mr. Speaker, I am not here giving a farewell speech because I did a bad job or because my constituents voted for another candidate. I am here because of partisan gerrymandering by far-right extremists in the North Carolina General Assembly.

The fair, Republican-leaning district that sent me to Congress was erased last year with the stroke of a pen. The people of North Carolina and across the country deserve better. They deserve fair maps, a fair system, and a democracy that they can trust. People should choose their politicians, not the other way around.

I will continue to fight with every ounce of my energy for fair maps and an end to partisan gerrymandering.

Mr. Speaker, as we leave this week, we will be the least-productive Congress in our Nation's history going back to 1860, and that is because of extreme partisan gerrymandering. It provides no incentive to work together.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to end partisan gerrymandering once and for all.

I thank the people of North Carolina's 13th District for trusting me to be your voice in Congress. Serving has been the greatest honor of my life. I am not giving up or going out quietly, and I will always remain committed to working for a brighter future for North Carolina.

To my family, my wife, Caroline; and my kids, Prescott and Adeline, your love and support mean everything to me. Public service is never a solo effort. It is a family commitment. It is a team effort. I love you all so much, and I am so grateful for you. I am very excited to return back to Cary for Christmas.

I also thank my amazing staff. Their hard work and dedication ensured that we delivered for the people we served. I acknowledge their contributions by submitting their names to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Thank you so much to the best team in the business.

To my Democratic colleagues from North Carolina, it has been a true honor to serve with ALMA ADAMS, DEBORAH ROSS, and KATHY MANNING. While not with us in this Congress, David Price and G.K. Butterfield are absolutely part of the team for North Carolina in the House. I especially thank VALERIE FOUSHEE, DON DAVIS, and JEFF JACKSON for their partnership, friendship, and outstanding leadership for North Carolina.

Going back to our time serving together in the North Carolina Senate, all four of us served in the senate together and came here in this freshman class. It has been a true honor to serve with all of them.

I also mention the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) on the Republican side. He led the Financial Services Committee. We worked hard together in a bipartisan way on FIT 21, the first-ever crypto bill to be voted on in the U.S. Congress.

I am proud of the effort to bring 71 Democrats together. That is how legislation is supposed to work: working together in a bipartisan way. That, for me, was a bright spot for this Congress.

I thank my colleagues, especially my fellow freshmen, for their friendship and collaboration. Working alongside them has been a true honor.

We ended this term with an amazing dinner together last night. Their passion and determination remind me of why we do this work, and I am grateful for the lifelong friendships we have built.

I know I am leaving the future of the U.S. Congress in very good hands. Public service is about making a difference. It is about putting others first

and leaving things better than you found them. As I leave this Chamber, I do so with a full heart and hope for the future.

There is a lot of work that I still want to do, and I plan to continue in public service. North Carolina's working families deserve elected leaders who will serve their best interests, not the interests of special interests or the interests of Donald Trump. I am not giving up in that fight.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless the United States of America.

STAFF NAMES TO BE ADDED TO  
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

Abigail Atkins, Shawntay Anthony, Miles Beasley, Owen Berman Woodard, Scotty Bryan, Amanda Campos, Jennifer Cárdenas, Wade Chapman, Rachel Curtis, Brady Cusick, Harry Davis Jr., Jennings Dean, Robert Erwin, Kate Ferland, Elizabeth George, Jacob Glasser, Henry Goodwin, Caroline Kenney, Cameron Kidder.

Rachel Kline, Matt Landini, Richard Lin, Abner Martinez-Padilla, Abby May, Priya Moran, Margaret Murphy, Nalani Noonan, Quinn O'Connor, Alyssa Olbrys, Jennifer Popa, Kevin Porter, Laurin Potter, Freedom Fox Richardson, Siyona Shah, John Sloop, Maddie Smith-Russell, Alicia Speedy, Fallon Strickland, Nia White, George Willets, Mariam Wolk.

CELEBRATING DON POSTLES'  
RETIREMENT

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a true Buffalo legend, Don Postles.

For nearly five decades, Don has been a trusted voice and a constant presence in the lives of western New Yorkers, guiding us through the news that shapes our community.

Don Postles' journey began in 1976. Since then, he has been a cornerstone of journalism in western New York. From his early days at Channel 7, to his time at Channel 2 and his remarkable 31 years at WIVB Channel 4, Don has been there for us through every significant moment. He has brought clarity to chaos, steadiness in uncertainty, and heart to every story he has told.

Don embodies the very best of journalism: honesty, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to the truth. At a time where trusted media is more important than ever, and more elusive, Don has been a beacon of credibility. Whether reporting on the tragedy surrounding the crash of Flight 3407 or sharing the joy of a Buffalo Bills victory, Don Postles delivered the news with professionalism, respect, and care for the community that he loves and serves.

Don Postles' legacy goes beyond the anchor desk. He has always been more than a journalist. He is a devoted member of this community. His presence at charity events, his support for local causes, and his role as an advocate for

western New Yorkers have made him an integral part of our region.

Mr. Speaker, western New York will not be the same without Don Postles on our screens each and every evening. His departure from Channel 4 marks the end of an era, but his impact will endure. He has set the gold standard for journalism and community service, leaving behind a legacy that will inspire generations to come.

On behalf of the people of western New York, I thank Don for his dedication to our community, his commitment to the truth, and the grace with which he has handled his role as our trusted voice.

As Don enters retirement, I hope he finds time to enjoy everything that he loves about Buffalo: spending time with his beautiful wife, Anne, and his gorgeous family; boating on Lake Erie; and savoring the pride of the community that he has helped to shape over the last five decades.

I congratulate Don. He has earned this next chapter and has left behind a legacy of excellence that will not be forgotten. We wish him and his family nothing but happiness and success in his years to come.

RECOGNIZING GRAND RAPIDS  
MAYOR ROSALYNN BLISS ON  
HER RETIREMENT

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

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the extraordinary career of Mayor Rosalynn Bliss of Grand Rapids, Michigan, my mayor and my friend.

Born in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, Mayor Bliss moved to Grand Rapids after graduating from the University of South Alabama. She then attended Michigan State University—go green—where she earned a master's in social work and then set forth on a career characterized by compassion and service.

In 2005, Mayor Bliss was first elected to the Grand Rapids City Commission, where she displayed her passion for improving Grand Rapids' beautiful parks and public spaces.

She had a vision for Grand Rapids and the experience and willingness to act. After laying out her ambitious plans for the city, then-City Commissioner Bliss was elected by her friends and neighbors to become the first woman mayor of Grand Rapids, which is Michigan's second largest city, and the youngest mayor in over 130 years.

Mayor Bliss' tenure in Grand Rapids was defined by bold, compassionate leadership. She strengthened community-police relations through community-centric law enforcement initiatives, mental health response teams, and a first-of-its-kind crisis stabilization unit.

Amidst a nationwide housing shortage, she expanded affordable housing opportunities and prioritized sustain-

able development through projects like the Grand River Greenway and an ambitious carbon-neutrality goal.

She also shepherded the city through the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing our west Michigan community to bounce back even stronger.

Thanks to Mayor Bliss, our economy is booming with over \$11 billion in private investments, a new soccer stadium, many new sports teams, and 9 million annual visitors. Our limitless growth potential is, in large part, due to her forward-thinking vision and her bold action.

After two incredible terms in our city's highest office, I am confident that Mayor Bliss will leave an impactful legacy that sets a high bar for public service in west Michigan and across America's great cities.

Mr. Speaker, once more, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mayor Bliss for her decades of service to the great city of Grand Rapids.

I wish my dear friend the greatest happiness in her retirement.

RECOGNIZING MARK CURTIS ON  
HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. MILLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I recognize one of West Virginia's most impressive reporters and a good friend of mine, Mark Curtis.

For four decades now, Mark has devoted his career to broadcast political journalism. From local government races to Presidential elections, Mark has consistently delivered fair and thorough reporting.

Despite his line of work taking him across the country, Mark chose to stay and finish his career in West Virginia, and his love of our State and its people shine through his reporting.

I am grateful for our friendship, and I have always enjoyed coming on his show to discuss the important issues that are happening in our State and around the country.

□ 1030

I remember as if it was yesterday when I sang happy birthday to him on the House floor in the West Virginia House.

Mr. Speaker, time certainly does fly by. I thank Mark so much for his years of service to our wild and wonderful State. I wish him a happy and well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF LISA MURRAY McGOVERN

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the contributions of a dedicated, generous, and kindhearted person, Lisa Murray McGovern.

Lisa volunteers for many causes. As the chair of the Democratic Spouses Forum, Lisa welcomes and helps spouses understand how to navigate the unique dynamics of the life of a Congress Member's spouse.

My wife, Norma, met Lisa 12 years ago and has benefited from Lisa's wisdom and friendship. Lisa works hard behind the scenes and is someone who does not seek credit or praise. She just does things out of the kindness of her heart.

Congressman JIM MCGOVERN is Lisa's husband. JIM has represented Massachusetts' Second Congressional District since 1996. For nearly three decades, many of us have come to count on Lisa's knowledge, experiences, her compassion, and friendship. Her enormous heart extends beyond just helping us, the Members and the spouses, she has made it her life's work to take the fight to cancer.

Her fight is personal as Lisa lost her mother to lung cancer in 1996 and has given every effort to the cause.

Lisa McGovern is the executive director of the Prevent Cancer Foundation's Congressional Families Program. She has spent two decades cultivating relationships with many national political leaders, encouraging them to use their platforms to promote cancer prevention and early detection.

Her tireless work has been very fruitful. Lisa has put together high-profile Capitol Hill events to raise awareness about the foundation's work and has brought out some high-level personalities and popular celebrities to help.

Mr. Speaker, Lisa's work and care have not gone unnoticed.

On behalf of my wife, Norma, I extend my deep gratitude and sincere appreciation for every single thing that she has done for us. From the bottom of my heart, I thank her for sharing the love, mentorship, and friendship to so many of us.

HONORING CHRISTINA WINTERS FOR HER  
INCREDIBLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a successful, self-made businesswoman, a philanthropist, a motivator, a luminary, and a great friend, Christina Winters, for her incredible accomplishments.

Christina Winters, a factory worker's daughter, comes from a simple blue-collar household that taught her critical principles and the values that shaped her unique character and life's work.

She grew up in the household with very little money where she managed to learn the value of a hard-earned dollar, and applied her knowledge and experiences into a long and successful career helping others manage their finances in order to enjoy a prosperous life.

Today, Christina Winters is the president and CEO of Creating and Managing Wealth, CMW, LLC. Based out of Irving, Texas, CMW is a business dedicated to looking out for the very best interests of people. This business is the

very reflection of Christina's very essence.

I had the pleasure of working for Christina very early on in my life. As my boss, Christina was always so generous with her time and her knowledge. Christina is the kind of boss that everyone would be blessed to have. Christina has been a lifelong mentor and friend to me.

Over the years, I have seen firsthand Christina's commitment to help and uplift others. She has become a very influential leader in the world of finance and life planning, and has evolved to become a successful leadership builder.

She has successfully navigated and overcome our male-dominated corporate environment. Christina has stepped up into positions of leadership and power. Today, she is sharing her stories and invaluable advice to help empower women and people of color to step up into their leadership roles.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Christina Winters has had a long track record of volunteering and taking on numerous philanthropic causes. We could spend countless hours going through each and every one of her community service accolades because she has dedicated her life to giving back. For this reason and many more reasons, I honor her today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Christina for being a loving, caring mentor to many of us. She has touched and changed the trajectory of many of our lives, including my own. I encourage her to continue on this great path of sharing and giving of herself for many, many more years to come.

CONCLUDING MY SERVICE IN CONGRESS WITH GRATITUDE AND HUMILITY

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

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with gratitude and humility as I conclude my service to New York's 19th Congressional District. Representing the people of upstate New York in this historic Chamber has truly been the honor of a lifetime.

This journey has been guided by the values, aspirations, and resilience of the families, farmers, and small businesses that are the backbone of our district, from the Massachusetts-New York border, across the Hudson River Valley, through the Catskill Mountains, to central New York, and into the Southern Tier.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the people of this amazing upstate New York District for their trust, their support, and their unwavering belief in me. Representing them was never just a job; it was a deeply personal mission.

Their faith in me inspired every decision we made, every vote cast, every moment spent advocating for our shared future.

Together, we focused on what truly matters: delivering results for the people and places that make our district extraordinary, and we met challenges head-on.

Together, we tackled the fentanyl and mental health crisis, securing Federal funding to expand stabilization centers in Broome and Sullivan Counties. These efforts remind us that no one should have to face their struggles alone. We championed the ThinkDIFFERENTLY initiative on the national stage, breaking down barriers and creating opportunities for individuals with physical, intellectual, and developmental disabilities and creating new opportunities for employment, education, and social services.

We worked to safeguard the Hudson River, preserve farmland, and protected our most precious natural resources for generations to come. Amid inflation and border crises, we sought solutions that would make a tangible difference for everyday Americans. Through tireless bipartisan collaboration, we passed over 40 pieces of legislation, earning recognition as New York's most bipartisan lawmaker.

This work was only possible because of the extraordinary team we assembled, individuals whose dedication and heart I will not soon forget.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my chief of staff, Jeff Bishop; deputy chief of staff, Dan Kranz; district director, Caitlin Daly; legislative director, Connor Torossian; scheduler, Maddie Bruno; legislative assistants, Kaitlyn Mullen and Doug Gordon; legislative correspondent, Nick Urbin; field representatives, Nicole Leonard and Alex Horton; constituent caseworkers, Michelle Speech and Sean Lisk; press assistant, Hannah Benfield; outreach coordinator, Ciano Briga; constituent services representative, Ben Straebl; staff assistant, Noelle Dana; and other members of team Molinaro: Jessica Akshar, Caroline Doxsee, Tyler Gutches, Alex Holderith, Kate McKan, Maddy Minahan, and Rick Yackel for their hard work and selfless dedication. It has been the cornerstone of all of our achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I say to my colleagues and friends who serve and represent the State of New York, Republicans and Democrats alike, their friendship and support has been so gratifying, and it has been a pleasure these last 30 years to work with most of them.

Finally, let me thank my family. My wife, Corinne, is a superhero, filled with strength, love, and patience, and I am grateful to her and my children: Abigail, Jack, Elias, and Theo, each amazing and accepting and wonderful in their own special way. I am thankful to my mother, Dona, who instilled in us a desire to pursue truth, work hard, and serve others.

They are all my foundation, my heart, my greatest source of strength. They stood side by side with me every step of the way, and this journey was ours together. I am endlessly grateful for their love and sacrifice.

As my time in Congress comes to an end, let me be very clear: Public service is not just something I do; it is who I am. From America's youngest mayor to Congressman serving upstate New York, this for me is not a good-bye. It is the start of a new chapter. I will continue to fight for the values we share, advocate for the communities we love, and work tirelessly to make our country better, stronger, and more united.

Perhaps I will be blessed with the opportunity to again serve here in this most fundamentally American deliberative House.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by thanking the people of New York's 19th Congressional District, upstate New York, for the privilege of serving them. May God continue to bless them, upstate New York, and the United States of America.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

#### FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

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

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today full of gratitude for having had the incredible privilege of representing New Hampshire's Second Congressional District for the past 12 years.

New Hampshire doesn't have a national sports team. I have long said politics is our pastime, and it has been such a joy to advocate for my friends, my family, neighbors, and our State in this arena.

My time in these Halls has been many things: rewarding, inspiring, challenging, and, yes, at times, frustrating. However, more than anything, it has been truly the greatest honor of my life.

When I was first elected, I promised to bring a new approach to Washington, to reach across the aisle, and to build bridges whenever possible. As I look back at the end of my time in Congress, I am immensely proud of that record.

Over the past 12 years, I have seen Congress at its most and least efficient. With the clarity of hindsight, I can say that our government really, truly does work best when Republicans and Democrats come together to solve our Nation's greatest challenges.

I grew up in a Republican household. My father, Malcolm McLane, served as the mayor of Concord and on our State's Executive Council, and my mother, Susan McLane, served for 25 years in the House and Senate in the New Hampshire State Legislature, and

she even ran for the seat that I am now retiring from.

I know that they would be proud of my and many of our colleagues' efforts to restore bipartisanship, to reach across the aisle to pursue pragmatic solutions, particularly during times of deep political division.

There will always be new challenges and new opportunities for Congress to address. The work here is never truly finished, but thanks to the support of my colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats, we have made meaningful progress on a number of issues that don't always go viral or generate the most clicks online.

I founded the Bipartisan Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Task Force with my Republican colleague, Frank Guinta, and continued the work with BRIAN FITZPATRICK and DAVID TRONE, to bring Democrats and Republicans together to tackle the addiction and overdose epidemic that has impacted every community across our country.

Thanks in part to the task force's tireless advocacy in providing resources for communities and making smart policy changes, we are finally beginning to see overdose deaths decline throughout the Nation. I am proud that one of my final votes in this Chamber will be for vital opioid response legislation to increase access to treatment included in this year's government funding package.

I also started the Bipartisan Task Force to End Sexual Violence, which has helped shed light on the pervasive culture of sexual violence that has flourished for too long in our schools, our universities, our military, and even here in Congress.

It was in this very Chamber that I first shared my own story of sexual assault publicly and fought to reform how Congress responds to sexual misconduct among Members and toward staff.

Through respectful conversation and honest dialogue, my Bipartisan Ski and Snowboard Caucus helped bridge the divide between our parties on the need to respond to the environmental and economic threats posed by climate change.

As chair of the New Democrat Coalition, my colleagues and I have repeatedly prioritized country and duty over party and politics, providing the votes to prevent a devastating default on our debt and a costly government shutdown not once, not twice, but three times.

Thanks to our focus and commitment to pragmatic solutions to improve the lives of hardworking families in our country, our New Democrat Coalition will be the largest it has ever been in the 119th Congress and will make it more than half of the Democratic Caucus.

□ 1045

In each of these endeavors, we made progress—incremental at times, but

progress nonetheless. We didn't always agree on how to tackle the challenges, but we listened to each other, debated the ideas on the merits, and focused on the mission of delivering for our constituents.

Sadly, my time in these Halls in recent years has been defined more and more by extreme partisanship. As lawmakers, we must reject the cynicism and the notion that Congress and our institutions are destined for dysfunction and disorder. We must not lose sight of our purpose and why we are here—to fight for our communities, to lead by example, and to tackle the biggest challenges facing our country, not create them.

Now, at the end of my tenure, a little older and hopefully a little wiser, I urge my colleagues and the incoming Members of the 119th Congress to lead with courage in the face of division and recommit to building bridges, not tearing them down.

I thank my husband, Brad, and my sons, Zach and Travis.

I remind my colleagues: Be bold, be brave, but most importantly, be kind.

#### MY BROTHER, MY INSPIRATION

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor my brother, Mike Pence. Michael has been my Congressman, my Governor, and our Nation's Vice President. While serving my constituents, he has been my inspiration.

Everyone has their own preconceived notions of who my brother is. The real Mike Pence, the man I have known his whole life as his oldest brother, is one of the best, most honorable people I know, and he has always done the right thing.

Michael is devoted, kind, and generous, and he loves his family very much. He is humble and gentle, but he is the bravest and boldest of my siblings. His mettle is iron tested. His character is unimpeachable. These are the qualities that made him the leader that he is.

It has been my honor to follow in his footsteps and represent the Hoosiers of the Sixth District of Indiana.

As I stand here so proud of the man Michael is today, it is a gift to be his brother. He has been a gift to our country, and he has been a gift to our Constitution.

May God bless Michael R. Pence and continue to prosper him and not harm him, give him hope and a future.

#### DELIVERING ON PROMISES FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say it has been my greatest honor serving Maryland's Sixth District.

Over the past 6 years, I have met and listened to thousands of Marylanders and worked across the aisle to pass legislation that has improved and will continue to improve the lives of all Americans.

I didn't do it alone. I am forever grateful to my wife, June, and my four children, Michelle, Julia, Natalie, and Rob. During my time here, I have become a grandfather to two grandchildren, with a third on the way. Nothing reminds me more of how important our future is as when you see it through the eyes of children and grandchildren.

Many of you know that I chose to run for Congress because I lost my 24-year-old nephew to a fentanyl overdose in 2016. In 2021, I cofounded the Bipartisan Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Task Force with ANNIE KUSTER to bring Democrats and Republicans together to fight the mental health and opioid epidemic, and we did.

Together, we passed dozens of bipartisan bills, delivered billions of dollars to communities to fight this crisis on the front lines, and united hundreds of our colleagues annually during National Recovery Month for Congress Goes Purple.

This past year, our State and country saw the first decline in overdose deaths. I would like to think that the work of our task force had a small part in that.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have stood by my mission to lead with compassion, civility, and competence and put people over politics. I was proud to deliver \$53 million in community project funding, Federal funding going directly to where it is needed most in my district. By working as a team, we were able to make life-changing impacts in our communities.

In the last 6 years, I also led 30 bills that were signed into law, bills on issues that we can't afford to ignore—mental health, addiction, and criminal justice reform.

Suffice it to say, our work is not done. I leave Congress knowing that countless lives have been and will be changed as a result of what we have accomplished. I have served during a time in which Congress, like our Nation, has grown increasingly divided, and many Americans fear for their future.

We must all remember that what unites us is greater than what divides us. Despite our differences, I developed productive, meaningful relationships with many of my colleagues across the aisle. The sheer number of chili cheese dogs I have eaten in the Republican Cloakroom to get bipartisan support is one I will take to my grave.

Through it all, I remain certain that the path forward for progress lies in common ground. I thank my Republican friends for their partnership, for putting country over party to work together. I urge all of my colleagues to look to their counterparts on the other side of the Chamber and commit to

fighting together, not against each other, to empower America to reach its full potential. If that is not why we are here, we don't deserve to be.

I am thankful for the privilege of representing my constituents, and I wish for all to have a safe holiday season.

#### ADVOCATING FOR WESTERN AND RURAL CAUSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FONG). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on my 4 years serving as chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus. It has been a tremendous 4 years, filled with memories and accomplishments that certainly will last a lifetime.

The caucus' work on behalf of the issues impacting Western and rural America is invaluable, and it has been a great honor to be a part of this effort. From supporting the multiple use mandate for public lands to upholding the rights of private landowners, supporting American farmers and ranchers, and pushing for American energy and mineral dominance, the caucus advocates for a stronger and more prosperous West and America.

While I could reminisce for hours about the caucus, I want to highlight some of my favorite memories and achievements over the past 4 years.

For the first time in its history, the caucus reached 100, actually 110, members. What once started out as a group small enough to literally meet in a closet is now the second largest caucus on Capitol Hill.

Last year, we also celebrated the 30th anniversary of the caucus, a noteworthy milestone. We have participated in numerous field tours hosted by our members over the years to connect our policymakers and staff with Westerners to learn firsthand about the issues impacting the region, bringing the voices of the people back to Washington, D.C.

We have visited miners from northern Minnesota, cattle ranchers in Fort Worth, park officials in Yosemite and Yellowstone, and those who use and benefit from the Columbia River system, all to get a better understanding of policy issues in these communities.

We have supported many pieces of legislation to unleash the full potential of domestic energy, support American farmers and ranchers, and end the assault on multiple use mandates for public lands.

I thank my colleagues who have joined and worked hard for the caucus over the past 4 years. It has been my pleasure to serve as your chairman.

I also thank the staff, who have made hard jobs easier and have accomplished much. I also want them to know that our successes on behalf of rural and Western America would not have been possible without their dedication.

Lastly, I congratulate my good friend, DOUG LAMALFA of California, on

his election as chairman for the next Congress. I am excited for the future of the caucus and know it is in good hands.

While I no longer will be serving as chairman, I will continue to be a strong advocate for Western and rural America.

THANKING AMANDA BIHL

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to extend one more thank-you to my chief of staff, Amanda Bihl, for her leadership and service to my office and the people of Washington's Fourth District.

Rising through the ranks over the years, Amanda has been a strong leader who has delivered on our priorities and been an incredible mentor to my staff. I am fortunate to have had her by my side and will certainly miss her dearly.

Joan and I wish Amanda the best as she continues her journey with her husband, Peter, and her growing family, and we remind her that she will always be a member of Team Newhouse.

#### FOCUSING ON THE GOOD

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I dedicate these remarks to my wonderful community in Pennsylvania-Seven and to my mother and father, who didn't live long enough to see me elected.

I grew up in a true bipartisan household, with a father who was an old-school Republican Air Force officer and a mother who was a Quaker pacifist liberal. It was an interesting childhood, as you can imagine.

You hear a lot of bad about Congress, but I am going to choose to focus on the good, what we can actually get done for the people.

My district office should, first and foremost, be thanked. My district office back home is often the closest contact that any constituent has with the Federal Government. They hear from our local voters, our local constituents, sometimes with frustration, sometimes with happiness when there is a good result, and sometimes with anger. They treat every single person in Pennsylvania-Seven as though they are family. I have been told that multiple times.

Legislatively, here in Washington, I have to speak of some of my proudest moments. I was sent to Congress with a mandate to work on reducing prescription drug prices. I heard from so many people on the campaign trail about the struggles that they had, and I am so proud to have been part of a Congress that passed the IRA, which was the first time that we have ever managed to get prescription drug prices down.

That effort continues and every year will increase. I beseech my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to please keep that intact.

I am proud of having raised awareness of mental health issues and suicide prevention. I am so proud of the work done to pass the CHIPS Act,



which has benefited my industrial and manufacturing district so very much.

I am most proud, I think, of having put the greater Lehigh Valley on the radar of folks here in D.C. because Pennsylvania is not just Pittsburgh or Philadelphia, although some would say it comes down to the Eagles and the Steelers. We in the greater Lehigh Valley are the third largest region in Pennsylvania and the fastest growing region in Pennsylvania. I am proud to say that my team and I did just that: We put Pennsylvania-Seven on the radar of people here in D.C.

I am proud to have had huge returns for the greater Lehigh Valley during the past 6 years. The bipartisan infrastructure law alone brought \$395 million to my community. Our local airport has constructed a whole new TSA terminal. It was the first completed project under the bipartisan infrastructure law.

I was able to bring \$50 million over the past 6 years in community project funding, ranging from funding for food pantries and grocery deserts, Head Start, wastewater treatment plants, bridges long in disrepair, and all kinds of things. There have also been countless thousands of dollars returned to the people of Pennsylvania-Seven through the work of my district office team.

There is a lot to be worked on in the future, and I hope that Congress will work on the issue of childcare. It is such an important issue. We must do something about childcare, and I hope that universal pre-K will be part of our future.

Most of all, we need to work on campaign finance reform—please. This past election, in my district alone, the race cost a total of \$38 million for one congressional race. That is obscene. It wasn't even the most expensive in the country. It was the 10th most expensive in the country. Imagine that, and imagine all the good that could be done with that.

□ 1100

All of this work doesn't happen because of one elected official. It is the team that you have behind you. My wonderful, caring, intelligent team that never forgot that our mission was to serve the wonderful people of Pennsylvania-Seven, I thank them.

To the voters of Pennsylvania-Seven, I thank them for the greatest privilege and honor of my life in representing you.

Finally, my amazing kids, Clay and Adrienne. They are my rocks, the center of my universe. I am so glad they were here by my side for this incredible journey, and I could not have done it without them. I love them. Then there's my sidekick, Zoey, the Congress dog.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss this place.

#### HONORING MAYOR MARVIN JOHNSON

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of the longest-serving mayors in the Nation, Marvin Johnson, as he retires after 45 years of leading the city of Independence in Minnesota.

Marvin was actually my inspiration to run for office. When my wife, Jacquie, and I were starting out, our city public works department marked 400-year-old trees on our property, two oaks and two maples, and they were to come out the next day for a new road.

I called Marvin. He showed up at my house at 10 o'clock at night. He looked at the trees, he looked at the road, and he took out his "brick phone" that some of us remember from 30 years ago, and he called the public works director. He said, Danny, move the road 50 feet, we are not going to take these trees.

Since that time, I have never seen a government official as effective as Marvin. His council meetings were models of efficiency and respect, even as I rocked my newborn children in their car seats under the table during late-night evening sessions.

He is a true public servant and has been an outstanding mentor and friend over the years. As his career in public service comes to an end and he looks ahead to his 90th birthday this spring, we wish him all the best in whatever comes next. I thank him for his support over the years and his leadership on behalf of the city of Independence.

#### REMEMBERING MINNESOTA STATE REPRESENTATIVE DICK BORRELL

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Minnesota State Representative Dick Borrell who passed away suddenly earlier this year.

Dick was not just a loving family man, but also a successful businessman and a true patriot. Raised in Waverly, Minnesota, he went on to serve our Nation in the Marine Corps and earned his degree from Minnesota State, Mankato.

Dick had a Midas touch when it came to business. Everything he touched seemed to turn to gold. He ran his business for over 20 years and was often found working overtime or on weekends shoulder-to-shoulder on the production lines with his employees. In fact, Dick was at his warehouse working just 3 days before he passed away.

When not at work, Dick loved flying and sharing countless adventures with his wife, Patty, usually from their backyard runway, which he used for his plane. He even spent time flying around the State with me during my campaign for Governor, which I will never forget.

Dick was passionate about politics and preceded me in the Minnesota House of Representatives. He was an active member of the Wright County Republicans and was never shy about

sharing his thoughts about what is coming out of Washington.

He was a leader in our community. Dick Borrell touched the lives of thousands in Minnesota. To his wife, Patty, and the rest of the Borrell family, we offer our most sincere condolences, and we will always remember our friend, Dick, and a life well-lived.

#### RECOGNIZING CONGRESSMAN DEAN PHILLIPS

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge my Minnesota congressional colleague, Congressman DEAN PHILLIPS, as he concludes his service in the House of Representatives.

Outside of Congress, DEAN has proven to be a shrewd businessman, owning and starting several successful companies, and helping run his family's business.

During his tenure here in Washington, DEAN worked across the aisle with the same tenacity to help Minnesotans. From ensuring small businesses received the financial flexibility they needed during COVID to working with all of us in the Minnesota delegation to strengthen the Department of Veterans Affairs for our veterans, we found ways to put our political differences aside and get results for our constituents.

As we saw over the last year, DEAN is never afraid to pursue common ground for the common good and fight to restore Americans' faith in our institutions, regardless of the political ramifications.

I thank DEAN for his service. We wish him all the best in his next chapter.

#### HONORING RALPH RONALD GRIFFIN

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Brigadier General Ralph Ronald Griffin, known as Ronnie back home.

Ronnie's life of dedication, military service, and leadership has left a mark on both our country and eastern North Carolina.

He began his military career by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. Ronnie later received his commission from the North Carolina Military Academy and rose up the ranks, eventually pinning on the rank of brigadier general. He spent over 38 years in a military uniform.

His career took him to Vietnam, not once, but twice. Ronnie was inducted into the North Carolina Military Academy Hall of Fame, and he was awarded our State's high honor of The Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Governor Hunt and Governor Easley for his exceptional contributions to our State.

Beyond his military service, Ronnie loved his family. He stood at his late wife, Annalee's, side. I will never forget our conversation. He shared with me how her passing was difficult for him.



Ronnie loved his children, and he especially loved his grandchildren.

Serving in the military, he developed lifelong friends. Ronnie had many friends that served with him, and one in particular was Mike, who was more like a brother. They shared so many stories and laughed together, even their children call each other uncle. It was Uncle Mike and General Uncle Ronnie.

Mr. Speaker, Ronnie was a humble person, and he came from humble beginnings. He was driven by faith and his deep love for our country. We owe a great deal of gratitude and respect to Brigadier General Ronnie Griffin and his family.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to honor a true American hero and one that I just so happen to call my friend, Ronnie. God speed.

#### ALWAYS ON WATCH

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, my community lost three brave Palm Beach County Sheriff's Deputies in a very tragic crash: Deputy Ignacio "Dan" Diaz, Deputy Ralph "Butch" Waller, and Corporal Luis Paez.

I did know these men. I can't pretend that I knew them well, but we shared a handshake at various Veterans Days parades throughout the years, nods as we were in the same motorcade routes, and camaraderie as we fired up our Harleys and hit the road on motorcycle runs during times like the holidays, just like now.

These men, they were always present. They were always on watch because it was their calling to protect every person in our community from danger, whether they knew them well or not. They knew the hazards of their chosen profession. All day, every day, they patrolled inches away from death.

Yet, these men, they never hesitated. They never stepped aside and asked somebody else to face the danger. Each day, they woke up, they put on their badge, their body armor, they holstered their pistols, they left their families, and they went to work.

Courage for them was as natural as breathing. Plain and simple, they were warriors, strong, selfless, committed to protecting others. We thank God for these men. We thank God for their families who shared these patriots with us each and every day, and we thank God for their dedication to duty, which was a beacon of selflessness.

I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in a moment of silence to honor these brave men for their sacrifice. I would ask that the gallery rise as well since they are here listening and let us honor these deputies in a moment of silence. I ask that my colleagues rise to honor these deputies in a moment of silence.

#### IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL WORKERS

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of more than 2.3 million dedicated civil servants that make up our Federal workforce, including nearly 30,000 Federal employees who work in my own congressional district.

As a former union president of Iron Workers Local 7, I am also proud to stand in solidarity with the American Federation of Government Employees, the National Treasury Employees Union, our postal employee unions, and over 30 other labor organizations that tirelessly advocate for fair wages, safe working conditions, and quality healthcare and pensions for our Federal workers.

With less than 40 days until the Presidential Inauguration, the new Trump administration has already announced its intent to target and scapegoat Federal employees, all in the name of cost reduction while at the same time extending trillions of dollars in tax cuts for the richest Americans.

This reflects a blatant disregard for the sacrifices made by Federal workers at the VA and elsewhere and the critical services that they deliver to the American people.

According to President-elect Trump, America's Federal workforce is full of: deep-state rogue bureaucrats, crooked and dishonest people who are destroying this country and who are going to be held accountable.

To this end, he is seeking to revive schedule F, a punitive employment classification that will strip career Federal employees of their due process rights and other statutory civil service protections. This new category would also pave the way for the administration to fire these nonpartisan workers at will and replace them with political loyalists.

President-elect Trump has also recently announced the creation of a so-called Department on Government Efficiency, or DOGE, Commission, an unofficial advisory panel that would purportedly serve to dismantle the government bureaucracy.

The co-chairs of this alleged department are two billionaires, Elon Musk, and Vivek Ramaswamy, who have vowed to conduct mass layoffs and employee relocations in order to reduce the size of Federal Government. As they tell it, most Federal employees don't even show up to work anyway.

These unwarranted attacks against our Federal workforce only serve to perpetuate false narratives that greatly undermine the value of public service and undermine the morale and ability of Federal employees to deliver essential services to the American people.

As former chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Operations

and the Federal Workforce, I can attest that these Federal workers are not rogue bureaucrats or deep-state actors. Rather, many, many of them are patriotic military veterans.

In fact, our Federal workforce consists of nearly 650,000 U.S. armed service veterans, or more than 30 percent of all Federal employees. In fact, the vast majority of Federal employees work in service to care for 18 million veterans and their families who are served and cared for by the Department of Veterans Affairs, which employees nearly 490,000 doctors, nurses, medical staff, social workers, and other healthcare professionals, caring for our Nation's veterans.

□ 1115

Our Federal workforce also consistently shows up to work, even during national emergencies, as reported by the Partnership for Public Service. Frontline Federal employees are deployed in the field nationwide as Border Patrol agents, food inspectors, postal workers, TSA officers, forest firefighters, FEMA disaster response personnel, clinical biologists, and other jobs that support public safety in times of crisis.

According to the Office of Personnel Management, only 15 percent of Federal workers actually live in the D.C. area with 85 percent of Federal workers stationed in communities across our Nation.

In stark contrast to President-elect Trump and his billionaire DOGE co-chairs, Federal employees are not looking to get rich. The Federal Salary Council reports that in 2024, Federal workers earned nearly 25 percent less on average than their private sector counterparts. Recent strikes by the autoworkers, UPS Teamsters, Kaiser healthcare personnel, and other private sector workers have resulted in historic and well-deserved wage increases, in some cases more than 20 percent.

Meanwhile, to ensure the continuity of government services, Federal workers are expressly prohibited by statute from participating in a strike. They must stay on the job. Asserting the right to strike and even belonging to a union that asserts the right to strike against the Federal Government is a violation and a felony and punishable by imprisonment. In the interest of public safety, frontline Federal employees also stay on the job without pay for the duration of every government shutdown.

Nevertheless, every Federal worker proudly takes an oath of office that reflects their commitment to our Nation, to public service, and dedication to carrying out their agency mission on behalf of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, sadly, Elon Musk has even resorted to publicly naming Federal employees who he would like to fire on social media. Our Federal workforce deserves better. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in strong support of America's

Federal workers in the face of escalating threats on their service.

#### FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

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

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank my constituents, colleagues, and friends for the wonderful 4 years I have spent serving in the people's House. It has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve Orange and Los Angeles Counties in Congress.

From helping my constituents to passing life-changing legislation, the work we have done has truly mattered.

Only in America can a first-generation immigrant who speaks English as a third language rise to become a Member of this body.

When my parents fled communist North Korea for freedom in South Korea, they never would have imagined that their daughter would be standing here today.

On behalf of my beautiful, diverse district, my team and I have accomplished a great deal. We have delivered significant funding to improve our Orange County beaches through sand replenishment. We have also provided important infrastructure investments to our communities. We have expanded healthcare access by expanding telehealth coverage. We have led the fight for lower taxes.

Legislation I have sponsored on its way to becoming law includes legislation to expand language access in telehealth for non-English speakers and expand mental health support for youth in foster care.

I have been a strong advocate for defending human rights across the globe and taking on the communist regimes who abuse them.

These accomplishments are not mine alone. I want to give a heartfelt thank you to the members of leadership, committee chairs, and my colleagues who helped pave the way, and, of course, my wonderful staff.

Speakers KEVIN MCCARTHY and MIKE JOHNSON have ably led this body and supported me every step of the way. The same is true of STEVE SCALISE, TOM EMMER, and ELISE STEFANIK. My friend CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS has also been a great mentor to me and helped me along the way. My colleagues in the California delegation have likewise joined me in supporting causes important to our State.

I have been also blessed to serve on great committees. On the Ways and Means Committee, we have promoted an economy that benefits all Americans. Under the leadership of chairman JASON SMITH, Congress will reauthorize the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act with improvements that benefit American workers and job creators.

We have also done great work on the Education and the Workforce Committee to promote quality education for all students. This includes fighting

the rise of anti-Semitism on campuses, a fight that Chairwoman VIRGINIA FOXX has strongly championed. Dr. Foxx has been a partner for me in helping reduce Communist China's influence in education through my DETERRENT Act.

As we have talked about so much on the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, the CCP is truly America's number one adversary.

I have passed legislation to ban our military from using seaports reliant on Chinese technology. I have also worked to strengthen Taiwan's military readiness through the TAIWAN Security Act.

Congress must keep their eye on the CCP and build on this progress.

For now, I will be heading back to my home in sunny California. While my time in Congress is ending, I will always look for ways to serve the country that I love. I will always treasure the friendships I have made both in Washington and Southern California. Like all journeys, this one is ending for a new one to begin.

#### AUTO INSURANCE

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, my residents still pay the highest auto insurance rates in the Nation. Auto insurance discrimination continues to keep our residents in the cycle of poverty.

I want to ask the American people and the auto insurance industry: What does your education level, your marital status, your occupation, your employment status, your credit score, your ZIP Code, or your homeownership status have to do with whether or not you are a good driver?

Right now, the auto insurance industry is determining rates based on these nondriving factors, so I introduced the Prohibit Auto Insurance Discrimination Act with my good colleague Representative WATSON COLEMAN. One of the factors, again, to determine driving ability should not be these nondriving factors, yet my residents still see and face higher insurance rates.

University of Michigan's Poverty Solutions did a study showing somebody with a DUI, driving under the influence, was paying three times less than the person with no DUI violation. The difference was the person with the DUI had a higher credit score than the person that had a better driving record. Again, these factors should not be determining people's auto insurance rates.

Again, that is why it is important for us to be able to support the PAID Act to prohibit auto insurance discrimination. My colleagues must join me in passing this important critical bill to address these shameless practices by the auto insurance industry.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY IS VITAL

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, Social Security is a vital part of our social safety net in our country. It keeps more people out of poverty than any other governmental program, nearly 23 million people.

I wasn't surprised when the number one question and concern that was brought up in our telephone townhall throughout the district—over 9,000 people participated—was what is going to happen to Social Security. For most seniors, Social Security is their largest source of income.

Cutting Social Security would be a disastrous policy choice for our communities, and it would absolutely be a choice that is decided here, not a necessity.

We should be strengthening and expanding Social Security, not cutting it.

That is why I support the Social Security Expansion Act. It is very critical because it would increase benefits by \$2,400 annually and ensure that program is funded for the next 75 years.

We must protect Social Security. Every senior in our country deserves to retire with dignity, and every person living with a disability deserves to live with economic security. I won't let them cut Social Security on my watch.

#### WATER IS LIFE

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, we all know that water is life. Safe, accessible, affordable drinking water is a human right.

In 2021, I was proud to be able to work with the Energy and Commerce Committee and Congresswoman DINGELL to establish the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program where we helped establish a \$1.2 billion program to help many of our families pay off their water bills and debts and keep people's water connected, especially during the pandemic.

This program saved countless lives. Millions of Americans today are still struggling to keep up with their water bills and many have their water shut off.

We introduced the Half-Century Update for Water Access and Affordability Act to establish a permanent low-income drinking water assistance program within the EPA. Our program will dedicate funding every single year to keep people's water flowing. We do it for gas. We do it for electricity. Why don't we do it for water? The program will include reconnection assistance, but what I also love, it will help with water efficiency upgrades like plumbing repairs to many of our families that live in old homes.

We are going to set up a community advisory committee made up of residents, nonprofits, utilities, and other local stakeholders to help advise the EPA how to implement this program more effectively.

Mr. Speaker, the H2O UP Act will ban the practice of water shutoffs as punishment for not being able to afford your bills. This is the richest country in the world, and we know it is just

simply inhumane to have many of our families not have access to water.

Watching a couple in their seventies in the city of Detroit after working all their lives retire to have to melt snow in a white bucket so they can flush their toilet is inhumane. Again, it is inhumane for us not to have a program to help people with their water bills.

Congress just approved nearly a trillion dollars for weapons in war. Please, for all of my colleagues, I don't want to hear that we don't have the money to help our families here at home. We must again ensure access to water. It is critical for public health. It is critical for our families.

#### BIDDING FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

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

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House one final time. When I came to Washington, a former colleague of mine told our freshman class how fortunate we all were to be part of this body. I will never forget him saying he always felt humbled each and every time he saw the Capitol and when he walked on this floor. He warned us all: The day that you don't feel humbled walking on this floor or when you see the Capitol, it is time to retire and go home.

This comment stuck with me, and I still get chills every time I walk on this floor or I see this glorious Capitol at night.

In this very Chamber, so much of the history of our country and the history of the modern world has been made: The decision to start and end wars, the decision to end slavery, the decision to give women the right to vote, and much more debated and agreed upon in this very room.

I never thought that I would end up here. I spent most of my life building small businesses, growing my family, and doing what I could do to give back to my community. Then I got frustrated with the direction of our government and the decisions our leaders were making at that time, so I got involved and tried to make a difference.

If I could go back in time to when I was 25 years old and tell myself that I would be standing here on this floor today, I never would have believed myself. It is impossible to believe. In fact, all the odds are against me. In fact, I have better odds of starting on an NBA basketball team than I do to be a Member of Congress. Those are some pretty large odds.

□ 1130

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the accomplishments that my team and I have made over the past 4 years. We have written and passed legislation that has unleashed American energy, protected Alabama's resources, reduced the size and scope of the Federal Government, and returned millions of tax dollars back home for important projects.

We have also helped countless veterans get the benefits they earned, recovered millions of dollars from the IRS, expedited hundreds of passport requests, secured FEMA disaster relief after natural disasters, protected small businesses from unnecessary red tape, and on and on.

As any Member of this body knows, none of this would be possible without the countless hours of our hard-working, talented, and dedicated staff. To each of my current staff and to each of my former staff, I thank them. I thank them for their dedication to Alabama's First Congressional District and for being part of my team.

My hopes and prayers for this country are so positive knowing that we have a generation of young people like them and with their passion coming up behind us.

I lovingly give most all of them nicknames, like Junior, Little Bubba, Chilia, Cooper, Bogie Bogie, Chief, Busy, Jesus, and, yes, my favorite vegan, T-Bone. They are all forever part of Team Carl. I am proud to have played a role in each of their careers.

I also could not have done anything without the love and support of my wife, Tina, and our family. My family has always believed in me and supported me, and I look forward to spending more time with them very soon.

Tina, start your grinning because Big Daddy is headed home.

To the folks in the First District, I thank them for giving me the chance to represent them, to bring our shared values to Washington. I do not take lightly the job that each of them has entrusted me with, and I am grateful for the opportunity.

The future of south Alabama, our entire State, and our Nation is so bright. I truly believe our best days are ahead of us.

God bless Alabama. God bless the United States of America.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Bible Week. I am proud to be able to stand up here and proclaim my own devotion and adherence to the Bible and Biblical principles.

I appreciate my colleague, Mr. DOUG LAMBORN of Colorado, who led a Special Order on National Bible Week last night here in this Chamber. I am sorry I wasn't able to take part at that particular time, but I wanted to continue that.

Mr. LAMBORN has been a faithful servant in making sure that National Bible Week is always proclaimed and recognized each year here, and I appreciate him as a colleague. Of course, we will miss him, as he has decided to go off to other pastures from this body. God's blessings on him and his family.

As we know, during this National Bible Week, throughout American history, the Bible has been a guiding light, shaping our culture, government, and moral foundations to the good.

We hear a lot of talk about separation of church and state. That isn't really a truism. It is more about the State shall not establish a particular religion, but it is certainly fine for the Founders and our leaders to use that as a guiding principle. Indeed, they did, from Washington all the way through.

As we reflect on this week, it is important to remember that the Word of God has always provided clarity, strength, and direction to this Nation. In Psalms 119:105, we are reminded: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

In a world filled with uncertainty and confusion, the Bible serves as a beacon of truth and wisdom. It calls us to live with integrity, to honor one another, and to acknowledge the divine responsibility we have to God. Indeed, the Bible is the inerrant Word of God.

As leaders, citizens, and people of faith, we must continually seek guidance from our Scripture. It is extremely important and a guide in my own life, as well as that of my family.

The Word of God is not just a historical document, although it has always been found to be proven historically accurate. It is also the foundation of our morals and the source of wisdom that has indeed shaped our country.

During National Bible Week, let us renew our commitment to uphold these principles to guide our actions with the truth of the Bible and to honor God in all we do.

On top of that, it will soon be Christmas as this body tries to complete its work for the end of the year. Let's remember the reason for the season, as it is put. That is the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amongst all the hustle and bustle of Christmastime, let's not lose sight of the fact that, indeed, that is why we celebrate.

Merry Christmas.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

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

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a national bestseller, a book that has changed the world and had a tremendous impact on my life, the Bible.

I regularly pray the Apostle Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 5:9: "Whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please Him."

I want God to be glorified through every meeting I go to, every speech I give, and every vote I make. My husband and I strive to instill Biblical values in our seven children, and that foundation has provided them with the stability they need to weather life's storms, something they are passing on to our 20 grandchildren.

I firmly believe the Word of God is the answer to any problem we face in life, providing clear distinctions between good and evil.

Psalms 119:105 says: "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Our Nation is floundering because we have neglected eternal truth. We no longer respect life, the distinctions between men and women, the beauty of marriage and family, the value of hard work, or the danger of falling into debt.

That is why following God's Word is essential to the success of our Republic. George Washington said: "It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible."

Psalms 18:30 says: "As for God, his way is perfect. The Word of the Lord is proven. He is a shield to all who trust in Him."

Whatever problems we face, political, professional, or personal, the answers are found in the Bible. Tyrants have tried to destroy it, but the Word of God endures forever.

I urge my colleagues to take a few moments each day to read a couple of chapters, a psalm, and a proverb. I am confident it will change their life and our Nation.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN WALDIE GULLEN

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of John Waldie Gullen, a lifelong Lewisboro resident and World War II veteran who passed away on December 1, less than 3 weeks after friends, family, and neighbors gathered to celebrate his 100th birthday.

John Waldie Gullen was born on November 12, 1924. He attended a one-room schoolhouse on Schoolhouse Road and graduated from Katonah High School in 1943.

After graduating, he joined the U.S. Army, eventually deploying and fighting in the European theater, where he served as a combat infantryman from 1944 until 1946.

He was a proud member of the 70th Infantry Division, known as the Trailblazers, and his heroic actions helped turn back Germany's last offensive operations of the war in northeastern France, earning him the Bronze Star medal.

Upon returning home, he married his high school sweetheart, Barbara Miller, with whom he was faithfully married for 72 years. He was the father of two sons, a grandfather of four grandchildren and great-grandfather of five.

John Waldie Gullen's life was marked by service on and off the battlefield. He continued to serve in the Army Reserves upon returning home from the European theater of World War II, and he was a member of the South Salem Volunteer Fire Department for 80 years.

A successful businessowner and real estate investor, Mr. Gullen helped found the Lewisboro Lions Club in 1958. His service to his country, community, and family spanned decades, and he was an inspiration to the many who knew him. I was proud to be among those blessed to have met him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that when the House adjourns today, it does so in the memory of John Waldie Gullen, a true hero of our Greatest Generation.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MARIE LORENZINI

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Marie Lorenzini, a beloved leader and devoted public servant from Nyack, New York, whose passing is deeply felt by all who knew her.

Marie's service to the village of Nyack spanned decades, including her roles as trustee, deputy mayor, and liaison to the Nyack Parks Commission. In fact, she was the second longest serving trustee in the history of Nyack.

Even after leaving the village board, she continued her work as a parks commissioner, leaving an indelible mark on the community she cherished.

Known for her quick wit, warm smile, and big heart, Marie dedicated herself to serving others, whether through her commitment to her church, her work with the Nyack Soup Angels, or her unwavering advocacy for her neighbors. Her passion, humor, and friendship enriched the lives of all who had the privilege to know her.

Marie was truly one of a kind. While her loss leaves a profound void, her legacy of service and love for her community will live on in Nyack and beyond. May her memory always be a blessing.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH WILLIAM COTTER

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Joseph William Cotter, a visionary leader and beloved father who passed away unexpectedly on October 25, 2024, at the age of 66.

Joe was a proud father to Lydia and William, a devoted partner to Jane Carroll, and a son of both Purdys and New York City.

□ 1145

A graduate of Williams College and NYU Stern School of Business, Joe co-founded National Resources in 1988, transforming urban and industrial sites into thriving communities. His innovative spirit and ability to see potential where others could not defined his life's work.

Joe was a man of many passions, an all-England rugby player at King's College, a basketball leader at Oxford, and an eternal optimist with a global perspective. His intellect, wit, and boundless energy brought people together, whether on the field, at home, or in his professional life.

Joe's legacy lives on through his family, his transformative projects, and the countless lives he touched with his warmth and vision.

May his memory inspire us to dream big and to find joy in every step of the journey.

Joe will be missed by all who knew him in our Hudson Valley community that he impacted so greatly for so many years.

#### RECOGNIZING CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this year's Carmel High School football team, which won the California 5-AA State football championship.

It was not just the first time that a team from the central coast won 15-0, but also an amazing 48-7 win over El Capitan High School from the San Diego area, a high school that is more than double the size of Carmel High's 800 students.

Despite that small number, the Padres came up big on the gridiron, averaging 50 points a game in five postseason wins and holding El Capitan to a season low of one touchdown.

Now, I could highlight that the Padres have a player who got a full scholarship to the University of Alabama next year and who actually grew up playing youth soccer with my daughter, who I am sure if you know my daughter, Mr. Speaker, whipped that lineman into shape, but if you look closely at the entire team of the Padres, only a couple will go on to play at a 4-year college.

Coach Golden Anderson and the entire staff are very proud of the Padres, but they will be the first to tell you that they are a seasonal football program where 95 percent of the team are multisport players.

Coach Anderson will also tell you, Mr. Speaker, that when they started the season, they weren't thinking about a State title. They just wanted to win.

As someone who played football at Carmel High for all 4 of his high school years, I understand that attitude, but I admit that we didn't even come close to winning a league title, let alone a State title.

So, I stand here, Mr. Speaker, not just as the proud Representative of California's 19th Congressional District, but I am also a proud Padre, a proud Padre parent, and absolutely honored to say congratulations to Carmel High, to their State champion football team, and to all the Carmel Padre community.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 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 pro tempore (Mr. GIMENEZ) at noon.

#### PRAYER

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

Immortal, invisible, and only wise God, in this season of darkening days and sober skies, Your light seems inaccessible, Your presence hidden from our eyes. Though we do not see You, we love You and call upon You to reveal yourself as light in our darkness.

Though we walk in life-quenching shadows and cannot see Your hand to guide us, yet we believe in You and trust You to lead us on paths of righteousness.

Strengthen our faith that, in the face of all that overwhelms and undermines our best intentions, we would be filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy that dispels all gloom and releases us from the grip of despair.

This day and always, cultivate in us the hope of salvation, that through us, Your light of love would shine.

In the name of You, O Lord, our redeemer, our sustainer, our guide, and our friend, we offer our prayers.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. BUDZINSKI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BUDZINSKI led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

#### RECOGNIZING PHILIP REGULSKI ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding commitment of Ridgway, Pennsylvania, volunteer fireman Philip Regulski.

Mr. Regulski has tirelessly served the Ridgway Fire Department for over 65 years.

Starting in March of 1959, Mr. Regulski has served as the department

treasurer, sat on the Ridgway Fire Department Board of Directors, was the representative of the Tri-County Firemen's Association, and enjoyed volunteering at the department's Tuesday-night bingo.

As a former volunteer firefighter, I understand how important Mr. Regulski's service to the community has been and how much of an impact he has had on so many people's lives.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank and congratulate Mr. Regulski on his 65 years of service to the community of Ridgway and the 15th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. I am proud to represent such incredible leaders and public servants like Mr. Regulski. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

#### INVEST IN BLACK WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

(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 today to honor the contributions of Black women entrepreneurs.

Black women own approximately 2.1 million businesses, representing 52.1 percent of all Black-owned businesses. Despite challenges, they continue to drive innovation for communities and create lasting legacies.

Kim Roxie is the founder of LAMIK Beauty, which started with a \$500 investment and was inspired by her mother, who passed from breast cancer, to create natural, safe, paraffin-free makeup.

MELODRAMA Boutique is a pillar of empowerment and sisterhood in Houston, featuring local fashion and empowering local designers.

I also honor Kim Aitch, founder of Camera Ready, a beauty, fashion, and wellness lifestyle brand. She is a force in the industry and also president of the Citywide Beauticians & Barbers Association that uplifts entrepreneurs across Houston.

These are but a few examples of extraordinarily talented Black women in business who join the many who employ over 528,000 people and generate \$98 billion in revenue for our Nation.

There could be more. They lack access to capital, and they often are left out of venture capital funds, where less than 2 percent of those dollars go to Black women. Yet, still, with great determination, they carry on.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we continue to invest in Black women entrepreneurs.

#### HONORING DENISE KAREN PENCE

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my wife of 43 years tomorrow, Denise Karen Pence.

She is the mother of Nicole, Lauren, Emily, and John; the mother-in-law of

Jason, Chris, and Giovanna; and the grandmother of Emma, Andrew, Colin, Kate, Matthew, Mary, Luke, Gregory, Jack, and Vivienne.

She is the love of my life, and I thank her for all of her love and support over these last 43 years, particularly for the last 6 years as I have served here.

God has blessed me with Denise Karen Pence.

#### CELEBRATING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL CHRIS CALLAHAN

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Rhode Island Adjutant General Chris Callahan, who is retiring at the end of this year after four decades of service to our State and country.

General Callahan joined the Army National Guard in 1984 and quickly ascended up the ranks. He served as headquarters commander for the First Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, brigade commander for the 56th Troop Command, and commander of the Task Force Dragonwing Aviation Battalion in Iraq.

In 2015, he was named the 44th Adjutant General of Rhode Island and commanding general of the Rhode Island National Guard.

Under his leadership, the Rhode Island National Guard deployed more than 3,000 soldiers and airmen on missions across the globe, ran point on Rhode Island's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, providing mass testing and administering hundreds of thousands of vaccinations. He also activated thousands of soldiers and airmen to respond to blizzards and hurricanes, establish warming shelters, and fight wildfires in Rhode Island, among many other missions.

General Callahan's exemplary service to our country was made possible by the support of his wife, Donna; and his children, Devin, Grace, and Katie.

Together, they kept Rhode Island National Guard's promise to be: Always ready, always there.

I thank Chris Callahan for his service to our country and our State.

#### CONGRATULATING IOWA STATE SENATOR CHRIS COURNOYER

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to my good friend, Senator Chris Cournoyer, on her appointment as Iowa's new Lieutenant Governor.

This is a historic moment, as Iowa now has two women in the top two executive positions for the first time. It

is a testament to the strength, leadership, and dedication of women across our State.

Governor Reynolds has made an excellent choice in appointing Chris to this important role. I had the pleasure of serving alongside Chris in the Iowa Senate and have seen firsthand the kind of leader she is.

Chris has been a tireless advocate for education, technology, innovation, conservative budgeting, tax cuts, and accountability in government during her time in the Iowa Senate. Her ability to roll up her sleeves and find practical solutions makes her uniquely qualified to serve our State in this capacity.

From her leadership on the school board of the Pleasant Valley School District, to her work in the technology sector, Chris has proven herself time and time again. I am proud to call her a friend and excited to see the continued success she will bring to Iowa in this new role.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Senator Cournoyer. Iowa is fortunate to have her.

#### CONGRATULATING ROBERT GAO, NATIONAL STUDENT POET

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

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert Gao from Champaign-Urbana on being selected as one of five National Student Poets.

The National Student Poet Program is one of our Nation's highest honors for youth poets presenting original work. It is an incredible accomplishment that reflects Robert's talent, artistry, and the power of his work to inspire others.

Robert says that his writing is influenced by his family and exploring his identity. He described that he fell in love with poetry because it allowed him to put his soul onto paper in a way that nonfiction writing couldn't.

Previously, Robert has been recognized by The New York Times, the National Young Artist Foundation, and the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers.

We are all so proud of Robert and cannot wait to see him continue to grow as an author and an artist.

#### CONGRATULATING MACON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Macon County High School football team for securing their first State championship.

The Tigers advance to the playoffs often. They have done so 20 times in the last 55 years. This year, they captured the big Class 4A BlueCross Bowl title after defeating Melrose 45-15.

Twin brothers, Zach and Gabe Borders, are credited as standouts. Gabe ran for 117 yards and completed his team's only pass for a touchdown. His brother, Zach, earned MVP after his 250-yard performance, which included four rushing scores in the second half.

The Tigers were fortunate to have both brothers on the field, especially considering that Zach has undergone surgery and has pins after multiple breaks to his collarbone.

I congratulate all of the players, their families, and Coach Kyle Shoulders, and I congratulate all who prayed over the health of this senior class.

Go Tigers.

#### END GUN VIOLENCE IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a crisis in the Virgin Islands.

On December 13, a shooting claimed the life of another of my constituents. My deepest condolences go to the families and loved ones of each of the 42 victims who have died by homicide in 2024 in the Virgin Islands.

Throughout the Caribbean, gun violence, driven by unemployment and drug and human trafficking, is pervasive.

During a recent codel to Barbados, led by Leader JEFFRIES, we heard similar concerns from our Caribbean allies.

The Senate must pass the ONDCP Reauthorization Act, which includes my Caribbean Border Counternarcotics Strategy Act, to combat the illegal trafficking of deadly drugs which traverse through American territories in the Caribbean.

In the Virgin Islands, 93 percent of guns recovered by law enforcement were trafficked illegally into the territory, and the homicide rate is nine times higher than the continental United States.

We need our Federal partners, especially ATF, to provide resources and maintain a presence in the territory.

#### MAKING AMERICA GREAT AGAIN

(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, led by President-elect Donald Trump, House Republicans are looking forward to 2025 and the 119th Congress with great enthusiasm, advancing a conservative agenda.

With the new Republican majority in the Senate, we will work hard on behalf of American families to deliver solutions to drive down the crippling costs of inflation, eliminate regulations, lower energy prices, and provide for a reduction in Federal overreach in schools, and much more.

House Republicans are committed to securing the borders, promoting family values, supporting small businesses, creating jobs, and backing our allies while establishing peace through strength.

House Republicans, led by the leadership of Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, will resume, making America great again.

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

□ 1215

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MAYOR MARK MURPHY

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life of my good friend, Mayor Mark Murphy, and to recognize his lifetime of service to the city of Orange.

Mark was a loving husband, a lifelong Orange County resident, and a committed public servant. He served our community for more than 30 years as the Orange County Transit Authority chairman, city of Orange councilmember, and then city of Orange mayor.

It is because of his love for his neighborhoods and his community that he earned the nickname "Mr. Orange."

Mark's passion was improving our community's parks and recreation centers. He oversaw the construction of Grijalva Sports Center, the expansion of the Orange library, and the acquisition of several park spaces.

While many know Mark for his strong advocacy, his voice as a singer is less known. He actively participated in his church choir and even sang on stage during park concerts.

Mark was also known as a Harley-Davidson bike rider.

Mr. Speaker, we love Mark and his legacy continues.

#### CALIFORNIA NEEDS A WATER STORAGE SUPPLY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I can't emphasize enough how important it is for the ag economy and for the security of this country that my home State of California provides so many of these essential crops in high percentages. Many of these crops you see, 90 to 99 percent, even 100 percent, are grown in my home State.

What does that underline for you? It underlines the need for my home State to have a water supply to grow those crops. Each year it seems more and

more is being taken away regulatorily from farmers and given to environmental purposes.

We need to build more storage in my home State. We need to build what is called Sites Reservoir. We need to raise Shasta Dam. We need to look at other projects. We also need for the pumps at the delta to be running full blast at this time of year when we have this excess water running out to the ocean and filling up the San Luis Reservoir so we have that water supply for the southern part of the State in the San Joaquin Valley.

We need to do all these things in order to ensure that we have the crops to put the food on the table for Americans. At this time with the ag economy suffering so much across the country, we need to do everything we can to make their jobs easier.

#### MILITARY BOWL

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the East Carolina University Pirates will be taking on the North Carolina State University Wolfpack in what is sure to be an exciting 2024 Go Bowling Military Bowl at the Navy-Marine Memorial Stadium in Annapolis on December 28.

It will be an evening of incredible State pride, sportsmanship, and hard-hitting football by an intense in-State rivalry.

The Go Bowling Military Bowl matches top teams from the Atlantic Coast Conference and American Athletic Conference. Above all, it aims to benefit active and former servicemembers and their families. It will be fantastic to see two North Carolina teams in an excellent end to the season, especially for those players who are graduating.

It should not be any surprise who I will be cheering on, Coach Harrell and the ESU Pirates. Loyal and bold. We are purple and gold.

Aargh.

#### CONGRATULATING ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ AND KIONNE MCGHEE

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

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my dear friends and colleagues, Anthony Rodriguez and Kionne McGhee, the new chairman and vice chairman of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners.

I look forward to continuing our work together to deliver results for the people of Miami-Dade County.

With my colleagues on the commission, I worked to deliver the largest tax cuts in Miami-Dade County history when I was the mayor, and being mayor of Miami-Dade County has been

one of the highlights of my career in public service.

I understand firsthand just how effective both Chairman Rodriguez and Vice Chairman McGhee are, and I am confident in their ability to lead with conviction for the community that we represent.

Mr. Speaker, I thank both of them and wish them Godspeed.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF OF STAFF BETSY ARNOLD MARR

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my unbelievably talented chief of staff, Betsy Arnold Marr, as she retires from the House of Representatives after more than 25 years of service.

Betsy has worked in Congress through some of our Nation's biggest moments in recent history: September 11, passage of the Affordable Care Act, the pandemic, and January 6.

Through it all, she has been a thoughtful and dynamic leader who helped navigate it all with grace, talent, and intelligence.

Before her time in the House, Betsy developed her expertise in communications and press relations, working for the Minnesota Democratic Party on campaigns and then as a reporter.

Since coming to the House, she has worked for four Members, using her skills to help run each office and mentor her colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have worked for—I mean with Betsy for the last 10 years. We will miss her dearly and wish her and her husband, Charles, well in their next steps.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MAYOR MARK MURPHY

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mark Murphy, who recently passed away. Known as "Mr. Orange," Mark was a lifelong resident of the city of Orange, born at St. Joseph Hospital, and graduating from Orange High School.

He served the city for decades on the City Planning Commission, the City Council, as mayor, and on the Board of Orange County Transportation Authority, all while working full time for over 33 years at Hewlett-Packard.

He was everywhere in Orange. He also was a talented musician, singing in the choir at First Presbyterian Church and playing guitar at concerts in the park.

Mr. Speaker, I send my deepest condolences to his wife, Vikki, and moth-

er, Lois. I join our Orange community in honoring his memory and a life very well lived.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF CHIEF OF STAFF SAM PRITCHARD

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

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor my outgoing chief of staff, Sam Pritchard, and thank him for his service to Iowa's Second Congressional District.

Sam is a Cedar Rapids native and there is no one more passionate about serving their home State. He has been a trusted confidant for me since joining our team but has also become a dear friend, always offering steady advice with a good dad joke thrown in every now and then for good measure.

I also thank Sam's wife, Katie, and his children, Clare and John Thomas, for sharing Sam with us over the years. We couldn't be more thrilled for your family in this new chapter.

Mr. Speaker, even though Sam is leaving the Hill, we know he will always be a member of our team. I thank him for his service to Iowa and his service to our country.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATURNER). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

#### DETECTION EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY EVALUATION TO COUNTER THE THREAT OF FENTANYL AND XYLAZINE ACT OF 2024

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 8663) 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.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

Senate amendments:  
Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLES.

*This Act may be cited as the "Detection Equipment and Technology Evaluation to Counter the Threat of Fentanyl and Xylazine Act of 2024" or the "DETECT Fentanyl and Xylazine Act of 2024".*

##### SEC. 2. ENHANCING THE CAPACITY TO DETECT AND IDENTIFY DRUGS SUCH AS FENTANYL AND XYLAZINE.

*Section 302 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 182) is amended—*



(1) in paragraph (13), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(15) carrying out, in coordination with the Drug Enforcement Administration, research, development, testing, evaluation, and cost-benefit analyses to improve the safety, effectiveness, and efficiency of equipment and the effectiveness and efficiency of reference libraries for use by Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies for the accurate detection of drugs, such as fentanyl and xylazine, including—

“(A) portable equipment that can detect and identify drugs with minimal or no handling of the sample;

“(B) equipment that can separate complex mixtures containing low concentrations of drugs and high concentrations of cutting agents into their component parts to enable signature extraction for field identification and detection; and

“(C) technologies that use machine learning or artificial intelligence (as defined in section 5002 of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 (15 U.S.C. 9401)) and other techniques to predict whether the substances in a sample are controlled substance analogues or other new psychoactive substances not yet included in available reference libraries.”.

### SEC. 3. REQUIREMENTS.

In carrying out section 302(15) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2, of the Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall—

(1) follow the recommendations, guidelines, and best practices described in the Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Framework (NIST AI 100-1) or any successor document published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and

(2) establish the Directorate of Science and Technology’s research, development, testing, evaluation, and cost-benefit analysis priorities under such section 302(15) based on the latest available information, including specific drugs identified as threats in—

(A) the latest Homeland Threat Assessment published by the Department of Homeland Security;

(B) the latest State and Territory Report on Enduring and Emerging Threats published by the Drug Enforcement Administration; or

(C) any successor documents.

### SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act may be construed to limit the authority of agencies currently managing, overseeing, or otherwise involved in drug equipment and reference libraries.

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to require the Science and Technology Directorate in the Department of Homeland Security to develop greater capacity to detect and identify illicit substances in very low concentrations.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, once again, with a strong voice of support for H.R. 8663, the DETECT Fentanyl and Xylazine Act of 2024. This critical piece of legislation will equip DHS S&T with the authority it needs to improve the safety, effectiveness, and efficiency of drug detection equipment and reference libraries to protect frontline DHS personnel who seek to protect our Nation from the flow of illicit fentanyl and other drugs amidst the catastrophic mess at our southwest border.

I am glad that the Senate took swift action and passed this measure and concur with the amendment, which requires DHS to coordinate with the DEA and upholds the authority of other Federal agencies utilizing drug equipment and reference libraries.

I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA) for his diligent work on this legislation in the House, as well as the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA).

I also thank Senator CORNYN of Texas for working across Chambers and championing this important legislation through the Senate.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill so we can get it to the President’s desk as soon as possible, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8663, the Detection Equipment and Technology Evaluation to Counter the Threat of Fentanyl and Xylazine Act of 2024 is an important piece of legislation that enables the DHS Science and Technology Directorate to improve the capabilities of law enforcement at every level in identifying and combating illicit substances.

This bipartisan bill demonstrates a strong commitment to equipping law enforcement with the tools needed to combat the proliferation of dangerous substances like fentanyl and xylazine.

The bill specifically directs DHS S&T to develop and evaluate advanced drug detection technologies like machines that can break down and analyze complex drug mixtures and AI systems to spot new drug threats.

These initiatives aim to enhance the precision and efficiency of drug detection, empowering law enforcement to respond effectively to evolving challenges.

Furthermore, H.R. 8663, prioritizes collaboration with agencies like the DEA and adherence to NIST’s artificial intelligence risk management framework, reinforcing the integrity and reliability of the technologies developed.

This bill is an important step in ensuring that DHS prioritizes the development and deployment of cutting-edge technologies to combat the growing threat of dangerous substances like fentanyl and xylazine so DHS will be better equipped to address emerging

drug trends, protect public safety, and support law enforcement efforts nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 8663 as we did in the past, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA).

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for yielding. I was anxious about the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee yielding because his alma mater team, West Point, lost to my alma mater Annapolis this weekend 31-13 at the premier football game, so I appreciate the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the fight against fentanyl and xylazine is a battle that we cannot afford to lose, and right now the United States is at a crossroads.

Our communities are grappling with a devastating crisis as lethal drugs like fentanyl and xylazine continue to wreak havoc across our country.

Today, we have a chance to deliver solutions. The amended version of my DETECT Fentanyl and Xylazine Act is back before us and it is a stronger, more comprehensive tool to tackle this epidemic.

Every year, over 100,000 precious American lives are lost to drug overdoses.

In 2023 alone, opioids were responsible for more than 81,000 deaths. Fentanyl, accounting for nearly 90 percent of synthetic opioid fatalities, claimed tens of thousands of lives, shattering families and leaving communities in mourning.

These numbers are tragic reminders of the lives we are losing every day.

□ 1230

Now, xylazine, a tranquilizer known on the streets as tranq, is being mixed with fentanyl, creating an even deadlier and harder to detect combination.

This toxic mix does not spare anyone. It claims lives regardless of age, race, or socioeconomic status. From suburban Long Island to urban centers and rural America, this crisis is everywhere, Mr. Speaker.

Earlier this year, the House passed the DETECT Fentanyl and Xylazine Act with overwhelming bipartisan support. Since then, our Senate colleagues have worked to refine and enhance the legislation to better address the growing threat. Their amendments make a strong bill even stronger by ensuring our efforts are as coordinated and effective as possible.

The updated bill includes important improvements.

One, it mandates greater collaboration between the Department of Homeland Security and the Drug Enforcement Administration, ensuring that expertise and resources are shared in this fight.

Two, it prioritizes accuracy, efficiency, and innovation in drug detection technologies, including improving

reference libraries to ensure no deadly substance escapes detection.

Three, Mr. Speaker, it aligns research priorities with specific threats, incorporating not only DEA reports but also the latest Homeland Threat Assessment to address emerging challenges.

Finally, four, it preserves the authorities of Federal agencies managing detection equipment and reference libraries, maintaining a seamless response across departments.

These changes reflect the urgency and complexity of the crisis that we as a nation face.

This legislation will empower our law enforcement officers, public health workers, and communities by developing cutting-edge technology to detect and intercept dangerous substances; strengthening partnerships between Federal, State, and local agencies; and staying ahead of drug traffickers' tactics through innovation and advanced research.

This bill is more than just policy. It is a commitment to saving American lives.

Mr. Speaker, every overdose prevented means a family spared from grief, a child with a parent, and a community with hope.

I express my deep appreciation for my good friend, Congressman LOU CORREA, for joining me in championing this important legislation. His steadfast dedication to this cause along with Senators JOHN CORNYN, JON OSSOFF, and KYRSTEN SINEMA's thoughtful contributions are getting the bill over the finish line and onto the President's desk.

I also thank the many organizations representing law enforcement professionals, public health advocates, and local communities. Their input has been invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, the clock is ticking, and lives are at stake. Let us come together once again to pass the amended DETECT Fentanyl and Xylazine Act and send it to the President's desk.

Let us give our law enforcement the tools that they need, and let us stand with our communities. Let us take a giant leap toward ending this deadly epidemic.

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

Republicans and Democrats alike recognize the challenges facing law enforcement in the detection of dangerous drugs like fentanyl and xylazine.

H.R. 8663 is a step in the right direction, and we should send it to the President's desk today.

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

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

Again, I strongly urge my colleagues to concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 8663, and I appreciate the New Yorkers who contributed to this bill as well as Mr. CORREA. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 8663.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. 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.

#### BEAGLE BRIGADE ACT OF 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 759) to authorize the National Detector Dog Training Center, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 759

*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 "Beagle Brigade Act of 2023".

#### SEC. 2. NATIONAL DETECTOR DOG TRAINING CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a National Detector Dog Training Center (referred to in this Act as the "Center").

(b) DUTIES.—The Center shall have the following duties:

(1) Training dogs for the purpose of safeguarding domestic agricultural and natural resources from foreign and invasive pests and diseases.

(2) Training human handlers to successfully select and train dogs for the purpose described in paragraph (1).

(3) Collaborating with relevant Federal agencies, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection, to safeguard domestic agricultural and natural resources.

(4) Collaborating with external stakeholders, including State departments of agriculture, local and county agricultural officials, private sector entities, and other relevant non-Federal partners.

(5) Ensuring the health and welfare of all dogs under the care of the Center, including by ensuring access to necessary veterinary care, adequate shelter, and proper nutrition.

(6) Providing opportunities for private adoption of retirement-age trained dogs and dogs that do not complete training.

(7) Any other duties necessary to safeguard domestic agricultural and natural resources from foreign and invasive pests and diseases, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

#### SEC. 3. REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, shall submit to Congress a report that contains—

(1) a description of current and emerging threats to domestic agricultural and natural resources from foreign pests and diseases within the purview of the operations of the Center;

(2) an examination of the role that the Center plays in the protection against foreign pests and diseases;

(3) a description of improvements needed in Federal programs to minimize threats from foreign pests and diseases within the purview of the operations of the Center, including strengthened coordination among the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and other relevant Federal agencies;

(4) recommendations to strengthen the capabilities of the Center in protecting against foreign pests and diseases; and

(5) recommendations to improve—

(A) the dog procurement procedures of the Center; and

(B) private adoption opportunities for retirement-age trained dogs and dogs that do not complete training.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. 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 S. 759.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here to support this bill that we are now debating regarding the National Detector Dog Training Center.

This training center serves as an important line of defense in safeguarding America's agricultural and natural resources from harmful pests and diseases. The center in Georgia trains dogs and their handlers to detect prohibited agricultural items like fruits, vegetables, and meats.

These dogs and their handlers then serve at many of our border entry points to prevent such prohibited items from coming into our country and spreading dangerous pests and animal diseases that would have just devastating impacts on our domestic production, actually impacting our ability to feed ourselves, resulting in food insecurity, which affects national security.

While this bill simply codifies the training center that has been in existence since 1984, I am glad to see the center receive the recognition and prioritization it deserves.

I am happy to support this legislation that has been supported by Mr. SANFORD BISHOP. I also appreciate Representative FERGUSON's leadership on this bill in bringing it to the floor. I thank him for his service to Georgia's Third Congressional District.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am proud to rise in support of the Beagle Brigade Act, which is a bipartisan, bicameral bill, the companion of which I led in this Chamber with my colleagues Representatives DREW FERGUSON, DAN KILDEE, and ADRIAN SMITH.

The Senate version, which we consider today, was offered and advanced through the Senate by Senator WARNOCK from Georgia and Senator ERNST from Iowa.

The bill provides authorization for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Detector Dog Training Center, which is located in Newnan, Georgia, and is vital to the protection of American agriculture and helps keep foreign animal and plant pests as well as diseases out of our country.

The U.S. agriculture sector is a \$1 trillion industry constantly under the threat of foreign pests and diseases, such as African swine fever, foot-and-mouth disease, or citrus greening disease that can be introduced through our Nation's ports of entry, including airports, harbors, and mail and cargo facilities. Some of these diseases could cost the American economy tens of billions of dollars to contain and eradicate if they are found to be in the country.

Agriculture detector dogs, known as the beagle brigade, are an important tool in preventing these threats and eradicating them in the event they overcome our safeguards. Our beagle brigade is at work every day at customs screening in the airports for flights after returning from abroad, standing by to alert their handlers of contraband food, live animals, or other products that could harbor foreign pests and pose a threat to domestic crops or livestock.

An ounce of provision is worth a pound of cure. The brigade is well worth its value.

In addition to authorizing the training center, this bill requires the facility to ensure the health and well-being of the dogs under its care and provide opportunities for private adoption of retirement-age training dogs and dogs that did not complete the training.

Detector dogs work their best when they are handled humanely, and establishing this requirement in law would ensure that the facility continues to uphold this expectation.

I am pleased to note that this bill has the support of 50 organizations, representing veterinarians, agricultural producers, and animal health groups.

On a final note, two of my colleagues who helped lead this bill in the House, DREW FERGUSON and DAN KILDEE, are retiring. I am pleased that we can enact this bill as they conclude their extraordinary tenure in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to vote in support of this bill to help protect America's agriculture and our economy, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. FERGUSON).

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. BISHOP, for those kind words. That was much appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1480, the Beagle Brigade Act of 2023. I was proud to join Representative BISHOP in introducing the Beagle Brigade Act, which would provide permanent authorization for the National Detector Dog Training Center located in Newnan, Georgia.

The Beagle Brigade Act would permanently authorize the training center to ensure that America's food supply stays protected from potentially devastating foreign pests and diseases.

The National Detector Dog Training Center in Georgia's Third Congressional District does important work to properly train detector dogs to sniff out prohibited agricultural items in domestic and international trade.

I also thank Senator JONI ERNST and Senator RAPHAEL WARNOCK from Georgia for their work on the Senate companion bill, S. 759. The bipartisan, bicameral effort in support of this legislation was important, and I look forward to the Beagle Brigade Act becoming law.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Representative BISHOP, for yielding and for his work on this legislation.

We do a lot of big, controversial bills. Sometimes, we can actually come together as Democrats and Republicans to get something done that serves the interests and needs of the American people. This is a good example of that.

The Beagle Brigade Act, which I introduced, as has been said, with Representative BISHOP, Representative FERGUSON, and Representative ADRIAN SMITH, will help protect our food supply from foreign pests and disease.

The bill authorizes the National Detector Dog Training Center. This center extensively trains detector dogs and their U.S. Customs and Border Protection handlers to sniff out prohibited agriculture items that could carry foreign plant or animal pests and diseases into our country.

As we have seen over the past year, it is critical that we have processes in place to protect our country and our agriculture system from those prohibited products that could introduce pests or disease.

Authorizing the United States Department of Agriculture's National Detector Dog Training Center ensures that the U.S. has a critical tool in the fight against foreign pests and diseases that have the potential to devastate all sectors of the agricultural economy.

As Representative BISHOP has said, over 50 prominent agriculture, veterinarian, and trade organizations support our legislation.

The center trains dogs, mostly beagles—hence, the name of the bill, our

nickname for it—and their handlers to detect prohibited fruits, vegetables, and meats in international passenger luggage, mailed packages, and vehicles entering the United States.

Dogs are selected from animal shelters, rescue groups, and private owners. Those that retire from the program or do not complete the training are offered for adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad we have come together to advance this important piece of legislation.

□ 1245

It has been said, the most likely path for these dangerous substances coming into our food supply is through those ports of entry. This legislation will have a positive impact in protecting not only public health, but also protecting the industry.

I am grateful to some of the organizations I have worked with on this back in Michigan: the Michigan Milk Producers, the Michigan Pork Producers, and the Michigan Farm Bureau.

I am especially grateful to my colleagues. This is one of the last couple of days that I will serve in the House of Representatives, as has been said. I have been pleased to have good friendships here, and those friendships have developed into the kind of work that we can do together to advance the interests of the American people.

Representative FERGUSON and I have become very good friends over the years. Representative BISHOP and I have a special bond. He helped me through one of my more difficult personal health challenges. I will always be grateful to him for that and grateful for the opportunity to serve with him.

I am particularly happy that we are able to put an exclamation point on our joint service together today by seeing this legislation come to the floor. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, once again, I am just very appreciative to all of the Members who provided the leadership on this piece of legislation. I think when folks hear the name of this bill, they wonder why Congress is dealing with this.

I mean, I kind of like the name actually, Beagle Brigade Act of 2023, but it is not a laughing matter. It is a serious matter. I appreciate the thought that it has and the due diligence that has been put into this bill and the construct of it in terms of really meeting the needs of our Nation.

I mean, it is worth repeating, the bill would officially authorize the existing National Detector Dog Training Center located in Newnan, Georgia. The center trains detector dogs, mostly beagles—not all beagles, but mostly beagles—and their U.S. Customs and Border Protection handlers to detect prohibited agriculture items like fruits and vegetables and meats that could carry foreign plant and animal pest and disease into the United States.

Once that happens, how rapidly those could spread can obviously seriously

impact commodities within the United States and our agriculture industry, and quite frankly, the health and safety of our citizens.

Dogs and their handlers inspect international passenger baggage, mailed packages, and vehicles entering the U.S. The dogs are selected from animal shelters, rescue groups, and private owners. Those that do not complete the training, as well as retirement-aged, trained dogs are offered for private adoptions. The dogs are well cared for from beginning to end.

The bill would also require the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, or APHIS, to prepare a report to Congress no later than 1 year after the date of enactment, including a description of current and emerging pest and disease threats, the role of the center in protecting against those threats, and any recommendations for strengthening that role and the overall center.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, it is a well-thought-out, comprehensive bill that is, I think, of strategic importance to our Nation.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am very, very proud to support the Beagle Brigade Act of 2023, and to have had the opportunity to work with my colleagues, Representatives DREW FERGUSON, DAN KILDEE, and ADRIAN SMITH, and to have the support of our Senators, Senator WARNOCK and Senator ERNST from Iowa.

This is a vital piece of legislation, which protects American agriculture and keeps foreign animal and plant pests, as well as other diseases, out of our country. I think we have done a good day's work today, and I commend my colleagues for their joint efforts.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank those who put this bill forward. I think this example of this piece of legislation illustrates why it is commonly said that a dog is a man's best friend. It really fills an incredible niche here.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on this bill, and I yield back balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 759.

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. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. 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 12 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

AFTER RECESS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

- Motions to suspend the rules and Pass S. 1351;
- Pass S. 3857;
- Concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 8663; and
- Pass S. 759.

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

STOP INSTITUTIONAL CHILD ABUSE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1351) to study and prevent child abuse in youth residential programs, and for other purposes, 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 Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 373, nays 33, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 512]

YEAS—373

- |             |                 |             |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Adams       | Bishop (GA)     | Case        |
| Aderholt    | Bishop (NC)     | Casten      |
| Aguilar     | Blunt Rochester | Castor (FL) |
| Alford      | Bonamici        | Castro (TX) |
| Allen       | Bost            | Cherfilus-  |
| Allred      | Boyle (PA)      | McCormick   |
| Amo         | Brown           | Chu         |
| Amodei      | Brownley        | Ciscomani   |
| Arrington   | Buchanan        | Clark (MA)  |
| Auchincloss | Bucshon         | Clarke (NY) |
| Babin       | Budzinski       | Cleaver     |
| Bacon       | Burgess         | Cohen       |
| Baird       | Bush            | Cole        |
| Balderson   | Calvert         | Collins     |
| Balint      | Caraveo         | Comer       |
| Banks       | Carr            | Connolly    |
| Barr        | Cárdenas        | Correa      |
| Barragán    | Carey           | Costa       |
| Beatty      | Carl            | Courtney    |
| Bentz       | Carson          | Craig       |
| Bera        | Carter (GA)     | Crawford    |
| Bergman     | Carter (LA)     | Crenshaw    |
| Beyer       | Carter (TX)     | Crockett    |
| Bice        | Cartwright      | Crow        |
| Bilirakis   | Casar           | Cuellar     |

- |                 |                 |                |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Curtis          | Kildee          | Posey          |
| D'Esposito      | Kiley           | Pressley       |
| Davids (KS)     | Kilmer          | Quigley        |
| Davidson        | Kim (CA)        | Ramirez        |
| Davis (IL)      | Krishnamoorthi  | Raskin         |
| Davis (NC)      | Kuster          | Reschenthaler  |
| De La Cruz      | Kustoff         | Rogers (AL)    |
| Dean (PA)       | LaHood          | Rogers (KY)    |
| DeGette         | LaLota          | Rose           |
| DeLauro         | LaMalfa         | Ross           |
| DelBene         | Lamborn         | Rouzer         |
| Deluzio         | Landsman        | Ruiz           |
| DeSaulnier      | Langworthy      | Rulli          |
| DesJarlais      | Larsen (WA)     | Ruppersberger  |
| Diaz-Balart     | Larson (CT)     | Rutherford     |
| Dingell         | Latta           | Ryan           |
| Doggett         | LaTurner        | Salazar        |
| Duarte          | Lawler          | Salinas        |
| Duncan          | Lee (CA)        | Sánchez        |
| Edwards         | Lee (FL)        | Sarbanes       |
| Ellzey          | Lee (NV)        | Scalise        |
| Emmer           | Lee (PA)        | Scanlon        |
| Escobar         | Lee Carter      | Schakowsky     |
| Eshoo           | Leger Fernandez | Schneider      |
| Espallat        | Lesko           | Scholten       |
| Estes           | Letlow          | Schrier        |
| Fallon          | Levin           | Schweikert     |
| Feenstra        | Lofgren         | Scott (VA)     |
| Ferguson        | Lopez           | Scott, Austin  |
| Finstad         | Lucas           | Scott, David   |
| Fischbach       | Luetkemeyer     | Sessions       |
| Fitzgerald      | Luna            | Sewell         |
| Fitzpatrick     | Luttrell        | Sherman        |
| Fleischmann     | Lynch           | Sherrill       |
| Fletcher        | Mace            | Simpson        |
| Flood           | Magaziner       | Slotkin        |
| Fong            | Malliotakis     | Smith (MO)     |
| Foster          | Maloy           | Smith (NE)     |
| Foushee         | Mann            | Smith (NJ)     |
| Fox             | Manning         | Smith (VA)     |
| Fox, Lois       | Matsui          | Smucker        |
| Frankel, Lois   | McBath          | Sorensen       |
| Franklin, Scott | McCaul          | Soto           |
| Frost           | McClain         | Spanberger     |
| Fry             | McClellan       | Spartz         |
| Fulcher         | McClintock      | Stansbury      |
| Garamendi       | McCollum        | Stanton        |
| Garbarino       | McCormick       | Staubert       |
| Garcia (IL)     | McGarvey        | Steel          |
| Garcia (TX)     | McGovern        | Stefanik       |
| Garcia, Robert  | McHenry         | Steil          |
| Gimenez         | McIver          | Steube         |
| Golden (ME)     | Meeks           | Stevens        |
| Goldman (NY)    | Menendez        | Strickland     |
| Gomez           | Meng            | Strong         |
| Gonzales, Tony  | Meuser          | Suozi          |
| Gonzalez, V.    | Mfume           | Swalwell       |
| Gooden (TX)     | Miller (OH)     | Sykes          |
| Graves (LA)     | Miller (WV)     | Takano         |
| Graves (MO)     | Miller-Meeks    | Tenney         |
| Green (TN)      | Molinaro        | Thanedar       |
| Green, Al (TX)  | Moolenaar       | Thompson (CA)  |
| Griffith        | Mooney          | Thompson (MS)  |
| Guthrie         | Moore (AL)      | Thompson (PA)  |
| Harder (CA)     | Moore (UT)      | Tiffany        |
| Harshbarger     | Moore (WI)      | Timmons        |
| Hayes           | Moran           | Titus          |
| Hern            | Morelle         | Tlaib          |
| Hill            | Moskowitz       | Tokuda         |
| Himes           | Moulton         | Tonko          |
| Hinson          | Murphy          | Torres (CA)    |
| Horsford        | Nadler          | Torres (NY)    |
| Houchin         | Neal            | Trahan         |
| Houlahan        | Neguse          | Trone          |
| Hoyer           | Nehls           | Turner         |
| Hoyler (OR)     | Newhouse        | Underwood      |
| Huffman         | Nickel          | Valadao        |
| Huizenga        | Norcross        | Van Drew       |
| Issa            | Norman          | Van Duyne      |
| Ivey            | Nunn (IA)       | Van Orden      |
| Jackson (IL)    | Obernalte       | Vargas         |
| Jackson (NC)    | Ocasio-Cortez   | Vasquez        |
| Jackson (TX)    | Omar            | Veasey         |
| Jacobs          | Owens           | Wagner         |
| James           | Pallone         | Walberg        |
| Jayapal         | Palmer          | Wasserman      |
| Jeffries        | Panetta         | Schultz        |
| Johnson (GA)    | Pappas          | Waters         |
| Johnson (SD)    | Pence           | Watson Coleman |
| Jordan          | Perez           | Weber (TX)     |
| Joyce (OH)      | Perry           | Wenstrup       |
| Joyce (PA)      | Peters          | Westerman      |
| Kamlager-Dove   | Pettersen       | Wied           |
| Kaptur          | Phleger         | Wild           |
| Kean (NJ)       | Phillips        | Williams (GA)  |
| Keating         | Pingree         | Williams (NY)  |
| Kelly (IL)      | Pocan           |                |
| Kennedy         |                 |                |
| Khanna          |                 |                |
| Kiggans (VA)    |                 |                |

Wilson (FL)	Wittman	Yakym	Carey	Hayes	Moore (WI)	Torres (NY)	Veasey	Wied
Wilson (SC)	Womack	Zinke	Carl	Hern	Moran	Trahan	Wagner	Wild
NAYS—33								
Bean (FL)	Donalds	Hunt	Carson	Higgins (LA)	Morrell	Trone	Walberg	Williams (GA)
Biggs	Dunn (FL)	Kelly (MS)	Carter (GA)	Hill	Moskowitz	Turner	Wasserman	Williams (NY)
Boebert	Ezell	Massie	Carter (TX)	Himes	Moulton	Underwood	Schultz	Wilson (FL)
Brecheen	Good (VA)	Mast	Cartwright	Hinson	Mrvan	Valadao	Waters	Wilson (SC)
Burchett	Gosar	Miller (IL)	Casar	Horsford	Mullin	Van Drew	Watson Coleman	Wittman
Burlison	Greene (GA)	Mills	Case	Houllahan	Murphy	Van Dwyne	Weber (TX)	Womack
Cammack	Grothman	Ogles	Casten	Hoyer	Nadler	Van Orden	Webster (FL)	Yakym
Cline	Guest	Rosendale	Castor (FL)	Hoyle (OR)	Neal	Vargas	Wenstrup	Zinke
Cloud	Hageman	Roy	Castro (TX)	Hudson	Neguse	Vasquez	Westerman	
Clyde	Harris	Self	Cherfilus-	Huffman	Newhouse			
Crane	Higgins (LA)	Webster (FL)	McCormick	Huizenga	Nickel			
NOT VOTING—23								
Blumenauer	Granger	Peltola	Chu	Issa	Norcross	Biggs	Fallon	Moore (AL)
Bowman	Grijalva	Porter	Ciscomani	Ivey	Nunn (IA)	Boebert	Fulcher	Nehls
Chavez-DeRemer	Hudson	Rodgers (WA)	Clark (MA)	Jackson (IL)	Obornolte	Brecheen	Good (VA)	Norman
Clyburn	Kelly (PA)	Velázquez	Clarke (NY)	Jackson (NC)	Ocasio-Cortez	Burchett	Gosar	Ogles
Evans	Lieu	Waltz	Cleaver	Jackson (TX)	Omar	Burgess	Greene (GA)	Perry
Gallego	Loudermilk	Wexton	Cohen	Jacobs	Owens	Burlison	Harris	Rosendale
Garcia, Mike	Napolitano	Williams (TX)	Cole	James	Pallone	Cammack	Harshbarger	Roy
Gottheimer	Pelosi		Collins	Jayapal	Palmer	Cline	Hunt	Self
			Comer	Jeffries	Pappas	Cloud	Joyce (PA)	Spartz
			Connolly	Johnson (GA)	Pence	Clyde	Lesko	Steube
			Correa	Johnson (SD)	Perez	Crane	Luetkemeyer	Tiffany
			Costa	Jordan	Peters	Davidson	Miller (IL)	
			Courtney	Joyce (OH)	Petterson	Donalds	Mills	
			Craig	Kamlager-Dove	Pflug			
			Crawford	Kaptur	Phillips			
			Crenshaw	Kean (NJ)	Pingree			
			Crockett	Keating	Pocan			
			Crow	Kelly (IL)	Posey			
			Cuellar	Kelly (MS)	Pressley			
			Curtis	Kennedy	Quigley			
			D'Esposito	Khanna	Ramirez			
			Davids (KS)	Kiggans (VA)	Raskin			
			Davis (IL)	Kildee	Reschenthaler			
			Davis (NC)	Kiley	Rogers (AL)			
			De La Cruz	Kilmer	Rogers (KY)			
			Dean (PA)	Kim (CA)	Rose			
			DeGette	Krishnamoorthi	Ross			
			DeLauro	Kuster	Rouzer			
			DelBene	Kustoff	Ruiz			
			Deluzio	LaHood	Rulli			
			DeSaulnier	LaLota	Ruppersberger			
			DesJarlais	LaMalfa	Rutherford			
			Diaz-Balart	Lamborn	Ryan			
			Dingell	Landsman	Salazar			
			Doggett	Langworthy	Salinas			
			Duarte	Larsen (WA)	Sánchez			
			Duncan	Larson (CT)	Sarbanes			
			Dunn (FL)	Latta	Scalise			
			Edwards	LaTurner	Scanlon			
			Ellzey	Lawler	Schakowsky			
			Emmer	Lee (CA)	Schneider			
			Escobar	Lee (FL)	Scholten			
			Eshoo	Lee (NV)	Schrier			
			Españolat	Lee (PA)	Schweikert			
			Estes	Lee Carter	Scott (VA)			
			Ezell	Leger Fernandez	Scott, Austin			
			Feenstra	Letlow	Scott, David			
			Ferguson	Levin	Sessions			
			Finstad	Lofgren	Sewell			
			Fischbach	Lopez	Sherman			
			Fitzgerald	Lucas	Sherrill			
			Fitzpatrick	Luna	Simpson			
			Fleischmann	Luttrell	Slotkin			
			Fletcher	Lynch	Smith (MO)			
			Flood	Mace	Smith (NE)			
			Fong	Magaziner	Smith (NJ)			
			Foster	Malliotakis	Smith (WA)			
			Foushee	Maloy	Smucker			
			Fox	Mann	Sorensen			
			Frankel, Lois	Manning	Soto			
			Franklin, Scott	Massie	Spanberger			
			Frost	Mast	Stansbury			
			Fry	Matsui	Stanton			
			Garamendi	McBath	Stauber			
			Garbarino	McCaul	Steel			
			Garcia (IL)	McClain	Stefanik			
			Garcia (TX)	McClellan	Steil			
			Garcia, Robert	McClintock	Stevens			
			Gimenez	McCollum	Strickland			
			Golden (ME)	McCormick	Strong			
			Goldman (NY)	McGarvey	Suozzi			
			Gomez	McGovern	Swalwell			
			Gonzales, Tony	McHenry	Sykes			
			Gonzalez, V.	McIver	Takano			
			Gooden (TX)	Meeks	Tenney			
			Graves (LA)	Menendez	Thanedar			
			Graves (MO)	Meng	Thompson (CA)			
			Green (TN)	Meuser	Thompson (MS)			
			Green, Al (TX)	Mfume	Thompson (PA)			
			Griffith	Miller (OH)	Timmons			
			Grothman	Miller (WV)	Titus			
			Guest	Miller-Meeks	Tlaib			
			Guthrie	Molinaro	Tokuda			
			Hageman	Moolenaar	Tonko			
			Harder (CA)	Mooney	Torres (CA)			

NAYS—37

Blumenauer	Granger	Peltola	Blumenauer	Granger	Peltola	Blumenauer	Granger	Peltola
Bowman	Grijalva	Porter	Bowman	Grijalva	Porter	Bowman	Grijalva	Porter
Chavez-DeRemer	Hudson	Rodgers (WA)	Chavez-DeRemer	Kelly (PA)	Rodgers (WA)	Chavez-DeRemer	Kelly (PA)	Rodgers (WA)
Clyburn	Kelly (PA)	Velázquez	Clyburn	Lieu	Velázquez	Clyburn	Lieu	Velázquez
Evans	Lieu	Waltz	Evans	Loudermilk	Waltz	Evans	Loudermilk	Waltz
Gallego	Loudermilk	Wexton	Gallego	Moore (UT)	Wexton	Gallego	Moore (UT)	Wexton
Garcia, Mike	Napolitano	Williams (TX)	Garcia, Mike	Napolitano	Williams (TX)	Garcia, Mike	Napolitano	Williams (TX)
Gottheimer	Pelosi		Gottheimer	Pelosi		Gottheimer	Pelosi	

□ 1401

Messrs. KELLY of Mississippi, MILLS, EZELL, and CLINE changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, GARCIA of Illinois, and COLLINS changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed a vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 512.

JAMUL INDIAN VILLAGE LAND TRANSFER ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3857) to take certain land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 369, nays 37, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 513]

YEAS—369

Adams	Balint	Blunt Rochester
Aderholt	Banks	Bonamici
Aguilar	Barr	Bost
Alford	Barragán	Boyle (PA)
Allen	Bean (FL)	Brown
Allred	Beatty	Brownley
Amo	Bentz	Buchanan
Amodei	Bera	Bucshon
Arrington	Bergman	Budzinski
Auchincloss	Beyer	Bush
Babin	Bice	Calvert
Bacon	Bilirakis	Caraveo
Baird	Bishop (GA)	Carbajal
Balderson	Bishop (NC)	Cárdenas

NOT VOTING—23

Blumenauer	Granger	Peltola
Bowman	Grijalva	Porter
Chavez-DeRemer	Kelly (PA)	Rodgers (WA)
Clyburn	Lieu	Velázquez
Evans	Loudermilk	Waltz
Gallego	Moore (UT)	Wexton
Garcia, Mike	Napolitano	Williams (TX)
Gottheimer	Pelosi	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1408

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 513.

DETECTION EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY EVALUATION TO COUNTER THE THREAT OF FENTANYL AND XYLAZINE ACT OF 2024

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 8663) 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, 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 Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 404, nays 1, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 514]

YEAS—404

Adams DelBene Kean (NJ)  
 Aderholt Deluzio Keating  
 Aguilar DeSaulnier Kelly (IL)  
 Alford DesJarlais Kelly (MS)  
 Allen Diaz-Balart Kennedy  
 Allred Dingell Khanna  
 Amo Doggett Kiggans (VA)  
 Amodei Donalds Kildee  
 Arrington Duarte Kiley  
 Auchincloss Duncan Kilmer  
 Babin Dunn (FL) Kim (CA)  
 Bacon Edwards Krishnamoorthi  
 Baird Ellzey Kuster  
 Balderson Emmer Kustoff  
 Balint Escobar LaHood  
 Banks Eshoo LaLota  
 Barr Espallat LaMalfa  
 Barragán Estes Lamborn  
 Bean (FL) Ezell Landsman  
 Beatty Fallon Langworthy  
 Bentz Feenstra Larsen (WA)  
 Bera Ferguson Larson (CT)  
 Bergman Finstad Latta  
 Beyer Fischbach LaTurner  
 Bice Fitzgerald Lawler  
 Biggs Fitzpatrick Lee (CA)  
 Bilirakis Fleischmann Lee (FL)  
 Bishop (GA) Fletcher Lee (NV)  
 Bishop (NC) Flood Lee (PA)  
 Blunt Rochester Fong Lee Carter  
 Boebert Foster Leger Fernandez  
 Bonamici Foushee Lesko  
 Bost Foxx Letlow  
 Boyle (PA) Frankel, Lois Levin  
 Brecheen Franklin, Scott Lofgren  
 Brown Frost Lopez  
 Brownley Fry Lucas  
 Buchanan Fulcher Luetkemeyer  
 Bucshon Garamendi Luna  
 Budzinski Garbarino Luttrell  
 Burchett Garcia (IL) Lynch  
 Burgess Garcia (TX) Mace  
 Burlison Garcia, Robert Magaziner  
 Bush Gimenez Malliotakis  
 Calvert Golden (ME) Maloy  
 Cammack Goldman (NY) Mann  
 Caraveo Gomez Manning  
 Carbajal Gonzales, Tony Mast  
 Cárdenas Gonzalez, V. Matsui  
 Carey Good (VA) McBath  
 Carl Gooden (TX) McCaul  
 Carson Gosar McClain  
 Carter (GA) Graves (LA) McClellan  
 Carter (LA) Graves (MO) McClintock  
 Carter (TX) Green (TN) McCollum  
 Cartwright Green, Al (TX) McCormick  
 Casar Greene (GA) McGarvey  
 Case Griffith McGovern  
 Casten Grothman McHenry  
 Castor (FL) Guest McIver  
 Castro (TX) Guthrie Meeks  
 Cherfilus-Hagsman Hageman Menendez  
 McCormick Harder (CA) Meng  
 Chu Harris Meuser  
 Ciscomani Harshbarger Mfume  
 Clark (MA) Hayes Miller (IL)  
 Clarke (NY) Hern Miller (OH)  
 Cleaver Higgins (LA) Miller (WV)  
 Cline Hill Miller-Meeks  
 Cloud Himes Mills  
 Clyde Hinson Molinaro  
 Cohen Horsford Moolenaar  
 Cole Houchin Mooney  
 Collins Houlihan Moore (AL)  
 Comer Hoyer Moore (UT)  
 Connolly Hoyle (OR) Moran  
 Correa Hudson Morelle  
 Costa Huffman Moskowitz  
 Courtney Huizenga Moulton  
 Craig Hunt Mrvan  
 Crane Issa Mullin  
 Crawford Ivey Murphy  
 Crenshaw Jackson (NC) Nadler  
 Crockett Jackson (CA) Neal  
 Crow Jackson (TX) Neguse  
 Cuellar Jacobs Nehls  
 Curtis James Newhouse  
 D'Esposito Jayapal Nickel  
 Davids (KS) Jeffries Norcross  
 Davidson Johnson (GA) Norman  
 Davis (IL) Johnson (SD) Nunn (IA)  
 Davis (NC) Jordan Obernolte  
 De La Cruz Joyce (OH) Ocasio-Cortez  
 Dean (PA) Joyce (PA) Ogles  
 DeGette Kamlager-Dove Omar  
 DeLauro Kaptur Owens

Pallone Schweikert Timmons  
 Palmer Scott (VA) Titus  
 Panetta Scott, Austin Tlaib  
 Pappas Scott, David Tokuda  
 Pence Self Tonko  
 Perez Sessions Torres (CA)  
 Perry Sewell Torres (NY)  
 Peters Sherman Trahan  
 Pettersen Sherrill Trone  
 Pfluger Simpson Turner  
 Phillips Slotkin Underwood  
 Pingree Smith (MO) Valadao  
 Pocan Smith (NE) Van Drew  
 Posey Smith (NJ) Van Dуйne  
 Pressley Smith (WA) Van Orden  
 Quigley Smucker Vargas  
 Ramirez Sorensen Vasquez  
 Raskin Soto Veasey  
 Reschenthaler Spanberger Wagner  
 Rogers (AL) Spartz Walberg  
 Rogers (KY) Stansbury Wasserman  
 Rose Stanton Schultz  
 Rosendale Stauber  
 Ross Stefanik Steel  
 Rouzer Roy Watson Coleman  
 Roy Steil Weber (TX)  
 Ruiz Steube Webster (FL)  
 Rulli Stevens Wenstrup  
 Ruppertsberger Strickland Westerman  
 Rutherford Strong Wied  
 Ryan Suzzo Wild  
 Salinas Swalwell Williams (GA)  
 Sánchez Sykes Williams (NY)  
 Sarbanes Takano Wilson (FL)  
 Scalise Tenney Wilson (SC)  
 Scanlon Thanedar Wittman  
 Schakowsky Thompson (CA) Womack  
 Schneider Thompson (MS) Yakym  
 Scholten Thompson (PA) Zinke  
 Schrier Tiffany

NAYS—1

Massie  
 NOT VOTING—24

Blumenauer Granger Peltola  
 Bowman Grijalva Porter  
 Chavez-DeRemer Kelly (PA) Rodgers (WA)  
 Clyburn Lieu Salazar  
 Evans Loudermilk Velázquez  
 Gallego Moore (WI) Waltz  
 Garcia, Mike Napolitano Wexton  
 Gottheimer Pelosi Williams (TX)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE  
 The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1414

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. PELTOLA. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 512, YEA on Roll Call No. 513, and YEA on Roll Call No. 514.

BEAGLE BRIGADE 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 (S. 759) to authorize the National Detector Dog Training Center, and for other purposes, 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 381, nays 20, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 515]

YEAS—381

Adams DesJarlais Kennedy  
 Aderholt Diaz-Balart Khanna  
 Aguilar Dingell Kiggans (VA)  
 Alford Donalds Kildee  
 Allen Duarte Kiley  
 Allred Duncan Kilmer  
 Amo Dunn (FL) Kim (CA)  
 Amodei Edwards Krishnamoorthi  
 Arrington Ellzey Kuster  
 Auchincloss Emmer Kustoff  
 Babin Escobar LaHood  
 Bacon Eshoo LaLota  
 Baird Espallat LaMalfa  
 Balderson Estes Lamborn  
 Balint Ezell Landsman  
 Banks Fallon Langworthy  
 Barr Feenstra Larsen (WA)  
 Barragán Ferguson Larson (CT)  
 Bean (FL) Finstad Latta  
 Beatty Fischbach LaTurner  
 Bentz Fitzgerald Lawler  
 Bera Fitzpatrick Lee (CA)  
 Bergman Fleischmann Lee (FL)  
 Beyer Fletcher Lee (NV)  
 Bice Flood Lee (PA)  
 Bilirakis Fong Lee Carter  
 Bishop (GA) Foster Leger Fernandez  
 Bishop (NC) Foushee Letlow  
 Blunt Rochester Foxx Levin  
 Boebert Frankel, Lois Lofgren  
 Bonamici Franklin, Scott Lopez  
 Bost Frost Lucas  
 Boyle (PA) Fry Luetkemeyer  
 Brown Fulcher Luna  
 Brownley Garamendi Luttrell  
 Buchanan Garbarino Lynch  
 Bucshon Garcia (TX) Mace  
 Budzinski Garcia, Robert Magaziner  
 Burgess Gimenez Malliotakis  
 Bush Golden (ME) Maloy  
 Calvert Goldman (NY) Mann  
 Cammack Gomez Manning  
 Caraveo Gonzales, Tony Mast  
 Carbajal Gonzalez, V. Matsui  
 Cárdenas Gooden (TX) McBath  
 Carey Gosar McCaul  
 Carl Graves (LA) McClain  
 Carson Graves (MO) McClintock  
 Carter (GA) Green (TN) McCollum  
 Carter (LA) Green, Al (TX) McCormick  
 Carter (TX) Greene (GA) McGarvey  
 Cartwright Griffith McGovern  
 Casar Grothman McIver  
 Case Guest Meeks  
 Casten Guthrie Menendez  
 Castor (FL) Hageman Meng  
 Castro (TX) Harder (CA) Meuser  
 Cherfilus-Hagsman Harshbarger Mfume  
 McCormick Hayes Miller (IL)  
 Chu Hern Miller (OH)  
 Ciscomani Higgins (LA) Miller (WV)  
 Clark (MA) Hill Miller-Meeks  
 Clarke (NY) Himes Mills  
 Cleaver Hinson Molinaro  
 Cline Horsford Moolenaar  
 Cloud Cohen Houlihan Mooney  
 Clyde Hoyer Moore (UT)  
 Cohen Houchin Moore (AL)  
 Cole Houlihan Moore (UT)  
 Collins Hoyer Moran  
 Comer Huizenga Morelle  
 Connolly Huizenga Moskowitz  
 Correa Hudson Moulton  
 Costa Huffman Mrvan  
 Courtney Huizenga Mullin  
 Craig Hunt Nadler  
 Crane Issa Neal  
 Crawford Ivey Neguse  
 Crenshaw Jackson (NC) Nehls  
 Crockett Jackson (CA) Newhouse  
 Crow Jackson (TX) Nickel  
 Cuellar Jacobs Norcross  
 Curtis James Obernolte  
 D'Esposito Jayapal Ocasio-Cortez  
 Davids (KS) Jeffries Nunn (IA)  
 Davidson Johnson (GA) Norman  
 Davis (IL) Johnson (SD) Nunn (IA)  
 Davis (NC) Jordan Obernolte  
 De La Cruz Joyce (OH) Ocasio-Cortez  
 Dean (PA) Joyce (PA) Ogles  
 DeGette Kamlager-Dove Omar  
 DeLauro Kaptur Owens

Pence	Sessions	Titus
Perez	Sewell	Tlaib
Peters	Sherman	Tokuda
Pettersen	Sherrill	Tonko
Pfleger	Simpson	Torres (CA)
Phillips	Slotkin	Torres (NY)
Pingree	Smith (MO)	Trahan
Pocan	Smith (NE)	Trone
Pressley	Smith (NJ)	Turner
Quigley	Smith (WA)	Underwood
Ramirez	Smucker	Valadao
Raskin	Sorensen	Van Drew
Reschenthaler	Soto	Van Dуйne
Rogers (AL)	Spanberger	Van Orden
Rogers (KY)	Spartz	Vargas
Rose	Stansbury	Vasquez
Ross	Stanton	Veasey
Rouzer	Stauber	Wagner
Ruiz	Steel	Walberg
Rulli	Stefanik	Wasserman
Ruppersberger	Stell	Schultz
Rutherford	Steube	Watson Coleman
Ryan	Stevens	Weber (TX)
Salinas	Strickland	Wenstrup
Sánchez	Strong	Westerman
Sarbanes	Suozzi	Wied
Scalise	Swalwell	Wild
Scanlon	Sykes	Williams (GA)
Schakowsky	Takano	Williams (NY)
Schneider	Tenney	Wilson (FL)
Scholten	Thanedar	Wilson (SC)
Schrier	Thompson (CA)	Wittman
Schweikert	Thompson (MS)	Womack
Scott (VA)	Thompson (PA)	Yakym
Scott, Austin	Tiffany	Zinke
Scott, David	Timmons	

## NAYS—20

Biggs	Good (VA)	Perry
Brecheen	Harris	Posey
Burchett	Lesko	Rosendale
Burlison	Massie	Roy
Cloud	Moore (AL)	Self
Clyde	Norman	Webster (FL)
Crane	Ogles	

## NOT VOTING—28

Blumenauer	Granger	Porter
Bowman	Grijalva	Rodgers (WA)
Chavez-DeRemer	Hunt	Salazar
Clyburn	Kelly (PA)	Velázquez
Doggett	Lieu	Waltz
Evans	Loudermilk	Waters
Gallego	McHenry	Wexton
García (IL)	Murphy	Williams (TX)
García, Mike	Napolitano	
Gottheimer	Pelosi	

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1422

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 512, YEA on Roll Call No. 513, YEA on Roll Call No. 514, and YEA on Roll Call No. 515.

## PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 4864

Mr. STRONG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 4864, a bill originally introduced by Representative GAETZ of Florida, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WIED). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on additional motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

## RESEARCH SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN DHS ACT

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9748) to require the Under Secretary of the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security to develop a Department-wide policy and process to safeguard research and development from unauthorized access to or disclosure of sensitive information in research and development acquisitions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9748

*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 "Research Security and Accountability in DHS Act".

## SEC. 2. SAFEGUARDING SENSITIVE RESEARCH IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 302 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 182) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(15) developing, in coordination with appropriate agency officials, a Department-wide policy and process to safeguard research and development from unauthorized access to or disclosure of sensitive information in research and development acquisitions."

(b) GAO REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on how the Department has complied with National Security Presidential Memorandum-33 (NSPM-33) and adopted the National Science and Technology Council's 2022 implementation guidance.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall address the following:

(A) How the Department of Homeland Security has complied with disclosure requirements outlined in NSPM-33, and how violations are reported to the relevant executive agencies, including in the intelligence community (as such term is defined in section

3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

(B) Coordination and compliance with guidelines established by the National Science Foundation, the National Science Technology Council, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and other executive agencies regarding Federal research security.

(C) The role of the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department regarding establishing a research security framework for research and development projects across the Department.

(c) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a briefing addressing the development of policies and processes to safeguard Department of Homeland Security research and development in accordance with paragraph (15) of section 302 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 182), as added by subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 9748.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1430

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 9748, the Research Security and Accountability in DHS Act.

The Science and Technology Directorate is the principle of research and development at DHS.

In 2022, the DHS Office of Inspector General found that S&T failed to safeguard sensitive information in research and development projects.

This bill requires S&T to develop a proper standard for safeguarding sensitive information, which has become especially critical given the heightened activity of our adversaries.

I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) for his leadership on this issue, and I am proud to join him as a cosponsor.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are here today to consider H.R. 9748, the Research Security and Accountability in DHS Act.

This legislation aims to improve security policies by requiring the Department of Homeland Security's Science



and Technology Directorate to develop a department-wide policy and process to safeguard research and development from unauthorized access to or disclosure of sensitive information in research and development acquisitions.

Further, the bill would task the Government Accountability Office with reporting how DHS has complied with the National Science and Technology Council's 2022 implementation guidance and a 2021 National Security Presidential Memorandum relating to protecting U.S. research against foreign interference.

I am particularly pleased that this legislation includes a briefing to Congress by the Secretary of Homeland Security about the bill's implementation.

We have seen time and time again where bad actors have attempted to access sensitive information. This measure will strengthen the Department's abilities against those who wish to do us harm. This bill is an important step in ensuring that DHS prioritizes policies and procedures safeguarding research and development.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 9748, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO).

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his support and leadership on the Homeland Security Subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support H.R. 9748, the Research Security and Accountability in DHS Act.

My grandfather was in his mid-nineties when he died a proud World War II combat veteran. One of the things he always told us was to leave the world a little bit better than you found it each day. From my time serving as an NYPD detective or chief in the fire service or here in Congress, that has been something I have been committed to.

I am proud of my bill. I urge my colleagues to support the Research Security and Accountability in DHS Act.

As threats against the United States' homeland evolve, we must continue to innovate quickly and ensure that our Nation's law enforcement officers have the tools and technologies they need to keep our communities safe.

Right now, Federal research and sensitive technologies are a target for foreign theft, espionage, and influence, and we must ensure that these technologies do not fall into the hands of bad actors.

It should come as no surprise that many of the Department of Homeland Security's research and development projects contain sensitive information about the United States' capabilities and vulnerabilities, and it is common sense that the Department of Homeland Security's research and development projects should be safeguarded from bad actors.

Whether the Department of Homeland Security is working to prevent a

terrorist attack, vetting bad actors at the airport, or disrupting transnational criminal organizations at the southwest border, the Department of Homeland Security relies heavily on sensitive research and development projects to keep pace with the evolving threats against this great Nation.

H.R. 9748, the Research Security and Accountability in DHS Act, requires that the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate develop a process that safeguards sensitive information projects across all components of the Department to limit unauthorized access to and disclosure of sensitive information.

Both the Trump and Biden administrations have made Federal research security a priority by issuing executive orders and Federal research security guidance for government agencies like Homeland Security to follow. However, it is unclear how DHS has complied under Secretary Mayorkas with existing Federal guidelines to protect the \$461 million worth of research and development projects.

That is why my bill will also require the Government Accountability Office to report how the Department of Homeland Security has complied with existing Federal guidance to protect federally funded research from foreign malign influence, ownership, and control.

By passing this commonsense bill, we will not only protect sensitive projects throughout the Department of Homeland Security, but we will also better protect the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 9748, to better safeguard the Department of Homeland Security and this great Nation, leaving our homeland better than we found it.

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

Mr. Speaker, passage of this legislation is an important step to ensuring DHS research and development capabilities are safeguarded from bad actors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 9748, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I, again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 9748, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9748.

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. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further pro-

ceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### DHS INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS OVERSIGHT AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8664) 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, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8664

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "DHS Intelligence and Analysis Oversight and Transparency Act".

#### SEC. 2. ANNUAL AUDIT OF DHS OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND BULK DATA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### "SEC. 210H. ANNUAL AUDIT OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND BULK DATA.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term 'appropriate congressional committees' means the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

"(2) BULK DATA.—The term 'bulk data' means large quantities of data acquired without the use of discriminants, a significant portion of which are not reasonably likely to have intelligence or operational value.

"(3) DISCRIMINANTS.—The term 'discriminants' means identifiers and selection terms.

"(b) ANNUAL AUDITS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department shall conduct an audit of the information systems and bulk data of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, which shall be consistent with the intelligence oversight guidelines of the Office.

"(c) NOTIFICATIONS.—The Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department shall provide the appropriate congressional committees with—

"(1) a notification not later than 30 days after the first analysis or other intelligence use by the Office of Intelligence and Analysis after the date of the enactment of this section of any new bulk data set and the associated terms and conditions; and

"(2) an update not later than 30 days after any changes to such associated terms and conditions related to the use of such a bulk data set.

"(d) REPORTS AND REVIEW.—

"(1) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the conclusion of each audit

under subsection (b), the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees the findings and results of such audit.

“(2) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of this section, the Comptroller General of the United States shall provide the appropriate congressional committees a review of the implementation of the annual audit requirement under subsection (b), challenges to the implementation of such requirement, and recommendations for improving such audits.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296; 116 Stat. 2135) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 210G the following:

“Sec. 210H. Annual audit of information systems and bulk data.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 8664.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8664, the DHS Intelligence and Analysis Oversight and Transparency Act introduced by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE).

DHS' Office of Intelligence and Analysis, or I&A, is required to audit bulk data transferred to or from I&A to appropriately limit intrusion into information related to the civil rights and liberties and other privacy concerns of Americans.

A recent GAO study found I&A has not implemented guidelines to address this issue. Ms. LEE's bill would amend the Homeland Security Act to require I&A to conduct an annual audit and report to Congress on its progress.

I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for her commonsense legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8664, the DHS Intelligence and Analysis Oversight and Transparency Act.

H.R. 8664 would require the Undersecretary for Intelligence and Analysis at the Department of Homeland Security to annually audit and report to Congress on the information systems and bulk data of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, or I&A.

The bill would ensure such systems and data are consistent with oversight guidelines.

Last year, at the request of Ranking Member THOMPSON, the Government

Accountability Office issued a report that found that I&A is not auditing its information systems and bulk data.

Such audits are necessary to ensure, for example, that information pertaining to U.S. persons that is collected, stored, shared, and managed in information systems is protected.

The GAO report recommended that the Undersecretary identify who is responsible for conducting the audits of information systems and that the responsible official actually conduct them. This bill would simply codify the recommendations made in the GAO report.

Mr. Speaker, I support this commonsense legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8664, the DHS Intelligence and Analysis Oversight and Transparency Act.

Our public servants must carefully protect the personal information and data of Americans.

Unfortunately, time and again, we have seen examples of agencies and bureaucrats who have failed to secure and protect our most sensitive information.

A recent report from the Government Accountability Office found that the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Intelligence and Analysis, I&A, has not fully implemented oversight guidelines pertaining to bulk data collection activities and has not conducted an audit as outlined in the intelligence oversight guidelines.

To ensure transparency and to protect Americans' civil liberties, privacy, and civil rights, my bill, the DHS Intelligence and Analysis Oversight and Transparency Act, will require DHS' I&A to conduct an annual audit to assess whether access to and searches of Americans' data are appropriately limited and in line with the I&A's intelligence guidelines.

To further conduct oversight, this bill will require the Undersecretary for Intelligence and Analysis to submit a report to Congress that outlines the findings of every annual audit to ensure transparency for the American people.

Americans deserve to know what data and information is being accessed by government agencies. This bill will make sure that entities responsible for conducting audits of information systems and bulk data are carrying out their duties in accordance with I&A's oversight guidelines.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 8664.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill would ensure that DHS' Office of Intelligence and Analysis audits their systems and data, and that personnel follow policies to protect the privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties of United States persons.

I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE) for introducing the bill in response to oversight done by Democrats on the committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 8664, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I, again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 8664, and I thank Ms. LEE for her hard work on this bill.

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 Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8664, 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.

#### TSA COMMUTING FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8662) to reduce commuting burdens on Transportation Security Administration employees, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8662

*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 “TSA Commuting Fairness Act”.

#### SEC. 2. FEASIBILITY STUDY ON TSA COMMUTING BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a study on the feasibility of treating as on-duty hours the time Transportation Security Administration employees working at airport locations spend traveling between regular duty locations and airport parking lots and bus and transit stops.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the feasibility study required under subsection (a), the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall consider the following with respect to Transportation Security Administration employees:

(1) The amount of time needed by such employees to travel between regular duty locations and airport parking lots and bus and transit stops at small hub airports, medium hub airports, and large hub airports (as such terms are defined in section 40102 of title 49, United States Code).

(2) The amount of time such employees spend commuting, on average, exclusive of the time described in paragraph (1).

(3) The potential benefits to such employees and the Administration of treating as on-duty hours the time described in such paragraph.

(4) The feasibility of using mobile phones, location data, and any other means to allow such employees to report their arrival to and departure from the airport parking lots and bus and transit stops concerned.

(5) The estimated costs of treating as on-duty hours the time described in such paragraph, including by considering such hours creditable as basic pay for retirement purposes.

(6) Other considerations determined appropriate by the Administrator.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 8662.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8662, the TSA Commuting Fairness Act.

TSA often struggles to adequately employ enough personnel, and given the high cost of housing near airports, travel time to and from work may be an inhibitor for current and future employees.

□ 1445

This bill would require the TSA administrator to conduct a feasibility study to address this issue. I thank my colleague from New York (Mr. KENNEDY) for bringing this legislation forward.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, over the next couple of weeks, millions of Americans will travel through our Nation's airports for the holidays.

Air travel is at an all-time high, with the 10 busiest days in the Transportation Security Administration's history all occurring this year.

Throughout this busy travel period, the efforts of TSA employees are critical to keeping the aviation system secure.

Transportation security officers, or TSOs, screen travelers as they pass through checkpoints. Federal air marshals provide an in-flight security presence. K9 handlers add an extra layer of security to the system.

TSA employees face some unique challenges when commuting to work, however. Many employees find housing they can afford far from the airports, leading to long commutes with limited public transit options and heavy traffic.

Upon arrival at the airport, employees often must park in an employee lot and wait on irregular shuttles to bring them to the airport terminal where they may have to walk a long distance to a security checkpoint just to clock in for work.

According to the Government Accountability Office, TSOs have reported that just getting from the parking lot to the checkpoint to clock in for work can take as long as 45 minutes. If these hardworking civil servants are just a few minutes late to clock in, they can face discipline and punishment.

My bill, the TSA Commuting Fairness Act, would help provide fairer conditions for these employees as they commute to work to secure our transportation systems.

This bill would direct TSA to conduct a feasibility study on using mobile phones and location data to allow employees to clock in for work upon arrival at the airport parking lots and bus transit stops.

Doing so would reduce commuting costs and improve quality of life for TSA employees while allowing TSA leadership to manage the workforce appropriately and maintain order and discipline.

This study will provide insight for TSA and Congress as we collectively seek innovative ways to recruit and retain top talent to help secure our transportation systems.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working with me to develop this legislation.

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, I am prepared to close after the gentleman from New York closes, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, as we advance our efforts to recruit and retain a skilled and well-trained workforce to secure our Nation's aviation system, we must seek new ways to compete for top talent.

Studying ways to address some of the TSA's workforce's greatest frustrations will allow TSA to continue to build the workforce it needs to counter evolving threats and keep air travel moving.

This bill will push TSA to consider ways to improve the quality of life for its workforce, which will ultimately help our national security.

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

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

I again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 8662, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8662.

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. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### TRANSPORTATION SECURITY SCREENING MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the 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.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3959

*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 "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 Com-

ptroller 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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 3959.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of S. 3959, the Transportation Security Screening Modernization Act of 2024, which will streamline the background check and credentialing processes for American truck drivers across the United States. Truck drivers are a vital element of the U.S. supply chain that touch every sector of our economy.

From the food on your table to the lifesaving medicine at the pharmacy to the gas pump, truck drivers are an essential part of our daily lives that often go overlooked.

As it currently stands, truck drivers who transport hazardous materials or require access to secure areas of regulated maritime facilities in the United States must undergo separate background checks for the credentials they need to do their jobs, even though the background checks are the exact same.

This bill would streamline credentialing for America's truck drivers by eliminating duplicative background checks administered by the TSA.

S. 3959 will allow truck drivers to apply for and enroll in any security threat assessment program administered by the TSA for the credentials they need based on only one background check, not multiple threat assessment programs.

We depend on our truck drivers every day, and I firmly believe that we should make their lives easier by streamlining their credentialing process.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the House companion to this bill, H.R. 5840, and I am grateful to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) for his leadership in the House, as well as Senator WICKER of Mississippi for bringing forth this important piece of legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, many U.S. truck drivers and other transportation workers must undergo Transportation Security Administration background checks as a requirement for employment.

Workers requiring access to secure areas within maritime posts must undergo a background check to receive a Transportation Worker Identification Credential known as a TWIC.

Likewise, truck drivers authorized to transport hazardous materials must undergo a background check to receive hazardous materials or hazmat endorsement.

In fact, many workers with both a TWIC and a hazmat endorsement—and though TSA has made some progress in reducing requirements for such workers—they are still subject to far too many duplicative burdens and costs.

The Transportation Security Screening Modernization Act of 2024 would help eliminate and ease those burdens by streamlining requirements and reducing costs.

Importantly, the bill will push TSA and the Federal Bureau of Investiga-

tion to allow truck drivers and other individuals to visit a TSA enrollment center once and use their application to enroll in multiple programs.

This bill will reduce barriers to employment for these essential workers who are keeping our economy moving.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), the sponsor and author of the House version of this bill.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is common sense. Why does a patient not go through the same open heart surgery twice? Because you fixed it, you addressed the problem.

In this case, if you have someone that is a truck driver, someone that is a port worker, and they have to get a TWIC card, they have to go through a background check. If they also have to get a hazardous materials endorsement, they have to go through a background check, the same background check.

Einstein is often credited with the quote that the definition of insanity is expecting a different outcome from the same process. I know that a lot of people have said he didn't really say that, but accuracy has never ever prevented anyone on the House floor from saying something.

The reality is why would you do it twice? It costs additional money, and it takes additional time to do that.

In my home State of Louisiana, one in every five jobs are tied back to our waterways, one in every five. If you are going to delay these workers, the availability of workers, that impacts our supply chain by making them go through this same process twice, by delaying them months, by costing them additional dollars, it simply doesn't make sense.

I thank Chairman MARK GREEN for working with us on this. I thank Ranking Member ADAM SMITH. I thank Ms. TITUS from Nevada, Mr. CARBAJAL, and many others that worked with us on a bipartisan basis to apply this common-sense legislation and fix this problem, help with government efficiency, and get our supply chain back in order.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the legislation.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) an original cosponsor of the House version of this legislation.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GREEN, Mr. GRAVES, and all the people that have been involved in this process. It is, as has been described, a very common-sense fix that really affects a lot of blue-collar workers.

If you work in a job that takes you into secure transportation environments, you are required to go through

a very cumbersome process and also pay fees to get the security clearance to do that job. The fees are redundant, the process is redundant, and it is an incredible burden on workers just trying to do their job. This bill makes a ton of sense, fixes the process, reduces the fees, streamlines the process, is going to make it easier for workers all across the country, and it is something we need to work on.

In my own world in the Department of Defense we have a similar problem with security clearances taking forever and in many cases being redundant, so I hope this is an idea that will spread. We need workers to go to work for us. Yes, we need security, but the process takes too long, it is redundant, and it costs too much. I hope this can be an inspiration to fix it.

The last thing I want to say is that I first heard about this issue—and I think this is the coolest thing about this legislation—from a constituent, Van Hurst, who was a Teamster and a truck driver at the time, who experienced this process, alerted my office to the problem, and it led to our involvement in this legislation.

A lot of people say that the system doesn't work; nobody ever listens to us. This is an average constituent, a truck driver in my district, who had a problem and brought it to us. We worked through the process, and now today we are about to pass the Senate bill, solve the problem, send it off to the President where it will be signed, and the problem will be fixed.

For all constituents out there frustrated, irritated, aggravated about all the things that aren't happening, bring your problems to us. We will do our level best to listen and try to solve them. It doesn't always work. It is a big, complicated democracy, a lot of people with a lot of voices, but it works far more often than people realize.

I will close with another shout-out to Van Hurst, a Teamster from the city of Kent in the Ninth Congressional District who brought this to my attention, and we are now working to solve the problem.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and as such, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, TSA's vetting programs are critical to ensuring the security of our Nation's transportation systems. At the same time, we must ensure these programs do not place unnecessary burdens on frontline workers.

The Transportation Security Screening Modernization Act of 2024 will help reduce these burdens while upholding security.

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

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

I, too, want to thank Mr. GRAVES and Ranking Member SMITH. I urge my colleagues to support S. 3959, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3959.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### 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 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1800

### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO) at 6 p.m.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, December 18, 2024.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 18, 2024, at 3:15 p.m.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1607.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1727.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2468.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3324.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4094.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4385.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5770.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6826.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6843.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7332.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9566.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
Acting Clerk.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, December 18, 2024.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 18, 2024, at 3:15 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 1097.

That the Senate passed S. 1144.

That the Senate passed S. 1277.

That the Senate passed S. 1299.

That the Senate passed S. 3022.

That the Senate passed S. 3373.

That the Senate passed S. 3502.

That the Senate passed S. 3543.

That the Senate passed S. 4181.

That the Senate passed S. 4576.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
Acting Clerk.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, December 18, 2024.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 18, 2024, at 3:15 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 4654.

That the Senate passed S. 5005.

That the Senate passed S. 5130.

That the Senate passed S. 5398.

That the Senate passed S. 5575.

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 44.

That the Senate agree to the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate H.R. 5009.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 663.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
Acting Clerk.

### DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF THE BILL H.R. 5009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 44) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 5009, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 44

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),* That in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 5009, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following corrections:

(1) In the table of contents in section 2(b), strike the item relating to section 5705 and insert the following:

Sec. 5705. Readmission requirements for servicemembers.

(2) In the table of section 601 regarding basic pay for enlisted members, in the entry relating to a member in pay grade E-5 with over 2 years, strike "3,317.10" and insert "3,466.50".

(3) In such table, in the entry relating to a member in such pay grade with over 3 years, strike "3,480.90" and insert "3,637.50".

(4) In such table, in the entry relating to a member in such pay grade with over 4 years, strike "3,638.40" and insert "3,802.20".

(5) In such table, in the entry relating to a member in such pay grade with over 6 years, strike "3,789.00" and insert "3,959.40".

(6) In such table, in the entry relating to a member in such pay grade with over 8 years, strike "3,984.20" and insert "4,142.40".

(7) In the table of contents preceding section 5701, strike the item relating to section 5705 and insert the following:

Sec. 5705. Readmission requirements for servicemembers.

(8) Strike section 5705 and insert the following:

### SEC. 5705. READMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICEMEMBERS.

Subsection (a) of section 484C of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091c(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) DEFINITION OF SERVICE IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.—In this section, the term ‘service in the uniformed services’ means service (whether voluntary or involuntary) on active duty in the Armed Forces, including such service by a member of the National Guard or Reserve.”

(9) Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.”

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES, Democratic Leader:

December 18, 2024.

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

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: Pursuant to section 1092(b)(2) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263), I am pleased to announce the joint appointment, together with the Majority Leader of the Senate, of the Honorable Filemon Vela of Houston, Texas to serve as a Co-Chairperson of the Commission on the Future of the Navy.



Thank you for your attention to this appointment.

Sincerely,

HAKEEM JEFFRIES,  
*Democratic Leader.*

#### FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I have had the honor and the privilege to represent the northeast San Fernando Valley for 28 years as a State assemblyman, as a city council member, and as a United States Congress Member.

I grew up in a neighborhood where I was told far too often: You are never going to amount to anything. You want to go to college? Don't even try it. Kids like you from your neighborhood never amount to anything.

I heard that countless, countless times, too many times from too many people, but I am here to remind anybody and everybody who has ever experienced that kind of negativity, those kinds of lies, that that is just not true.

I am very proud to say that I grew up in a community of hardworking people, a community that most of the families or most of the children are raised by immigrants in my community, just like me. I was raised by immigrants from Mexico, Andres and Maria Cárdenas, who came to this country not for themselves but for future generations to have a better life, a better life than they were afforded in their hometown of Temastian, Jalisco, Mexico.

I thank the many, many people who have been a positive influence in my life and who have given me support in many different ways.

I first thank the voters of my district who voted to elect me in 1996 to be the first person of color, the first Latino, to ever represent San Fernando Valley in any of our capitals. They elected me to be the State assemblyman for a community that was over 80 percent minority people. In a community where we never had a person of color represent us, they elected me to be the first one.

It was an honor that I didn't take lightly. I took it very seriously. I made sure that my goal wasn't to be the first. My goal was to make sure that I wasn't the last. Again, I thank the voters of the San Fernando Valley who have given me this responsibility and opportunity by voting me into office for over the last 28 years.

I hope and pray that I have done well for all of my constituents. I have tried my best. I have always done my best. I have always listened to them. I have always taken in the issues and tried to interpret them the best that I could to make sure that all of their lives in the San Fernando Valley are better for it.

I thank my parents, Andres and Maria Cárdenas, and my ten brothers

and sisters, for being such positive role models for me, for teaching me how to be good, do good, and give back to our great country and our community.

God is good because God gave me ten older brothers and sisters and two parents who stayed together for 48 years until my father passed away, who gave me all the examples I needed, the example of stick to it, the example of making sure that when you have "ganas" "the will power," when you want to get something done, do it, and to always think positive, always be positive, always give to others.

They taught me faith. They taught me how to respect myself and my community. Those are the examples, not my college degrees. Those are the examples that have allowed me to be an effective legislator for the last 28 years, the core building blocks of what it means and what it takes to be the best that you can be, not perfect, but the best that one can be.

I thank the community leaders like teachers and counselors and people who passed through my life and put their arm on my shoulder and said: You can do this. You are good enough. They nurtured me and encouraged me to always do good, to always think positive, to always believe in myself.

Again, to those people who choose to say the opposite of that to young people like I was, to people who grow up in bad neighborhoods—whatever that means—to the sons and daughters of immigrants whose parents don't even speak English, who raised their children here to love this country, to respect this country, and to honor this country; to the people who don't believe in people like me, like the ones that have passed through my life and told me the lies that you can't do this and you can't do that, good always prevails over bad, always.

To young people who have to endure that: I have endured it myself. Don't believe those lies. Believe in yourself. You are better than those who put you down.

I thank the supporters in the community who have volunteered all across our district, who have always been there to help thy neighbors when we were able to get resources out in the community and we needed help in doing so. I thank those community volunteers.

To the supporters in the halls of city hall, in our State capitol, and here in our United States Capitol, I thank you for encouraging me to be myself and to do the best job that I can for our country and for all people.

I have been very blessed to have amazing staff in all of my years in office, 28 years, dozens and dozens of amazing, wonderful people who have a heart for public service, people who put their heart and soul into everything that they do for the people. They are smart, talented, and caring people who have served our community and our country with distinction and honor.

To all of my staff, I thank them for serving. I see them as family and my family sees them as family as well.

I also thank my mother-in-law—yes, my mother-in-law. She loves me like a son. My mother-in-law, who came here as a young immigrant, Elvira Delgado Wagner, and my father-in-law, Jesus Luis Sanchez, and my brothers-in-law, Louie and Robert, to my many brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, and my over 40 nieces and nephews: Without you, our family, my family, my wife, Norma, and our children may not have been able to do this for this long.

I thank all of them for being part of the support system that any and every elected official needs to do this job of public service.

I am eternally grateful to my wife, Norma, and our children, Vanessa, Cristian, Andres, and Alina. You have been so supportive and understanding for the past 28 years, to have that weird life of seeing your father go away for 3 or 4 days at a time to the State capitol, to the United States Capitol, being involved in community meetings and community events, yes, even during your birthdays and our anniversaries. I thank them so much for their understanding and their support and their patience.

□ 1815

I also thank my son-in-law Brian De La Rosa and also our two beautiful grandchildren, Joaquin and Jimena. How blessed I am to be a husband, a father, a grandfather, to have so many beautiful family members that I can count on that have always supported me in a loving, beautiful way.

Next to me is a picture of my wife, Norma, about the time that I met her. You might say, wow, I know why he fell in love with her. The beauty that my wife, Norma, exudes is nowhere near as beautiful as what she has inside. She is so understanding, so supportive, so tolerant of me. We have been married for 32 years, and I am grateful for every day.

Being an elected official is a difficult job. I would say for family members of full-time elected officials like us, Members of Congress, being a family member of an elected official is harder. As elected officials people praise us more than they should perhaps. People laugh at our jokes. People tell us nice things, but our family members don't necessarily receive that praise or that acknowledgment. I am not just speaking for myself; I think I speak for all of us who are elected, who do our job willingly, who do our job as it is supposed to be done with 100 percent of effort.

Let me tell you, you will never hear an elected official say that their family comes first. I have said it, and I mean it. However, when you actually consider who sacrifices the most not having their father, their mother with them, their brother, their sister, their husband, their wife, who is the elected official, what the family endures, I believe, is more.



I have been blessed, blessed to be elected in a community that did not see themselves in their elected officials. Today, more of us do in the northeast San Fernando Valley.

When I got elected in 1996, one of my core missions was to break that glass ceiling; to be the first person of that community and from that community who went to those public schools, who tripped on those broken sidewalks, who drove over those potholes and felt forgotten, to get elected to office and to fill those potholes and fix those cracks and make those schools better and build new schools. Those are the things that I have been able to help achieve for our community over the last 28 years.

I made it my personal mission that wherever I went I would identify with good people who wanted to be good public servants and help them get elected starting with my own community. I helped a young man, an amazing young man, ALEX. I met him when he was 21 years old. Somebody was telling me, TONY, you need to run for the State assembly. I asked ALEX, If I run for the State assembly, will you run my campaign? I didn't know anything about campaigns. He said, Neither do I, but let's do this.

When I decided to run, I made him my campaign manager. He had never run a campaign before in his life. The district was 450,000 people. It was not an easy task, but we took it on as two people who grew up in Pacoima, two kids who were both told by the same math teacher 10 years apart from one another that they couldn't cut it.

When I told my math teacher that I got accepted to the University of California, Santa Barbara to be an electrical engineering student, he laughed in my face, and he told me, You can't cut it. Don't even try it. They will eat you alive. Try community college, maybe you can handle that.

Mr. Speaker, 10 years later when ALEX PADILLA got selected to go to MIT, the number one engineering university in the world, that same math teacher told him, You can't cut it. That young man, ALEX PADILLA, got elected to the L.A. City Council, became the first Latino council president of the city of Los Angeles and the youngest council president in the history of Los Angeles.

He later went on to be our State senator for our community, and served two terms. Then he went on to be the secretary of State, the first Latino secretary of State in California history and served his two terms there.

One day he got the call from our Governor of California and was asked: Will you accept my appointment to be our United States Senator for California to fill the vacancy that KAMALA HARRIS left when she became our first woman Vice President of the United States? With tears in his eyes, he said, Yes.

The reason why ALEX PADILLA was brought to tears was because when the Governor asked him if he would take

on that responsibility, if he would accept that responsibility, I said, Mama Padilla—which is what I called ALEX's mother—I said, What would your mother think of you becoming a United States Senator? He thought about the sacrifices that his mother made who cleaned homes for a living, the career that his father had being a short order cook to raise their three children, and he said, Yes, I accept.

He has since been elected to the U.S. Senate twice. I am so proud of him, the young man who grew up just a couple of blocks away from me, who endured the same lies that I had to endure from teachers and others who didn't believe in him and didn't believe in me. Unfortunately, too many of those people don't believe in many of us. They don't believe enough of us to think that we can do what we have been elected to do, to be community leaders, to be national leaders, to make decisions that affect every American citizen and beyond.

Every time I have been termed out of office or every time I have chosen, like this time, to no longer run for that position, State assembly, city council, and now in Congress as I retire from Congress, I have always chosen someone to consider running in my former position. Every single time, it has been a woman, a Latina, who grew up in the same community that I grew up and that ALEX PADILLA grew up in, and on every occasion they have done a much better job than I. I am proud of that track record.

To be a true public servant, one has to realize it is not about me, it is about we. It is about the community, uplifting the community, bringing out the best in one's self and each other, bringing out the best in our community.

When I met my wife, Norma, she looked like the first picture, and she is more beautiful today. I can't take credit for raising our four beautiful children. She can. She says, No, no, no, it wasn't me. Yes, it was. Yes, it was. She takes care of the family when I am away too much, making sure that when our children cried there was a shoulder to cry on, making sure that when it was time to take them to the hospital or to the doctor, she did that, not me. She gave me the space to be the best Representative that I can be, and she shouldered the burden of being the mother to our children and filling in the gaps when I couldn't be there.

In this picture, as you can see, she is wearing a cap and gown. While doing all that, she actually went to school, and she achieved her goals in many areas. She has run her own business, many times sacrificing her own business to make sure that she didn't leave the family out or that she made sure that she was there for them when I couldn't be there.

Oftentimes when we think of the people who are closest to us we take it for granted how much they support us, how much they give of themselves, how much they give to others. I just wanted

to make sure that before I leave Congress, before I no longer can express what I feel I need to express on the House floor in these Chambers—because when I am no longer a Member of Congress, I am not allowed to come and speak from the podium, to speak from that microphone. Only current Members of Congress are allowed to do that, as it should be.

I would be remiss if I didn't take the opportunity to say thank you to so many people, to say thank you to my family members, to say thank you to my staff, to say thank you to the people who cared for me and loved me enough to teach me and mentor me to help me be the person that I am today.

I never cared to be the best. I always made sure that I focused on doing the best that I can achieve, to do the best job that I can.

I feel good about my career. People remind me now and then, they say remember when you did this and remember when you did that, and many times I actually put it so far back in my mind that I am like, wow, I did do that, didn't I? We did achieve that.

I hope that what I do in the future can give me the satisfaction of knowing the difference that we were able to make in these Chambers, in city hall, in our State capital, but I feel confident that I am going to be happy because God has blessed me with beautiful children, beautiful grandchildren, amazing family members, and the most beautiful woman I have ever met, the most beautiful woman in the world, my wife, Norma.

I hope that she can put up with me being around more often. When I hear from my friends who have retired once in a while they hear from their wives when they retire or their partner, Don't you have somewhere to be? I can understand if my wife, Norma, says that to me. I hope she doesn't, but if she does, I can understand. She comments sometimes that being married to an engineer can be difficult. I know. I know what she means.

Again, I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you to all the people who choose the life of being an elected official. I want to say thank you to all of the people in my life who have helped me become an elected official, to be an elected official for 28 years, staff, friends, family, voters, everyone. It has been an honor. It has been a privilege.

My interpretation of that is I think that I receive a lot of love from all of you. That is how I interpret it. I love you, too. Thank you for giving me this honor.

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

□ 1830

#### FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LOPEZ) is recognized for 60

minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LOPEZ. 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 the Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, Members of the House of Representatives, and my fellow Americans, lend me your ear.

“We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

Since 1776, the people of this great Nation have bestowed the responsibility of fulfilling that declaration and setting the course of the future of our Nation in the collective hands of Congress which is comprised of both Members of the House of Representatives and Members of the United States Senate.

Since that time, every Member willingly raises their hand and publicly makes that sacred pledge to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, both foreign and domestic.

It is my belief that the American people look for the principles of respect, collaboration, friendship, unity, and statesmanship in every Member of Congress.

I encourage all Members of Congress to subscribe to and remember this quote from Henry Ford: “Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.”

The issues our Nation faces today are not Republican or Democrat issues. They are people issues. One issue I have repeatedly highlighted during my time here has been our national debt and the broken way in which Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, continue to support reckless spending.

Spending the people’s money irresponsibly has created a \$36 trillion national debt which grows by \$1 trillion every 100 days. A \$1 trillion national debt equates to \$107,594 per person, \$272,546 per household, and \$493,233 per child.

Quite frankly, it is an embarrassment, and it needs to stop. Something must be done.

I join the millions of Americans who pray that on January 20, the President in the 119th Congress will seriously focus on the budget crisis and make the right decisions to remove this heavy burden off the backs of hard-working people of this great Nation and the backs of our children.

I thank my good friend, JODEY ARRINGTON, chairman of the Budget Committee, and my friends on the Committee for sounding the alarm and for their efforts to help right this ship.

Mr. Speaker, this evening I rise for the last time in this hallowed Chamber to bid my farewell. Even though my time here pales in comparison to the joy I find in family and faith, I proudly say that being among all of you has been more than an honor. It has been a privilege.

Yes, this place has its problems, but it has so much worth celebrating. I made friends across the aisle and have gotten to know a few of you through the early morning congressional football practices or prayer groups.

I have been blessed to know and learn from intelligent, loyal, and long-suffering staff that guided me through my journey. I have spoken on the House floor about issues that matter to the people of Colorado’s Fourth Congressional District, also known as the eastern plains of Colorado.

On January 2, my 6-month term as a sitting Member of Congress will come to an end. In just 6 months, my staff in D.C. and I have: Passed H.R. 9714 out of the Budget Committee, introduced a commonsense red card bill that would allow immigrant workers to remain in our labor force, introduced legislation that would place the national debt on every Federal voting ballot, highlighted and advocated for important local issues, presided over the House floor, played in the congressional football game, and drew national attention to the dangerous Tren de Aragua apartment takeover in Aurora, Colorado.

I joined the DOGE Caucus and worked as a constructive Member of the Republican caucus to support commonsense legislation that will help families in Colorado.

From July 21 to December 15, 147 days, my district staff back in Colorado have closed 401 cases, had 58 walk-in appointments, referred 1,116 constituent calls for further help, helped 21 constituents with grant requests, and helped return \$564,760 back to constituents with \$3,914,000 yet to be deposited into individual accounts for a total of \$4,478,760 or, better yet, \$30,468 a day.

I recommended 52 individuals to the military academies. They assisted me in traveling to all 21 counties of the Fourth Congressional District at least twice within the last 5 months.

Arriving in Congress wasn’t a high point, and leaving isn’t a low point either. It is life. You see, I describe my short time in Congress as that of a foreign exchange student. I arrived in July during the middle of the year. I missed the yearbook pictures. No one knew me. So both sides of the aisle liked me. I will not be coming back next year.

As a veteran, I describe my time here as a TDY, better known as a temporary duty assignment. Now it is time to return home.

Mr. Speaker, I treasure, Lisa, my wife, my children, Michael and Christina, my service in the Air Force, and my Lord more than any amount of time in Congress. I am proud to define my life by service to my Lord, my family, the Armed Forces, and now to the people of Colorado’s Fourth Congressional District.

To my wife, Lisa, I thank her for joining me in this unexpected and unbelievable opportunity of serving in Congress. Having her by my side every day here in D.C., along with her support, encouragement, and love, has made the hours in travel, the early mornings in briefings, the afternoons in meetings, the evenings with receptions, studying memos, and racing to late-night votes made it both productive and bearable.

Lisa is my soulmate and my rock. I love her more than she will ever know.

To my son, Michael, and my daughter, Christina, I love them both. I hope that I have made them both proud.

One day I hope to bring my grandkids here. We will fly into Reagan airport and fight through the afternoon traffic. I will point out the never-ending construction on Cannon and lead the little ones to Statuary Hall before walking through the tunnels and eventually heading up to Rayburn’s fourth floor where my office was.

I will hold them close there and say that their granddaddy was a part of this. I will say that government for and by the people isn’t an abstraction. It is in their bloodline. I speak of generations because that is what the government is for, to protect, preserve, and pass along a legacy for our children.

At the end of my oath of office, I bound myself to my pledge by saying, “So help me God.” He has indeed helped me the same way that he has shepherded and guided this still-young Nation.

As I prepare to depart, I am reminded of my parents, Gregorio and Victoria Lopez. They taught me the value of hard work, laboring in the fields under the Texas Sun. When the day was over, the foreman would come out and yell, “Ya Vamenos. Ya cavamos de trabajar,” which translated means, “Let’s go. Our work is done,” then my parents would finish up and head home.

Colorado is calling me home, and I must answer. My work here is done. I now depart.

With immense gratitude to God, my family, Colorado’s Fourth Congressional District, the friends I have made here, my staff, and this institution, I bid them all a fond farewell.

In my story, this is just a chapter, and every chapter ends. That is for the best because we can see what happens next.

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

□ 1845

### ISSUES OF DEBT AND DEFENSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 30 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, we learned late this afternoon that the Republican leadership of this House has derailed the important appropriation bills to fund the Government of the United States for the fiscal year that actually began October 1.

It has been delayed for months and months, and now, today, with legislation ready to move, again, the Republican leadership has failed the people of the United States.

Why did they do this? The incoming administration, which has not been sworn in yet, called and asked them to shelve the funding of the Government of the United States for the fiscal year of 2025, which, as I said, began on October 1.

Why did they do that? All the Members were here on both sides of the aisle. We were ready to vote. We had done the work.

I serve on the Appropriations Committee. We have worked for well over a year to put 12 bills together that should have been presented to the Chamber one at a time starting back last June.

They say they want to talk. They want to talk with Congress about the debt ceiling. Surely, this is a joke.

Here are the facts, and here is a great chart. Numbers don't lie.

President-elect Trump in his last term had tax cuts passed to millionaires and billionaires that have already added \$2 trillion to the over \$30-trillion U.S. debt. We are going to add up numbers tonight, simple numbers. So, \$2 trillion from the first term, and that adds up even more every year.

There is more to come, Mr. Speaker. The tax cuts provided by a predecessor of his, George Bush the second, have already added \$8 trillion to the U.S. debt. Those benefits went to, again, billionaires and millionaires, not to the middle class or working people, and there is more debt to come because those tax cuts haven't expired.

So, just with the past Trump administration and the two Bush tax cuts, we are talking about almost one-third of the accumulated debt of the country, and that number is right up here. It is \$36 trillion in U.S. debt.

It is interesting where it is coming from. Bush two's wars added another \$8 trillion as part of that \$36 trillion in military spending to the debt, but it wasn't paid for.

Just these three Republican gouges of the Federal purse total \$18 trillion of the \$30 trillion.

That is accumulated debt on the current generation and future generations, but it is not over. Republicans again cuddled up to Wall Street, causing the horrid recession of 2008. That cost a

minimum of \$3 trillion more of the \$36 trillion to bail out America where it could be bailed out. That recession was a total disaster.

The average African-American citizen of our country who owned a home lost one-half of their accumulated wealth because so many families lost their dwelling. About 30 percent of Hispanic Americans lost their homes. The rest of the country lost about 20 percent of their accumulated wealth. That was a horrible, horrible, horrible meltdown of the economy. Again, it added \$3 trillion to the accumulated debt.

Now, we hear one of the people on the phone to the leadership of this House, Elon Musk, who is the richest man in the world, is trying to strangle the U.S. Government, in other words, to not pass the appropriation bills to grow his monopoly power. He already has contracts with the Department of Defense and from NASA.

What is he interested in doing? Gaining even more control over the production of three things: electric vehicles, space-based communication, and commercial and military rockets.

How much is he going to add to the accumulated debt?

Mr. Speaker, this is not a pretty picture. The middle class and working people of this country have to stand up to these billionaires and millionaires strangling the U.S. Treasury and causing raids in the future on the accumulated wealth of the American people, particularly in our Social Security and Medicare accounts and the food and agricultural programs, which are being held up because this body is being held back by people who haven't been sworn in yet from doing its job.

Environmental cleanup? Forget about that. There is not going to be money for that and so many programs critical to the working people of the United States.

Numbers don't lie. Forget politics, Mr. Speaker. Just look at the raw figures.

We have a lot of accounting to do in this Chamber to the American people for the chaos attending those who hold the gavel, and they had better bring that bill to the floor tomorrow. The American people have been waiting for far too long. Frankly, they shouldn't be paid. If you can't bring the bill to the floor, then you shouldn't be paid.

I want to turn to another subject, and this regards the Army-Navy Football Game that was broadcast about 1 week ago.

For spectators watching the Army-Navy Football Game, the moments can be exhilarating. From either their seats in the stands or couches at home, spectators can enjoy the thrill of the game.

Meanwhile, the teams on the field put their grit and mettle to the test. The trials of the gridiron are often compared to the rigors demanded of our young soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and guardians in uniform.

There may be similarities in teamwork, but believe me, ultimately, play-

ing football does not compare to the sacrifices demanded of our servicemembers in combat, including, for some, the last measure of full devotion.

Our Nation is protected by our military's patriots, whose motto is: We Are Your Defense.

The veterans in our family have fought for our Nation for over a century and a quarter. Most of them did not play football. All were hard workers dedicated to service and deep patriots of the United States of America.

Our Uncle Tony, who served in the Office of Strategic Services under Lieutenant General Joseph Stilwell, remarked that service in his lifetime meant kill or be killed in the lethal China, Burma, and India theater as U.S. soldiers parachuted into those killing fields and ultimately built what is called the Burma Road.

Our father's oldest brother, Szepan, deployed into combat under Woodrow Wilson as a marine against the Bolsheviks' civil war after World War I. He was sent to northern Russia in the Arctic, where frigid, 40-degree-below-zero temperatures and remote conditions took their toll as marines deployed to Arkhangelsk and Vladivostok to fight the Bolsheviks. That ultimately resulted in a civil war.

The Red army was victorious, sadly, and almost all those who served in our family on both sides, both our mother's and our father's sides, had been combat veterans for this country going back a century and a quarter.

For my part, as a senior in high school, I dreamed of attending the United States Air Force Academy to serve my country, but in those days, my application was rejected because I was a woman. Thank goodness that has changed.

Despite this rejection, I maintain my interest in our national security by now serving as a senior member of the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, and that is another reason that the leadership of this House should not hold up the appropriation bills. The Defense funding for 2025 is in that bill. The work of Defense ensures our men and women in uniform are supplied with the resources required to protect American interests at home and abroad.

As I watched the publicity around the Army-Navy Game, I realized I could not recall any veterans in President Donald Trump's family. Could I possibly be correct? I began to consider how someone with no or few veterans in their family would think about selecting advisers on such weighty questions as defense, war, and peace.

We must hope that these appointees being considered will be outstanding intellects and experienced leaders. This is America's tradition as the greatest fighting force on Earth. Top leaders must have exemplified lives of integrity, a serious commitment to military service, a deep knowledge of history, command of contemporary world events, and a record of managing a very large, complex organization.

The Defense Department's mission is to provide the military forces needed to deter war and ensure our Nation's security. Accomplishing this mission is anything but simple. It requires the dedicated work and leadership of around 2.3 million troops and civilian employees, with an annual operating budget at the Department of Defense of nearly \$900 billion.

The individual appointed to lead this Department must be highly capable mentally, physically, and emotionally to lead these brave men and women while managing the vast means to move the levers of military might and national security. Historically, our Nation has appointed individuals with the background and aptitude commensurate with the demands of this office. Those who rise to the role of Secretary of Defense are cut from a special cloth.

For example, at a turning point in history, Americans such as General George Marshall—one of my heroes, without question—served President Truman in shaping the new post-World War II alliance with our Allies. Marshall's selfless patriotism—oh, my, he was one of a kind—and superior military and diplomatic experience built the foundational alliances that still guard liberty today here at home and abroad.

Truman, who integrated the U.S. military, called Marshall the architect of victory in World War II. Marshall spent most of his life, 49 years, devoted to America's defense.

Another example of a great defense leader was James Forrestal, the first Secretary of Defense under the Truman administration who served from 1947 to 1949. He played a defining role in reorganizing our military to meet the requirements of a post-World War II landscape under the National Security Act of 1947.

That is when the U.N. was just being founded. There was a lot of imagination and intellect that went into creating the institutions for liberty following that most costly of our wars after the Civil War.

Forrestal previously worked for the Secretary of the Navy handling extensive contracts and legal affairs and built his office into an efficient organization. He had served as the Secretary of the Navy in 1944, guiding our Navy through World War II and the difficult years of demobilization following the surrender of Imperial Japan and its rebuilding. His service set a very high standard for leading our brave men and women in uniform to maintain the security of our Nation.

During the Eisenhower administration, Charles E. Wilson led a major internal reorganization and implemented the "New Look" defense concept that elevated strategic air power and modernized the Reserve forces.

Wilson brought to the Defense Department his experience as president of General Motors, one of our greatest industrial companies, and his direction of the country's defense production effort during World War II.

Remember, Mr. Speaker, we entered that war without sufficient weaponry and armaments.

President Franklin Roosevelt recognized his personal commitment and expertise by awarding him the U.S. Medal of Merit for his efforts to create and manage the arsenal of democracy.

After selling his stock in General Motors to avoid a conflict of interest, he used his experience to ensure that the Department of Defense managed its budget in a manner that aligned national security and economic prosperity.

A more recent example, Robert M. Gates is the only Secretary of Defense in U.S. history to be asked to remain in that office by a newly elected President. He served Presidents of both political parties.

Prior to his appointment as Secretary of Defense, Gates served in the Central Intelligence Agency for 27 years and was the only career-level officer to rise from entry-level employee to Director.

Imagine that, Mr. Speaker. During 9 of those years, he served on the National Security Council for four Presidents. That is seasoning.

Gates also served as president of what was at the time our country's seventh largest university, Texas A&M.

George Herbert Walker Bush appointed Gates as his Secretary of Defense in 2006, and President Obama requested that he remain in that position. His background gave him expertise in special intelligence, the management of large organizational budgets, and foresight. He devoted 31 years of his life in service to our Nation.

During my own service, I have had the privilege of serving in Congress with many individuals who rose to the position of Secretary of Defense. These include Leslie Aspen of Wisconsin, Leon Panetta of California, and Dick Cheney of Wyoming. Though their views differed widely, they were respected as stable, broadly competent, and knowledgeable in defense and international affairs.

□ 1900

In contrast to these individuals, Caspar Weinberger serves as a cautionary tale of the importance of maintaining a strong moral compass in one of our Nation's most critical positions.

He served as Secretary of Defense during the Reagan administration. During his tenure, he worked with Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North and Robert McFarlane to make a secret agreement to send antitank missiles and other military equipment to Iran in hopes of securing the release of U.S. hostages.

Despite raising concerns on the legality of this agreement, his actions were nonetheless critical to enabling the sales to occur. This debacle, the Iran-Contra affair, would become synonymous with political hubris, government incompetence, and dishonesty.

The Secretary of Defense is a position of great power. With great power

comes great responsibility. The American people have a right to expect that their Secretary of Defense will have the experience, aptitude, and integrity of character to take the helm of the world's strongest military with a steady hand.

This is even more important now as our Nation faces a growing spiderweb of tyranny: Russia, Iran, China, and North Korea causing instability in the Middle East, the Korean Peninsula, and in European nations that require working in concert with our allies to protect the foundations of democracy itself.

The President-elect must ask the hard question: Is Mr. Pete Hegseth, the current nominee for Secretary of Defense, the most experienced and capable choice to lead our Department of Defense during this contemporary era, a most complex period?

His experience appears to consist of running two small veterans organizations, both of which reportedly fell into significant debt, and working in public relations as a weekend cohort of a morning cable news program.

Yes, he served in the military as a junior to midgrade officer, for which America and I thank him. However, I cannot help but note the disparity between leading a platoon of 50 soldiers or an organization of less than 60 individuals compared to leading a department of over 2 million men and women.

He has also said publicly that women should not serve in combat. This is 2024, not 1964. Nearly 20 percent of the U.S. military is comprised of women. On July 12, 1948, President Harry Truman signed the bill into law that permitted women to enlist from ages 18 to 35.

The American people rightly expect that our men and women in uniform will conduct themselves according to the highest standards of ethics and integrity.

I have heard that Mr. Hegseth wishes to reclaim the title of the "War Department" for our Department of Defense, changing the title. I do not agree with him. Why?

After World War II, which set the stage for modern international relations, it is my understanding that the term "War Department" was dropped because the U.S. did not want to be seen as the enforcer of global security.

Rather, the term "defense" was used in recognition of the fact that other nations had been invited into a fraternity of democratic countries that would form NATO, the mutual self-defense pact of trusted allies that forms a powerful defensive shield among free nations.

In addition, respected alliances were negotiated with the Virgin Islands, the Philippines, the Northern Mariana Islands, Hawaii, until it became a State, Guam, and American Samoa.

Proposals to change the name of the U.S. Department of Defense would be subject to very serious congressional review and debate. Current threats to

the United States and liberty-loving people require military alliances that can counter and defeat willful aggression by rogue states.

The Secretary of Defense is in a critical position that requires a sacred trust, especially the trust of our brave servicemembers, that they will be led capably; the trust of our Nation, that we will maintain the security of the American people; and the trust of our allies and partners, that America will continue to stand strong as a shield of freedom and liberty for all.

The consequences of betraying that sacred trust are both dire and lasting. We must choose wisely.

#### AMERICAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I have one final topic this evening on the question of American energy independence, which is so vital to our domestic security and our international security.

We well know, when the United States became dependent on imported oil, we fell into deep recession during the 1970s, and we spent the last half century trying to catch up to become energy independent here at home in perpetuity. It is a major objective for the safety and security of our people, and we are making great progress.

With the radiant lights above us here in the Chamber tonight, I am here to speak about that force that illuminates every facet of our daily lives: energy. Not just any energy, but American energy. Energy infuses life into our Nation, energy powers our homes, energy fuels our industries, and energy safeguards our independence.

My message is clear: Our Nation must aim forcefully toward American energy independence in perpetuity.

In northwest Ohio, you don't have to look far to see the embodiment of an all-encompassing energy strategy. From the majestic wind turbines that dot our western agricultural basin landscape, especially in the agricultural regions, to our premier domestic solar manufacturing companies, to the advanced nuclear and hydrogen future we imagine, our region is a living testament to the strength and potential of our skilled technicians and industrious innovators.

America can't and shouldn't play the piano with just one key. We need every key on the energy board: oil and gas, wind, solar, hydrogen, thermal recovery, biofuels, advanced nuclear, and systems yet to come.

Energy is essential and innovative. It creates high-paying jobs in multiple energy sectors, ensuring that the lights stay on for energy and power systems and allowing our holiday trees to sparkle a little brighter. Energy allows families to gather in warm homes, bake holiday treats, and make good memories.

Over the last 4 years, our Nation has made enormous strides toward energy independence. We are increasing energy production across all sectors. In 2023, the United States set all-time

records for both crude oil production and natural gas exports.

As time goes on, those resources will diminish, and we simply must invent our way forward to be energy independent forever. This is not easy, but it is the struggle we are in.

At the same time, renewable energy production continues to grow with the shocking statistic of wind and solar power now contributing close to 15 percent of our electricity. That is just in modern history, and we have a long way to go. These technologies are revolutionizing our accomplishment of energy independence at the start of this 21st century's new energy age.

Yet, as we make strides in energy diversity and security, we face new political whims that mustn't threaten to derail the progress that we have made. Politics should never jeopardize the security of the American people or play games with energy independence. We must keep our pedal on the metal, pushing forward, not backward.

To the new administration in Washington, I say: Embrace an all-of-the-above energy policy. Leave no sector behind. "Clean energy" is not a dirty word. We must maintain a balanced portfolio to ensure American energy independence going far into the future.

The farm bill that has been held back by the leadership of this House, that we could pass this week, has a special section that is built into it, and that includes the continuing resolution that it is a part of an E15 inclusion for our country in perpetuity. It is just magnificent as we try to use every key on the piano to help our country produce new, good jobs in the energy sector and one that uses all of our talents.

Come to northwest Ohio. See firsthand how a comprehensive energy strategy operates. See the innovation and dedication that fuels our community and our country. We are inventing the future.

Just this week, the village of Pioneer in Williams County, Ohio, has shown remarkable vision and determination to harness the power of clean energy with new funding announced for a solar field through a \$10.5 million Federal loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Pioneer will deliver tangible benefits for northwest Ohio residents, including lowering energy costs, strengthening infrastructure, and promoting energy independence for decades to come.

I commend the Pioneer community leadership in pursuing this opportunity to power its future with better and lower costs through renewable energy. Northwest Ohio is the solar capital of America, and I encourage other communities across our region to follow the pioneering lead of Pioneer, Ohio, in building solar fields that can harness the renewable energy of the Sun that shines bright over our region.

Let's not throttle down on American progress in any sector. Instead, let's do what America does best: invent the future and adapt to changing conditions.

Let's accelerate energy innovation. Let's champion it. Let's support it and propel it into the future. We have a duty to safeguard our energy independence to ensure security so that every American family, community, and business can continue to thrive.

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

#### 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 7 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2231

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YAKYM) at 10 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

#### HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. 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 Florida?

There was no objection.

#### BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Kevin F. McCumber, Acting Clerk of the House, reported that on December 17, 2024, the following bills were presented to the President of the United States for approval:

H.R. 7872 To amend the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act to modify certain requirements applicable to salinity control units, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6960 To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children program.

H.R. 6829 To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize and support the creation and dissemination of cardiomyopathy education, awareness, and risk assessment materials and resources to identify more at-risk families, to authorize research and surveillance activities relating to cardiomyopathy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5301 To amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3801 To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to streamline and improve the employer reporting process relating to health insurance coverage and to protect dependent privacy.

H.R. 3797 To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an alternative manner of furnishing certain health insurance coverage statements to individuals.

H.R. 3254 To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a process to review applications for certain grants to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1097 To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the Nation.

### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, December 19, 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-6409. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's final guidance — Guidance for Resolution Plan Submissions of Foreign Triennial Full Filers [Docket No.: OP-1817] received December 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-6410. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's final guidance — Guidance for Resolution Plan Submissions of Domestic Triennial Full Filers [Docket No.: OP-1816] received December 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-6411. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's final rule — Federal Reserve Bank Capital Stock [Regulation I; Docket No.: R-1844] (RIN: 7100-AG85) received December 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-6412. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Truth in Lending (Regulation Z) Annual Threshold Adjustments (Credit Cards, HOEPA, and Qualified Mortgages) received December 11, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-6413. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Fair Credit Reporting Act Disclosures received December 11, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-6414. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the 2023 Victims of Child Abuse Act Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-6415. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Personal Protective Equipment in Construction [Docket No.: OSHA-2019-0003] (RIN: 1218-AD25) received December 12, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-6416. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Sixteenth Annual Report on Delays in Approvals of Applications Related to Citizen Petitions and Petitions for Stay of Agency Action:

tion: FY 2023, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 355(q)(3); June 25, 1938, ch. 675, Sec. 505(q)(3) (as amended by Public Law 110-85, Sec. 914(a)); (121 Stat. 956); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6417. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) (RIN: 0955-AA07) received December 11, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6418. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2023 Nursing Workforce Report to Congress; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6419. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Office of State and Community Energy Programs, State Energy Programs, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Mandatory Transmission and Distribution Planning Support Activities (RIN: 1930-AA01) received December 16, 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-6420. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the period April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6421. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress covering the six-month period ending September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6422. A letter from the Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the period ending September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6423. A letter from the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report, pursuant to 6 U.S.C. 345(b); Public Law 107-296, Sec. 705; (116 Stat. 2219); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6424. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6425. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress, covering the period ending September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6426. A letter from the Director, Office of Communication and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2024 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6427. A letter from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to

Congress, covering the period from April 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6428. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's Semiannual Report to Congress for the period April 1, 2024, through, September 30, 2024 and the Management Report on Final Actions for the Six-Month Period Ending September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6429. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2024, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6430. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the period April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6431. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's Semiannual Management Report to Congress, covering the period April 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6432. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Management Response for the period of April 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6433. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Privacy Act Regulation; Exemption for Legal Case Management Records (RIN: 1212-AB59) received December 12, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6434. A letter from the Chair of the Board, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6435. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2024, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6436. A letter from the Biologist, Branch of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Swale Paintbrush [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2022-0173; FXES1111090FEDR-256-FF09E21000] (RIN: 1018-BF79) received December 13, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6437. A letter from the Biologist, Branch of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for the Peñasco Least Chipmunk and Designation of Critical Habitat [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2020-0042; FXES1111090FEDR-245-FF09E21000] (RIN: 1018-BD94) received December 16, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.



EC-6438. A letter from the Assistant to the Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action — Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Self-Governance PROGRESS Act Regulations [Docket No.: BIA-2024-0001; 256A2100DD/AAKCO01030/A0A501010.999900] (RIN: 1076-AF62) received December 16, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6439. A letter from the Executive Assistant, Office of the Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rights of Way [NPS-WASO-PPFL-38951; Docket No.: NPS-2024-0004; PPWOPFFLL0; PPMSPD1Y.YM0000] (RIN: 1024-AE75) received December 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6440. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 180831813-9170-02] (RIN: 0648-XY015) received December 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6441. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 200221-0062; RTID 0648-XY081] received December 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6442. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Deep-Water Species Fishery by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 180831813-9170-02] (RTID: 0648-XY085) received December 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6443. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Trawl Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 200227-0066; RTID 0648-XY087] received December 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6444. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's Annual Report to Congress on Investigation, Enforcement, and Implementation of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act Requirements, pursuant to 34 U.S.C. 20991; Public Law 109-248, Sec. 635; (120 Stat. 644); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6445. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the National Institute of Justice Annual Report 2023; ; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6446. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Department of Justice,

transmitting A Report to Congress on Best Practices and Professional Standards for Peer Support Counseling Programs for First Responder Agencies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6447. A letter from the Chief Special Master, United States Court of Federal Claims, transmitting the United States Court of Federal Claims' "Office of Special Masters — Fiscal Year 2024 Report"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6448. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's National Water Quality Inventory: Report to Congress; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-6449. A letter from the Senior Advisor, Office of Regulation Policy and Management (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Rates VA Pays for Special Modes of Transportation; Delay of Effective Date From February 16, 2025, Until February 16, 2029 (RIN: 2900-AS19) received December 12, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-6450. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a legislative proposal to reauthorize the Defense Production Act; jointly to the Committees on Financial Services and Veterans' Affairs.

EC-6451. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "2024 Report to Congress — Annual Update: Identification of Quality Measurement Priorities and Associated Funding for the Consensus-Based Entity and Other Entities", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395aaa(e); Aug. 14 1935, ch. 531, title XVIII, Sec. 1890(e) (as amended by Public Law 115-123, Sec. 50206(b)); (132 Stat. 184); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

EC-6452. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a Report on Unobligated Balances for Appropriations Relating to Quality Measurement, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395aaa(f)(1); Public Law 116-94, div. I, Sec. 102(a) (as amended by Public Law 116-260, Sec. 102(b)(2)); (134 Stat. 2941); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

EC-6453. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled "Annual Report to Congress on Strengthening Medicare and Repaying Taxpayers Act Medicare Secondary Payer (MSP) Non-Group Health Plan (NGHP) Threshold for Calendar Year (CY) 2025", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395y(b)(9)(D); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XVIII, Sec. 1862(b)(9)(D) (as added by Public Law 112-242, Sec. 202(a)(2)); (126 Stat. 2379); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3283. A bill to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to report to Congress on any barriers to establishing online portals to accept, process, and dispose of certain Form 299s, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-545, Pt. 2). Referred

to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 4043. A bill to amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to make the District of Columbia eligible for certain wastewater infrastructure grants, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 118-897). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 9135. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to require certain air carriers to develop and regularly update an operational resiliency strategy, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-898). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COMER: Committee on Oversight and Accountability. H.R. 1209. A bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-899). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COMER: Committee on Oversight and Accountability. H.R. 5798. A bill to restore the right to negotiate matters pertaining to the discipline of law enforcement officers of the District of Columbia through collective bargaining, to restore the statute of limitations for bringing disciplinary cases against members or civilian employees of the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-900). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COMER: Committee on Oversight and Accountability. H.R. 7867. A bill to amend the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to establish a limit for the total amount of additional unfunded regulatory costs that may be imposed in a fiscal year, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-901, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COMER: Committee on Oversight and Accountability. H.R. 7533. A bill to improve retrospective reviews of Federal regulations, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-902). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COMER: Committee on Oversight and Accountability. H.R. 4428. A bill to require a guidance clarity statement on certain agency guidance, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-903). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COMER: Committee on Oversight and Accountability. H.R. 262. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the publication, by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, of information relating to rulemakings, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-904, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COMER: Committee on Oversight and Accountability. H.R. 7532. A bill to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to establish Federal AI system governance requirements, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-905). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COMER: Committee on Oversight and Accountability. H.R. 3230. A bill to amend the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 to provide for regulatory impact analyses for certain rules, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-906, Pt. 1). Referred to



the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1319. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop long-distance bike trails on Federal land (Rept. 118-907, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3562. A bill to amend the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to reauthorize Forest Service flexible partnerships; with an amendment (Rept. 118-908, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3049. A bill to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land and State land in the State of Utah (Rept. 118-909). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5582. A bill to provide for white oak restoration, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-910, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6342. A bill to promote and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities for members of the Armed Forces and veterans on Federal recreational lands and waters, with an amendment (Rept. 118-911, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5015. A bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, to enter into contracts, grants, and agreements to carry out certain ecosystem restoration activities, and for other purposes, with amendments (Rept. 118-912, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 7003. A bill to amend the National Landslide Preparedness Act to reauthorize such Act, with an amendment (Rept. 118-913, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4235. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to establish a wildfire technology testbed pilot program, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 118-914, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6012. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to permit removal of trees around electrical lines on National Forest System land without conducting a timber sale, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 118-915, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 7516. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to address liability for payment of charges or costs associated with provision of purchased/referred care services, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-916, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3269. A bill, to modernize Federal firearms laws to account for advancements in technology and less-than-lethal weapons, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-917, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1419. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue a new rule removing the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem population of grizzly bears from

the Federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife (Rept. 118-918). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 215. A bill to provide long-term water supply and regulatory reliability to drought-stricken California, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-919). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3173. A bill to provide for transfer of ownership of certain Federal lands in northern Nevada, to authorize the disposal of certain Federal lands in northern Nevada for economic development, to promote conservation in northern Nevada, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-920, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6994. A bill to require the re-opening of covered recreation sites closed due to a natural disaster, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-921, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 7408. A bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-922, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5482. A bill to prevent energy poverty and ensure that at-risk communities have access to affordable energy; with an amendment (Rept. 118-923, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 934. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out activities to suppress wildfires, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-924, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4374. A bill to nullify Public Land Order No. 7923, withdrawing certain land in San Juan County, New Mexico, from mineral entry (Rept. 118-925). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 188. A bill to direct the Secretary concerned to coordinate with impacted parties when conducting a forest management activity, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-926, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2989. A bill to improve the health and resiliency of giant sequoias, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-927, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H. Con. Res. 34. A resolution expressing disapproval of the withdrawal by the Secretary of the Interior of approximately 225,504 acres of National Forest System lands in Cook, Lake, and Saint Louis Counties, Minnesota, from disposition under the United States mineral and geothermal leasing laws (Rept. 118-928). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Judiciary discharged

from further consideration. H.R. 262 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1319 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2989 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3173 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committees on Rules, the Budget, and the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3230 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3269 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3283 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4235 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, the Budget, and Rules discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5482 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committees on Agriculture and Veterans' Affairs discharged from further consideration. H.R. 6342 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 6994 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology discharged from further consideration. H.R. 7003 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 7408 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 7516 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 7867 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Ms. WATERS):

H.R. 10465. A bill to study the need for, and the feasibility and cost of, establishing a national residential rental registry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and 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. GOSAR:

H.R. 10466. A bill to deposit portions of revenue generated from public lands into the Social Security Trust Fund; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself and Mr. LAHOOD):

H.R. 10467. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for in-service rollovers for individual retirement annuity purchases; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAHOOD:

H.R. 10468. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish an elective residency-based income tax for nonresident citizens of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ARRINGTON (for himself and Mr. ROY):

H.R. 10469. A bill to limit eligibility for Federal benefits for certain immigrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Financial Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself and Ms. SCANLON):

H.R. 10470. A bill to amend section 207 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain former Federal officials from investing in or serving in a managerial role in an investment fund in which a foreign principal owns shares within a certain time period if such investment or managerial role is based on conversations between such former officials and such foreign principal while such former official was employed by the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. TONKO, and Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN):

H.R. 10471. A bill to support marine carbon dioxide removal activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. BRECHEEN:

H.R. 10472. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to make payments to the Quapaw Nation and certain members of the Quapaw Nation in accordance with the recommendation of the United States Court of Federal Claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BURLISON (for himself and Mr. BIGGS):

H.R. 10473. A bill to prevent covered vehicle manufacturers from accessing, selling, or otherwise selling certain covered vehicle data, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 10474. A bill to require an annual report on the costs to the Department of State associated with producing required reports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CLEAVER (for himself and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 10475. A bill to direct the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish a grant program to address deed fraud, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CORREA:

H.R. 10476. A bill to amend chapter 423 of title 49, United States Code, to prohibit air carriers from paying ancillary fee incentives and discriminating on the basis of a covered characteristic in charging or setting fares or ancillary fees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H.R. 10477. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program and reduce interest rates; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 10478. A bill to ensure that foster children are able to use their Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security Income benefits, and other assets and benefits to address their needs and improve their lives; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DELUZIO:

H.R. 10479. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to grants for vessel concept development and infrastructure to build commercially viable specialty vessels for supporting energy transition initiatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 10480. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish and maintain a local gun violence prevention laws database, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 10481. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve safety and security for service weapons used by Federal law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DUARTE:

H.R. 10482. A bill to amend the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act to extend provisions related to the Calaveras, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Merced, and San Joaquin rivers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GALLEGUO:

H.R. 10483. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide grants under the Drinking Water Infrastructure Risk and Resilience Program for training programs relating to protecting public water systems from and responding to cyberattacks, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Ms. PETTERSEN):

H.R. 10484. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a public awareness campaign to increase participation by women in clinical trials that are conducted or supported by the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS):

H.R. 10485. A bill to authorize to be appropriated funds for COPS Tech projects; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HARDER of California (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. SWALWELL):

H.R. 10486. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program to help law enforcement agencies with civilian law enforcement tasks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 10487. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide temporary firearm storage to veterans who seek to store their firearms outside of their residence due to certain mental health conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 10488. A bill to establish an advisory committee on military financial services in the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Ms. TLAB, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 10489. A bill to prohibit drilling in the outer Continental Shelf, to prohibit coal leases on Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 10490. A bill to amend the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 to improve community outreach, public participation, and the consideration of community and environmental impacts with respect to the issuance of a license under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 10491. A bill to require the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a Blue Carbon Program to conserve and restore blue carbon ecosystems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KEATING:

H.R. 10492. A bill to amend the Act of August 9, 1955 (commonly known as the "Long-Term Leasing Act"), to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KELLY of Mississippi (for himself and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 10493. A bill to support the national defense and economic security of the United States by supporting vessels, ports, and shipyards of the United States and the U.S. maritime workforce; to the Committee on Armed

Services, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, Foreign Affairs, Oversight and Accountability, Education and the Workforce, Financial Services, the Judiciary, Natural Resources, Science, Space, and Technology, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KUSTOFF (for himself, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. CAREY, and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 10494. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax credit to incentivize the purchase of American agricultural commodities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LEE of Nevada (for herself and Mr. BALDERSON):

H.R. 10495. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make improvements to the redistribution of residency slots under the Medicare program after a hospital closes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania (for herself and Ms. SCANLON):

H.R. 10496. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to strengthen the provision of legal representation to individuals in judicial proceedings that take place after the individual has been arrested in connection with a criminal offense, including at initial appearance; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 10497. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for certain rules for housing or transportation based on gender and to provide for a limitation on gender-related medical treatment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 10498. A bill to amend the National Housing Act to restrict the collection of annual mortgage insurance premiums when a 78 percent loan-to-value ratio is reached, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mrs. MCIVER, and Mr. LUTTRELL):

H.R. 10499. A bill to establish a pilot program on home kenneling of canines for U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Office of Field Operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H.R. 10500. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to add a bankruptcy chapter relating to the debt of individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H.R. 10501. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the annual numerical limitation on visas for certain immigrants, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to grant work authorization to certain immigrants with a pending application for nonimmigrant status under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. PINGREE:

H.R. 10502. A bill to require the United States Armed Forces to fully utilize applicable State extreme risk protection order programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. PLASKETT (for herself and Mr. ESTES):

H.R. 10503. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to determine global intangible low-taxed income without regard to certain income derived from services performed in the Virgin Islands; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. RAMIREZ (for herself, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. TLAI, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CARSON, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. THANEDAR):

H.R. 10504. A bill to establish in the Department of Homeland Security the Task Force on the Reunification of Families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RASKIN (for himself, Ms. SALINAS, and Mr. CASTEN):

H.R. 10505. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to prohibit political election or contest agreements, contracts, transactions, and swaps; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself, Mr. BUCSHON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 10506. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements for supporting new mobile cancer screening units to expand patient access to essential screening services in rural and underserved communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SWALWELL (for himself, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 10507. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for a percentage of student loan forgiveness for public service employment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 10508. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to support the responsible development of offshore renewable energy projects, establish the Offshore Power Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 10509. A bill to expand and enhance consumer, student, servicemember, and small business protections with respect to debt collection practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 10510. A bill to permanently extend certain enhancements related to credit unions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 10511. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to permit credit unions to

serve certain underserved areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Mr. CROW, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. PALLONE, and Ms. TITUS):

H. Con. Res. 135. Concurrent resolution affirming the nature and importance of the support of the United States for Syria; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. BARRAGAN:

H. Res. 1619. A resolution congratulating the Los Angeles Galaxy for winning the 2024 Major League Soccer Cup; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H. Res. 1620. A resolution calling on law enforcement led by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Federal Aviation Administration to provide an immediate briefing to the public on the current drone situation in New Jersey and New York; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia):

H. Res. 1621. A resolution proclaiming that it is United States policy to allow the Government of Ukraine to use United States weapons against military assets inside of the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

## MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

ML-157. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of North Carolina, relative to House Resolution 1076, urging the United States Congress to work more closely with Germany on trade issues and foreign investment, expressing support for the United States-Germany alliance, celebrating decades of friendship between North Carolina and Germany, strengthening friendship and economic ties between the state of North Carolina and Germany, acknowledging the impact of German culture and centuries of German immigration on North Carolina, and reaffirming the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the state of North Carolina and the Federal Republic of Germany; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Ways and Means.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:

H.R. 10465.

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:

Housing

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 10466.

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

Section 8 of article I of the Constitution.  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
To deposit portions of revenue generated from public lands into the Social Security Trust Fund.

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 10467.

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

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Allows flexibility in retirement plans and simplifies the 402f notice

By Mr. LAHOOD:

H.R. 10468.

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

U.S. Constitution Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes . . ."

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to establish an elective residency-based income tax for nonresident citizens of the United States.

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 10469.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is: immigration

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 10470.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit certain former Federal officials from investing in or serving in a managerial role in an investment fund in which a foreign principal owns shares within a certain time period if such investment or managerial role is based on conversations between such former officials and such foreign principal while such former official was employed by the Federal Government

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 10471.

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

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

The single subject of this legislation is:

Marine carbon dioxide removal research and development.

By Mr. BRECHEEN:

H.R. 10472.

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

Article VI

The single subject of this legislation is:

Payment of unobligated funds to Quapaw Tribe for federal environmental damage to land.

By Mr. BURLISON:

H.R. 10473.

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

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would protect consumer data that is generated from automobiles that are owned by American consumers.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 10474.

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

Congressman Joaquin Castro

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 Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for

The single subject of this legislation is:  
Foreign Affairs administration

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 10475.

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 Housing and Urban Development to establish a grant program to address deed fraud, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CORREA:

H.R. 10476.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Prohibit air carriers from paying ancillary fee incentives and discriminating on the basis of a covered characteristic in charging or setting fares or ancillary fees.

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 10477.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program and reduce interest rates.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 10478.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the powers enumerated under section 8 and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Child Welfare

By Mr. DELUZIO:

H.R. 10479.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Transportation and Infrastructure

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 10480.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Transportation and Infrastructure

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 10480.

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 Health and Human Services to establish and maintain a local gun violence prevention laws database

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 10481.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To improve safety and security for service weapons used by federal law enforcement officers

By Mr. DUARTE:

H.R. 10482.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act.

By Mr. GALLEGGO:

H.R. 10483.

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:

Water

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 10484.

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

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

The SEARCH Act directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a public awareness campaign to increase participation by women in clinical trials that are conducted or supported by the National Institutes of Health.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 10485.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Expand the COPS Tech Grant program to provide grants for local and state law enforcement to purchase radar technologies to mitigate drone and UAS interference.

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 10486.

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

U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Sec. 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program to help law enforcement agencies with civilian law enforcement tasks, and for other purposes.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 10487.

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

Artl.S8.C18: 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 expand "The Armory Project" VA pilot program to 5 states for a period of 3 years.

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 10488.

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:

Financial Services for the Armed Services.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 10489.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Drilling prohibition on federal lands and waters

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 10490.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Maritime Administration

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 10491.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Blue carbon ecosystem research and conservation

By Mr. KEATING:

H.R. 10492.

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

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

A bill amending the “Long-Term Leasing Act”

By Mr. KELLY of Mississippi:

H.R. 10493.

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

Clause 1 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution, which grants Congress the power to provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:  
National Defense

By Mr. KUSTOFF:

H.R. 10494.

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

Under Article 1, Section 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause. Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers and all Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation establishes a tax credit for U.S. businesses that purchase a certain percentage of their agricultural commodities domestically.

By Ms. LEE of Nevada:

H.R. 10495.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 provides Congress with the power to “lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises”

The single subject of this legislation is:  
Health

By Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 10496.

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

Art. 1, Sec. 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To expand legal representation in judicial proceedings that take place after an individual has been arrested in connection with a criminal offense, including at initial appearance.

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 10497.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide for certain rules for housing or transportation of prisoners in the Federal Bureau of Prisons based on sex and to provide for a limitation on gender-related medical treatment.

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 10498.

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

Article 1.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the National Housing Act to restrict the collection of annual mortgage insurance premiums when a 78 percent loan-to-value ratio is reached, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

H.R. 10499.

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 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Customs and Border Protection Office’s of Field Operations to establish a pilot program to assess whether a canine home kenneling program would benefit both handlers and canines.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 10500.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Judiciary

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 10501.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the annual numerical limitation on visas for certain immigrants, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to grant work authorization to certain immigrants with a pending application for nonimmigrant status under such Act, and for other purposes.

By Ms. PINGREE:

H.R. 10502.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill concerns how U.S. military services interact with crisis intervention laws.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 10503.

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:

Tax parity and fairness for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

By Mrs. RAMIREZ:

H.R. 10504.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation would establish in the Department of Homeland Security the Task Force on the Reunification of Families, and for other purposes.

By Mr. RASKIN:

H.R. 10505.

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 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to prohibit political election or contest agreements, contracts, transactions, and swaps.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 10506.

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

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

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements for supporting new mobile cancer screening units to expand patient access to essential screening services in rural and underserved communities.

By Mr. SWALWELL:

H.R. 10507.

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

Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in congress).

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill revises the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program to provide for partial loan cancellation based on the length

of public service employment. Specifically, the bill directs the Department of Education (ED) to cancel 15%, 15%, 20%, 20%, and 30% of the amount a borrower owes after 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 years of public service employment respectively, on

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 10508.

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

Article 1, 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 the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To support the efficient and responsible development of offshore renewable energy projects in the United States.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 10509.

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

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution, which provides Congress with the power to “regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.”

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill expands consumer protections with respect to debt collection practices.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 10510.

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

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution, which provides Congress with the power to “regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.”

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill modifies the Federal Credit Union Act to improve credit union access to emergency liquidity.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 10511.

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

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution, which provides Congress with the power to “regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.”

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill modifies the Federal Credit Union Act to allow credit unions to serve communities in banking deserts.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 345: Mr. MCGARVEY.

H.R. 834: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 1089: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 1255: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 1634: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 1716: Mrs. MCIVER and Mr. GOMEZ.

H.R. 2447: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 2768: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 2785: Mrs. MCIVER and Mr. FROST.

H.R. 2961: Mr. FROST.

H.R. 3238: Mr. LOPEZ.

H.R. 3409: Ms. MCCLELLAN.

H.R. 3442: Mr. CURTIS.

H.R. 3850: Mr. CASAR.

H.R. 3851: Mrs. MCBATH.

H.R. 3876: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 3925: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 4050: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 4177: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 4189: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 4295: Mr. MCGARVEY.

H.R. 4333: Mrs. BICE, Mr. GOMEZ, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.  
 H.R. 4456: Mr. TAKANO.  
 H.R. 4562: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.  
 H.R. 4612: Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 4774: Mr. MCGARVEY.  
 H.R. 5251: Mr. ARRINGTON.  
 H.R. 5433: Mr. GARAMENDI.  
 H.R. 5920: Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 6353: Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 6462: Mr. CISCOMANI.  
 H.R. 7012: Mr. FROST.  
 H.R. 7174: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.  
 H.R. 7576: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
 H.R. 7577: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.  
 H.R. 7710: Mr. SMITH of Washington.  
 H.R. 7725: Mr. ROY and Mr. BUCHANAN.  
 H.R. 7731: Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 7840: Ms. TITUS.  
 H.R. 7896: Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 8370: Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CROW, Ms. BUDZINSKI, and Mr. MCGARVEY.  
 H.R. 8600: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.  
 H.R. 8613: Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 8807: Mr. KEATING.  
 H.R. 8893: Mr. VAN DREW.  
 H.R. 8988: Mr. CASAR.  
 H.R. 9002: Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. BERA, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 9149: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.

H.R. 9188: Mr. VAN DREW.  
 H.R. 9233: Ms. MATSUI.  
 H.R. 9475: Mr. FOSTER.  
 H.R. 9522: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 9559: Ms. ADAMS.  
 H.R. 9649: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.  
 H.R. 9720: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.  
 H.R. 9723: Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 9950: Mr. VALADAO, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. BACON, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. BENTZ, and Mr. KILEY.  
 H.R. 10045: Ms. SPANBERGER.  
 H.R. 10073: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.  
 H.R. 10086: Mr. KUSTOFF and Mr. CARL.  
 H.R. 10092: Mr. CASAR.  
 H.R. 10099: Mrs. DINGELL.  
 H.R. 10138: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
 H.R. 10262: Mr. GREEN of Texas.  
 H.R. 10263: Mr. GREEN of Texas.  
 H.R. 10280: Mr. PANETTA and Mr. STEUBE.  
 H.R. 10287: Mr. FROST.  
 H.R. 10329: Ms. SCANLON and Ms. ESCOBAR.  
 H.R. 10349: Mr. LAMALFA.  
 H.R. 10384: Mr. FROST.  
 H.R. 10427: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 10442: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
 H.J. Res. 226: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. OMAR.

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#### PETITIONS, ETC.

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

PT-54. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Mr. Gregory D. Watson, a citizen of Austin, TX, relative to requesting the enactment of Federal legislation to amend the applicable provisions of 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1324b, of 42 U.S.C. Sec. 2000e-2, and of any relevant Federal statute, so as to lawfully permit preferential hiring of United States Citizens for employment opportunities and to legally allow preferential placement of United States citizens in educational programs (whether primary, secondary, or post-secondary and whether vocational or non-vocational); which was referred jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Education and the Workforce.

PT-55. Also, a petition of Mr. Gregory D. Watson, a citizen of Austin, TX, relative to requesting the enactment of Federal legislation to amend the applicable provisions of 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1324b, of 42 U.S.C. Sec. 2000e-2, and of any relevant Federal statute, so as to lawfully permit preferential hiring of United States Citizens for employment opportunities and to legally allow preferential placement of United States citizens in educational programs (whether primary, secondary, or post-secondary and whether vocational or non-vocational); which was referred jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Education and the Workforce.